

projects



challenge america amphitheatre

Client : Challenge America with Erin Brockovich

Location: New York, NY

Seat Count: 450

Project Type: Renovation

Opening: 2001

Architect: HLW International

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AD Scope: Acoustics

As a spur to community action after 9/11, New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani issued a challenge to rebuild an amphitheater and rundown soccer fields at a riverside park in lower Manhattan. Given just one week to complete the project, the innovative, reality-based television show “Challenge America with Erin Brockovich” worked with an all-volunteer design and construction team to create a jewel-like outdoor performance place.

The abandoned amphitheater was originally developed by Robert Moses in the 1930’s. Joseph Papp used it in the 1950’s as the first home for the famous New York Shakespeare Festival. By the 1970’s, the theater itself had fallen into disrepair and neglect. AD donated its design services on the renovation of the amphitheater. The plan included the removal of the dilapidated stage house, leaving the band shell open to a beautiful view of the East River. A series of cables and canopies have reshaped the structure. AD consulted on the acoustics for the band shell and on the design of the cabling structure to eliminate vibration and whistling from the wind.