

Facility Rentals

THE ISADORE AND ROSALIE SHARP CITY ROOM

Crystalline and transparent, the main lobby of the Four Seasons Centre is a unique and breathtaking window on the city. From the broad sweep of University Avenue, the Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room glows at night like a jewel box, illuminating the sculptural quality of the architecture. During the day, the space is flooded with natural light. The Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room is a five-storey lobby flanked on one side by a wooden lattice wall enclosing the entrance to R. Fraser Elliott Hall and on the other by a glass curtain wall the length of the University Avenue façade. The translucent glass staircase from the Grand Ring to Ring 4 provides a dramatic reinforcement of the openness of the design for the Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room. This dazzling space will bestow an air of glamour and sophistication to any event

MAXIMUM CAPACITIES

Cocktail: 1,000

Dinner: n/a

Availability: Year-round (limited)

Daily rate: \$5,000 (exclusive of taxes and all technical and ancillary services)

CONTACT

Four Seasons Centre Events

Tel.: 416-342-5233

E-mail: fscrentals@coc.ca

ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL

The exterior of the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts is reflective of the orthogonal nature of the city's street grid and contrasts with the curvilinear form of R. Fraser Elliott Hall. Crystalline and transparent, the Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room encloses what can be seen as an extension of the sidewalk, the public realm, at University Avenue and Queen Street. To achieve this transparency, the Four Seasons Centre employs a point loaded insulated glass system. Each large glass panel is suspended at the corners by a fine stainless steel "spider" clip and braced against the wind by glass beams. Thus there are no bulky mullions. Low iron glass, which has virtually none of the green tint present in standard glass, further enhances the transparency of the system.

The transparency of the Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room is in dramatic contrast to the enclosing envelope of the audience chamber, where the external world is excluded in favour of a focus on the performance within. There is a purposeful play of transparent and opaque screens, layered to provide a subtle composition of solid and void, plane and plateau, transparency and opacity, elements positioned in a dynamic tension with each other. An element of this layering is the slatted wood screen suspended between the curving, solid walls of the auditorium and the open and crystalline Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room. Made of beech, the screen adds warmth and will enhance the social experience of the opera by providing visual shelter, where patrons can see without being seen! As a veil, it is an essential part of the progression from the light social space of the Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room to the hearth that is the theatre.

Movement to and through the upper levels of the Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room are also designed to make the path to each balcony level gracious and exciting, heightening the experience of attending a performance in the Four Seasons Centre. Appearing to float in the Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room, the glass staircase ascends from the Grand Ring to Ring 4, providing easy access to the upper levels of the Four Seasons Centre. This elegant and unusual staircase helps to connect the multiple and varied levels and areas for meeting friends, having a drink or a pre-show snack, or participating in opera's favourite sport, people-watching.

A unique and daring feat of engineering, the staircase is essentially a self-supporting glass truss, with small steel chords running at the top and bottom of the guards. The translucent steps and risers are simply pinned to the glass web of the guards and illuminated by tiny hidden lights: the effect will be that of a ribbon of light rising gently through the Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room!