

Patell Batliwala & Associates
(CYRUS SUBAWALLA IS A PARTNER IN THE FIRM)

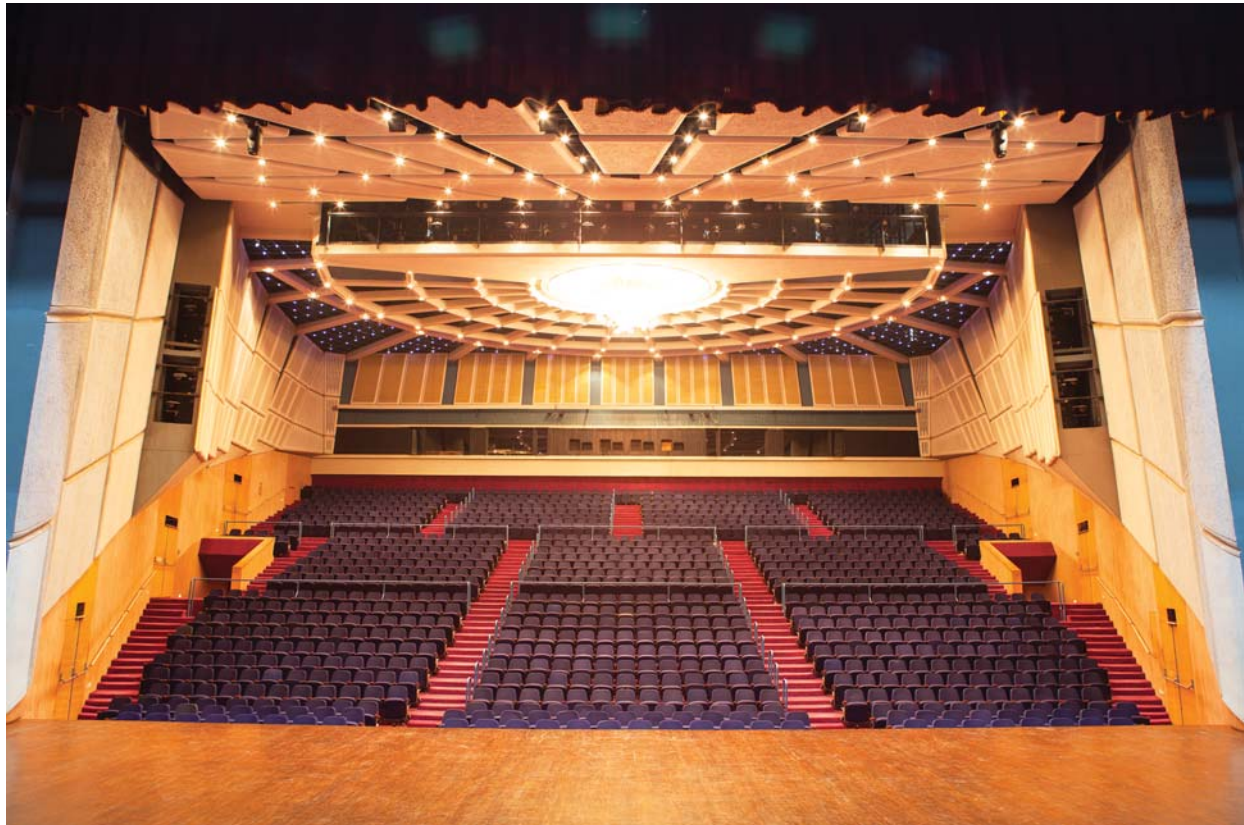
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69A Napeansea Road, Maneesha 1st Floor, Mumbai 400006

Jamshed Bhabha Theatre



Building type
Cultural

Location
Mumbai, India

Site Area
N/A

Project Area
Part of NCPA Complex

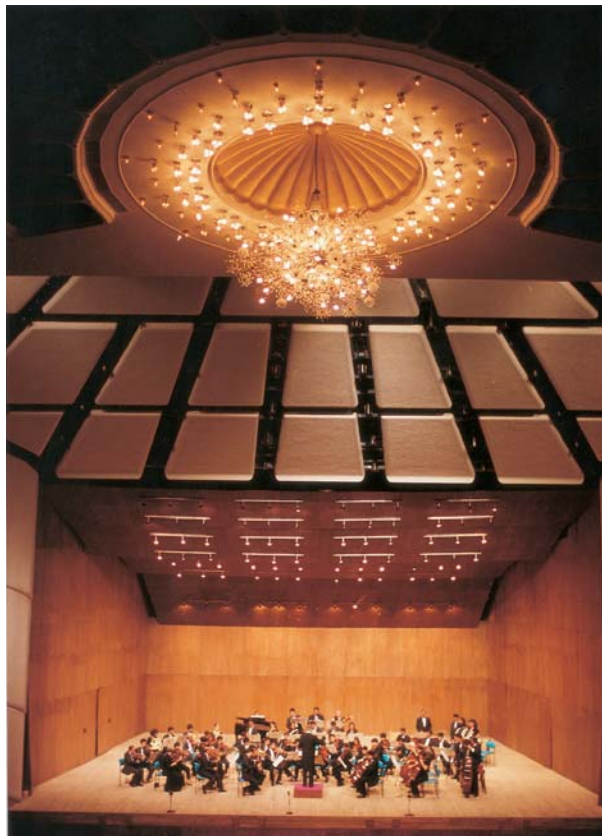
Client
National Center for Performing Arts

Completion Year
From 1972 till 2007

Context: The National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) was envisioned by the late Dr. Jamshed Bhabha as a bastion to be an upholder of the arts and culture in Mumbai and India. The first, the TATA Theater, though stated to have conceptual influences from Welton Becket and Phillip Johnson was essentially designed, detailed and executed by Rustom Patell, of Patell Batliwala & Associates. Patell a Taliesin fellow and TATA scholar was at that point in time working on numerous projects for the Bhabha family. The facility thereafter grew to have numerous theaters, the second large multi-purpose facility being the Jamshed Bhabha Theater.

Design Response: Designed by RBJ Patell the theatre was substantially built when an electrical short circuit razed the inside beyond repair. Re-design and re-construction provided the facility in use today, including a neoclassical marble stair donated by the Petit family that sits as a frontispiece in the main lobby. The stair itself is

Top: View from stage



a folly and a piece of art rather than being utilitarian and was removed and re-located with diligent documentation during removal and re-construction. This theatre follows a more pragmatic shoe-box concept with a somewhat steep yet regular rake for the seating. Colours and materials received the close eye of Dr. Bhabha himself. Acoustics saw the influencing ideas of Rajagopalan and Burjor Mistry, well recognized in Indian circles

Top: View from upper tier
Left: View of stage



Team

Rustom Patell-Principal Designer
Sandhya Shuklabaidya-Project Architect
Shobha Rajopadhye-stair restoration and install
M Manohar- Administrative Partner

Top: Monumental stair restored
Bottom: Mural