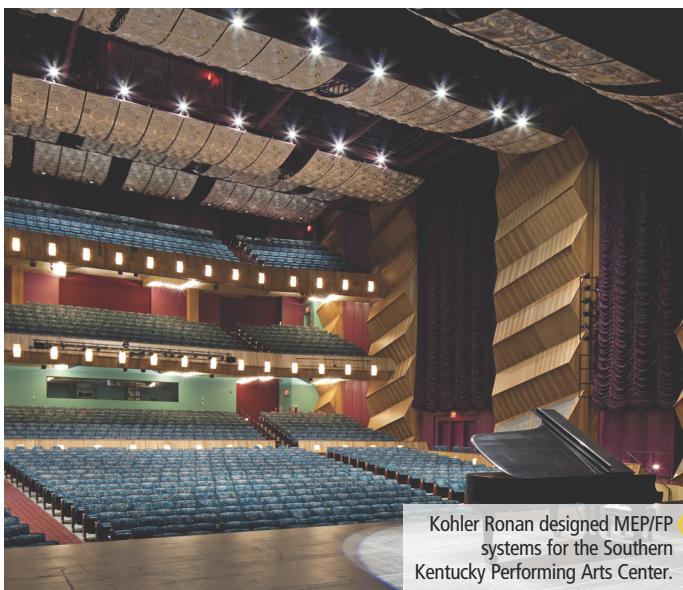




Kohler Ronan offers engineering design services to cultural institutions such as Fairfield University's Bellarmine Museum.



Kohler Ronan designed MEP/FP systems for the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center.



At Marist College in New York, Kohler Ronan assisted with the additions and renovations to an athletic facility.

# Consulting Symmetry

**KOHLER RONAN IS SET UP TO ALIGN WITH CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS' ARCHITECTS. BY BRIAN SALGADO**

**W**hen cultural institutions like museums, private schools and universities add facilities to their existing structures, they typically rely on a pool of architects that specialize in this segment of construction. So, it only makes sense that Kohler Ronan LLC – an engineering consulting firm that primarily serves the northeastern United States – would streamline its processes to align with those architectural firms that design these institutions.

"Within the markets we serve, there are a select group of architects who specialize in those markets," explains Joseph Lembo, a partner with Kohler Ronan. "Our firm is set up to support that type of architect."

Kohler Ronan provides design services for mechanical, electrical, plumbing (MEP), fire protection (FP), energy modeling and building commissioning services out of offices in Danbury, Conn., and New York City. Founded in 1998, the company is led by four partners – John E. Kohler, Rory S. Ronan, Craig F. Razza and Joseph Lembo – who have a combined 95 years of experience.

The company primarily offers engineering design services for cultural institution projects like museums, fine and performing arts centers, universities and private education institutions, as well as luxury residences and recreational facilities.

## Revving Up

In order to better serve architects who specialize in cultural institution projects, Kohler Ronan realized early on that it had to adapt BIM to streamline its processes in alignment with architectural firms in the industry. The software of choice for this segment is Autodesk Revit. Realizing the direction the industry was taking, Kohler Ronan jumped on this trend long before its competitors did in 2008.

The program required some adjustment, however, because when Revit was first launched, its controls were designed for users in the architectural field. Although there have been numerous updates to the software since, Kohler Ronan didn't wait for those versions before getting up to speed with the program.

"We needed to really embrace Revit so that our clients would be able to produce entire jobs in Revit," Ronan says. "When they [architects] were working in Revit and consultants like us were working in AutoCAD, it was not a seamless process. Using Revit creates a fully integrated project delivery system."

In addition to utilizing Revit to work more closely with architects, Kohler Ronan also offers extensive energy modeling services. For the last three years, the company has shared the knowledge gained from the modeling process with its architects to compare various engineering systems, windows, wall composites and possible orientation. Kohler Ronan is able to create "what-if scenarios" and present project owners with options that assist in choosing the energy model best suited to their needs.

## Design in Education

One project that benefitted from Kohler Ronan's energy modeling is the Kohler Environmental Center, a new building for the Choate Rosemary Hall private school in Wallingford, Conn. The center serves as an interdisciplinary academics institution as well as a residential program that focuses on environmental sciences.

The \$20 million, 30,000-square-foot project brought Kohler Ronan on board to design the MEP/FP systems. The school aims to achieve LEED Platinum certification for the structure.

The challenge was designing systems to meet a stringent net-zero energy program that would act as a learning tool for students in the classroom. To achieve this goal, Kohler Ronan ran several energy simulations using IES-Virtual Environment. For example, a clothes dryer for the school cost only \$1,000. However, through energy modeling, Kohler Ronan found that the cost of the additional photovoltaic array required to operate the dryer was approximately \$20,000.

"We had to work closely with the architect and the school to develop an energy budget that would be used throughout the life of the design," Ronan says. "So, the energy budget was just as important and would be monitored as any other item would be."

### Kohler Ronan LLC

[www.kohlerronan.com](http://www.kohlerronan.com)

- **Projected 2012 Revenues:** \$6 million
- **Headquarters:** Danbury, Conn.
- **Employees:** 44

- **Services:** Engineering consultation

*"Using Revit creates a fully integrated project delivery system."* —Rory S. Ronan, partner



Kohler Ronan uses BIM to work seamlessly with architects and other contractors.



A full-service Civil Engineering firm in Oklahoma since 1921.

With more than 85 professionals, Cobb Engineering stands ready to serve your every design, survey, construction management and material testing need.

**COBB**  
ENGINEERING

Oklahoma City.  
Steven Johnson, P.E.

Tulsa.  
[sjohnson@cobbengr.com](mailto:sjohnson@cobbengr.com)

Ada.  
Duncan.  
918.663.9401



**BIG  
performance  
in a small  
footprint**

The new Benchmark 6000 delivers 6 million BTUs and performs high-efficiency miracles in an unmatched compact footprint  
79"H x 34"W x 109"D

**Kohler Ronan  
Engineers**

*World Class Engineers consistently specifying Top Performing Aerco Benchmark Boilers! Thanks!*

**K**  
KOHLER RONAN, LLC  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

**AERCO**