



## Old National Centre (Former Murat Theatre) Renovation

*Indianapolis, Indiana*

The Old National Centre, formally called the Murat Theatre, is one of Indianapolis' greatest architectural and cultural treasures. The Murat Shrine Temple was constructed in 1909 and the building's architecture reflects distinct Egyptian and Arabian influences in the arched hallways, copper roofs, and detailed brick patterns, and stunning stained-glass windows. In 1911, the Murat had the distinction of showing the first real color film to the public.

The stunning Egyptian Room, decorated with elaborate chandeliers and columns covered in hieroglyphics, was added to the building in 1922 to accommodate live performances. The Murat hosted a wide variety of events through the 1950s and 60s, but faced abandonment by the 1990s, when it failed to meet building codes and regulations.

A massive renovation directed and funded by the Indianapolis Bond Bank in 1995 brought the Murat back to life, and an impressive 85 percent of the original building was kept intact. Mr. Hunden sat on the board overseeing the finances of the facility as part of his role at the Indianapolis Local Public Improvement Bond Bank. A key feature of the funding was the downtown TIF, augmented by a \$1 per ticket fee.

Today, the Murat continues to host concerts, touring Broadway shows, musicals, and comedy shows.

---

**Client:** City of Indianapolis

**Time Period:** 1996 - 1998