

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT

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MUSEUM'S NEW WEST BUILDING—CENTERPIECE OF MAJOR EXPANSION— WINS 2011 *HONOR AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE*, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS' HIGHEST RECOGNITION

WHAT

The North Carolina Museum of Art's (NCMA) new building, designed by the New York City-based Thomas Phifer and Partners, has been awarded a **2011 American Institute of Architects (AIA) Honor Award**, the AIA's highest recognition for building design.



The 127,000-square-foot, single-story structure—one of only 10 projects to receive the **Honor Award for Architecture** this year—was selected from hundreds of submissions worldwide.

The AIA announcement of the Award notes the building interior's "gently luminous setting," the result of natural light that is filtered through hundreds of elliptical oculi in the ceiling, and the way in which its exterior, enclosed in matte aluminum panels, "continue[s] the discourse with the landscape" and offers "unexpected and scintillating reflections."

(MORE)



West Building, which opened to the public in April 2010, is the central component of the Museum's recently completed three-year expansion. The building is surrounded by five courtyards—also designed by Phifer and Partners, with Durham landscape architecture firm Lappas + Havener, PA—each of which seems to enter the structure, breaching the perimeter of what would otherwise be a rectangular plan. All of the courtyards are visible through the building's glass walls.

Inside the building, a capacious sculpture hall and some 65,000 square feet of galleries showcase the Museum's wide-ranging collection under conditions in which, according to the AIA announcement, "the artwork takes on heightened vividness." Since last April, nearly 340,000 visitors have experienced the new building.

In addition to creating the West Building, the NCMA expansion project included the transformation of the 1983 East Building, originally designed by Edward Durell Stone, into a center for temporary exhibitions, education, and public programs, and the acquisition of more than 200 works of art through gifts, promised gifts, commissions, and purchase. The renovated East Building opened to the public in November 2010.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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For a list of the other 2011 Honor Award for Architecture winners, visit <http://www.aia.org/practicing/awards/2011/Architecture>

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Thomas Phifer and Partners, www.tphifer.com
Local Architect: Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee, <http://pbclarchitecture.com>
Landscape Architect: Lappas + Havener, PA, <http://lhpa-nc.com>

Image Captions

Top: View of the Rodin Court. Photo © Scott Frances. Courtesy NCMA.

Bottom: View of the Altarpiece Gallery. Photo © Scott Frances. Courtesy NCMA.