

## Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

Renovation and Addition  
New York, New York



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Gwathmey Siegel's renovation of and addition to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City is one of the firm's most celebrated and critically acclaimed works. It contains 51,000-square-feet of new and renovated gallery space, 15,000-square-feet of new office space, a restored theater, new restaurant and retrofitted support and storage spaces.

Both Wright's proposed annex of 1949-52, and William Wesley Peters' annex, originally designed as a ten-story structure, are acknowledged by the new addition. Its parti was determined by two critical intersections with the original building: first, with the rotunda at the existing circulation core, and second, with the monitor building along its east wall. It provides balcony views and access to the rotunda from three new two-story galleries and one single-story gallery. A transparent glass wall, connecting the monitor building and the addition, reveals the original facades from both the outside-in and the inside-out.

The pavilions are now integrated functionally and spatially with the large rotunda as well as with the new addition. The new fifth-floor roof sculpture terrace, the large rotunda roof terrace, and the renovated public ramp reveal the original building in a new extended and comprehensive perspective.

The entire original structure is now devoted to exhibition space. Each ramp cycle affords the option of entry or views to new galleries. Within the rotunda, numerous technical refinements have corrected omissions in the original construction and brought the building up to current museum standards. Re-glazing the central lantern; opening the clerestories between the turns of the spiral wall; and restoring the scalloped flat clerestory at the perimeter of the ground floor exhibition space have recaptured the sensitivity to light evident in Wright's original design.

1 Fifth Avenue facade and new addition

2 Restored rotunda skylight, installation by Dan Flavin

3 Sculpture terrace showing intersection of large rotunda and addition



North facade showing infill glass wall

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*Renovated 7th-level ramp in large rotunda*



*Infill glass curtain wall from second floor gallery*



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*Second and third level gallery, Thannhauser gallery beyond*

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### Key Project Information

- 51,000 square feet of new and renovated gallery space
  - New outdoor sculpture garden
  - Restored theater
  - New museum shop
  - New restaurant
  - 15,000 square feet of new office space
  - Modern addition to an historic context
  - Restoration of original skylights
  - Restoration/conversion of areas formerly inaccessible to the public
  - Loading dock/service entry and elevator
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- completion 1992
  - gsf 135,000 (incl. renovation)



Fourth level in monitor building with reconstituted Frank Lloyd Wright cornice



Section through rotunda



Section through addition

*"At every phase of the design development and construction process, Charles and Bob and their Associate were responsive to our programmatic needs and budget constraints. They demonstrated an ability to solve complex problems with creativity and practicality."*

*Thomas Krens, Museum Director*

*"Tasteful, discrete and logical"*

*Architecture Magazine, August 1992*

*"All in all, then, it appears that Gwathmey Siegel may have triumphed. Occasions for unalloyed celebration in the art world are rare. This thoughtful, exhilarating renovation is one of them."*

*Art in America, September 1992*

*"The Museum is richly enhanced — both in its restoration and in the new ways it can serve the art and the museum goer. Call it a fine comeback."*

*Newsweek, 29 June 1992*

*"After years of fuss and furor, the great but inhospitable Guggenheim gets a splendid overhaul."*

*Time Magazine, 6 July 1992*

*The Guggenheim expansion and renovation received the 1995 AIA New York Chapter's Design Award*