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North Carolina Museum of Art awarded 2011 American Institute of Architects (AIA) Honor Award

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 sq ft single-story project - one of only ten 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'.