For the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Rafael Viñoly Architects was tasked with providing a state-of-the-art home for the Philadelphia Orchestra, a flexible theater for multiple types of performances, and a major new public space for the city of Philadelphia on a single site. Located along the Avenue of the Arts cultural corridor, the Kimmel Center also furthers the revitalization of this primary north–south axis in the downtown area. Chosen after developing 13 alternative schemes that explored variations in the placement of halls, lobbies, and event spaces, the design treats the main program components as freestanding buildings on a vast indoor space, Commonwealth Plaza, topped by a large steel-and-glass barrel vault roof that fills the interior with natural light.