



David O. Brown

Profile

► **Projects**

Contacts

Contents

Site

1.5-acre hilltop site



Ithaca, New York

Gross Floor Area

17,200 s/f new construction; 6,000 s/f renovation

Client

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Time Frame

Planning: 2006–
Construction: 2009–
Opening: Oct. 15, 2011

**Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art
Addition and Alteration, Cornell University**

Ithaca, New York
Completed 2011

Lead Designer: John L. Sullivan III

Museum addition and renovation

This museum addition takes the form of a pavilion situated on the sloping swath of lawn north of the existing building, a site identified in the original 1968 master plan as the most suitable place for an extension. As a response to the complex form of the iconic 1973 structure, the new pavilion presents a simple volume and neutral square plan, while its material follows the buff-colored, architectural board-formed concrete of the existing building, creating harmony and establishing a visual connection through continuity of palette.

Linked to the main building on two levels below grade, the addition has its own entry, making it possible to hold special events without opening the entire museum. The lobby has been designed as a mezzanine, engaging the lecture room and gallery below. The sloping topography allows daylight to penetrate to the lowest gallery level, giving the lobby, offices, and studio views of a Japanese garden (designed by landscape architect Marc Peter Keane of Ithaca, NY) that is set into the hillside, while spaces requiring enclosure are layered behind.

The addition includes a 150-seat lecture room, a studio, galleries, art storage, and office space. Concurrent renovations to the existing building have expanded the gallery space of the fifth-floor Asian art collection by 50 percent.

Major Components

17,200 s/f addition with 150-seat lecture hall, gallery, offices and studio, collections storage room; below-grade link to Museum on two levels; separate public entry; service access from existing building; 6,000 s/f alteration of fifth floor Asian Galleries

Pei Cobb Freed & Partners services

Complete Architectural Services, including site work; Interior

Design services for the fifth floor alteration

Structural

Leslie E. Robertson Associates, R.L.L.P., New York

Mechanical / Electrical / Plumbing

ICOR Associates, LLC, Iselin, New Jersey

Lighting

Renfro Design Group, NY

Concrete Consultant

Reginald B. Hough, FAIA, Architect, Rhinebeck, New York



Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University

Ithaca, New York
Completed 1973

Lead Designers: I. M. Pei
John L. Sullivan III

Profile

► **Projects**

Contacts

Contents

Site

1.5 acres, a hilltop site terminating the historic campus spine of Cornell University



Ithaca, New York

Gross Floor Area
60,000 s/f

Client

Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York

Time Frame

Planning: 5/68–
Construction: 9/70–
Completion: 5/73

Museum and academic building

This museum, the third executed by the firm, was designed to fulfill a complex mixed-use program for an expandable teaching facility and quasi-public museum. The building responds to its location at the crest of a 1,000-foot long slope where, overlooking Lake Cayuga, Ezra Cornell announced his intention to found a university in 1865. A strong building form was necessary for visual termination. Equally important was the need for spatial closure of the adjacent historic Arts Quadrangle — without, however, blocking the view.

In solution, the required programmatic spaces were stacked in a nine-level tower designed to maximize both setting and views through a sculptural balance of transparency and bold architectural form. Visitors enter the broadly glazed entry court and either descend to temporary exhibitions/museum support on three (expandable) levels below, or ascend through the permanent collection up to an outdoor terrace where sculpture is viewed against the sprawling mountain panorama. Similar views are enjoyed from the lounges and other university facilities housed in the long-span penthouse above. The galleries themselves are all carefully light-controlled but include strategically located windows to add interest and aid orientation.

Inseparable from its site, the building was constructed in buff-colored poured-in-place concrete to complement its masonry neighbors while resolving the technical requirements of its long span and cantilevered volumes.

Major Components

11,600 s/f galleries; 10,500 s/f work rooms/storage; 2,600 s/f sculpture terrace; 2,500 s/f administration; 2,000 s/f main lobby; 1,900 s/f main exhibition area; 1,400 s/f meeting room; 1,400 s/f lecture room/gallery; 1,100 s/f library

Awards

- 1975 American Institute of Architects:
National Honor Award
- 1974 American Concrete Institute
Central New York Chapter: Grand Award

I. M. Pei & Partners services

Complete Architectural Services; Interior Design of public spaces

Structural

Nicolet, Dressel & Associates, Montreal

Mechanical / Electrical

Segner and Dalton, Valhalla, NY

Landscape

Office of Dan Kiley, Charlotte, VT