

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS

CONTEMPORARY ART + DESIGN WING



- Designed by Thomas Phifer and Partners
- 100,000-square feet of additional space
- 26,000-square-foot contemporary art and design gallery
- 500-seat Hot Glass amphitheater
- Opened March 20, 2015

Contemporary Art + Design Wing

Designed by architect Thomas Phifer and Partners, the 100,000-square-foot Contemporary Art + Design Wing addition includes a new 26,000-square-foot contemporary art gallery building, as well as one of the world's largest facilities for glassblowing demonstrations and live glass design sessions. The addition dramatically enhances the visitor experience for the Museum's growing domestic and international audiences.

The \$64 million project—fully funded before groundbreaking by major benefactor Corning Incorporated—opened to the public on March 20, 2015.

The design of the contemporary art gallery is a square, minimalist white glass building containing soaring, daylight-filled galleries. The facade is constructed with large, white glass panels that create a nearly seamless, softly reflective expanse. Inside, the gallery features a simple, white interior with massive curvilinear concrete walls. The building is the largest space anywhere dedicated to the presentation of contemporary art in glass.

"The minimal exterior of the gallery building promises a tranquil and illumi-

nating experience inside," said Phifer. "Visitors enter a light-filled, glass vitrine to view and appreciate works of art in glass."

A sophisticated light-filtering system uses diffusing roof skylights, providing the majority of the lighting required to view the art. The daylighting sets a new standard for how contemporary works in glass are displayed. A 150-foot-long window wall along the north side of the building provides views of a new one-acre campus green, unifying the indoor and outdoor experience.

The luminous all-glass gallery building is juxtaposed against the black metal exterior of the adjacent historic glass factory ventilator building that will contain the new venue for the Museum's signature live glassmaking presentations. The space, which can be entered through the new contemporary gallery, accommodates 500 people through retractable banked seating, and features a gallery-level balcony running around the perimeter of the venue that offers 360-degree views of the glassmaking below.

Landscape architecture firm Reed Hilderbrand Associates designed new outdoor gathering areas for the public,

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including a one-acre campus green that provides views into the luminous new gallery and glassmaking spaces. Featuring a central lawn area, as well as large canopy trees, the space will feel like a calming and quiet outdoor room. The green will be defined by the 1951 Harrison & Abramowitz Corning Incorporated building on the north side and, on the south side, by the Museum's 2001 Smith-Miller + Hawkinson façade and Contemporary Art + Design Wing designed by Thomas Phifer and Partners.

"For us, learning the way light and glass work together has been truly rewarding. Glass is performance art...from its fluidity to the way it scatters light in space. We are making spaces to put people in touch with the magic of glass," Phifer said.

The design also improves circulation throughout the Museum, with the new Contemporary Art + Design Wing linking three generations of glass architecture spanning 60 years. The ten-acre campus currently features a collection of buildings designed by Harrison & Abramowitz (1951), Gunnar Birkerts (1980), Smith-Miller + Hawkinson (2000), and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson (2000).

Other features of the expansion included a renovation of the Museum's café, designed by HAIGH Architects in association with Hunt Engineers, Architects, Surveyors (April 2012), relocated and improved parking for bus groups (July 2012), new education spaces (2015), and new office and storage spaces (2015).

