

The New Denver Art Museum Complex The Frederic C. Hamilton Building

Founded in 1893, the Denver Art Museum is one of the largest art museums between Chicago and the West Coast, with a collection of more than 69,000 works of art. On October 7, 2006, the Denver Art Museum nearly doubled in size when it opened one of the country's most unique structures. The Frederic C. Hamilton Building includes new galleries for its permanent collection, three temporary exhibition spaces, art storage and public amenities. Designed by architect Daniel Libeskind and Denver-based Davis Partnership Architects, the titanium-clad expansion has become an icon for the city of Denver.

Description

The 146,000-square-foot Frederic C. Hamilton Building increased the Denver Art Museum galleries by more than 40 percent, providing much needed space to house more of the Museum's permanent collection and major traveling exhibitions. The project is Libeskind's first completed building in North America. The Hamilton Building links to the Museum's North Building, a 1971 castle-like structure designed by Gio Ponti, via the second-story Reiman Bridge. In addition to the Hamilton Building, the Museum completed renovations to public spaces in the North Building and a landscape program as part of the overall project.

Location

100 W. 14th Avenue Parkway
Denver, CO 80204

Collections and Programming

The Denver Art Museum's permanent collection includes more than 69,000 art objects from around the world. Its American Indian art collection is internationally renowned, and its pre-Columbian and Spanish Colonial art collection is one of the best in the world. Other collections include painting and sculpture, Asian, architecture, design and graphics, photography, modern and contemporary, African, Oceanic, western American and textile art. In addition to its art collection, the Denver Art Museum is internationally recognized for its family-friendly environment, and has received critical acclaim for encouraging art appreciation among young people via a variety of free, hands-on, interactive activities available throughout the galleries.

Groundbreaking

July 2003

Opening	October 7, 2006
Total Project Cost	\$110 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hamilton Building construction - \$75 million - Added scope - \$35 million
Primary Designers	Studio Daniel Libeskind and Davis Partnership Architects - A Joint Venture
Board Leadership	Fred Hamilton, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Director	Dr. Lewis I. Sharp (during Hamilton Building project) Dr. Christoph Heinrich (as of January 1, 2010)
Capital Campaign	\$28 million goal; \$47 million raised
Bond Initiative Funding	\$62.5 million
Endowment Campaign	\$50 million goal; \$62.5 million raised
Major Design Features	<p>The Hamilton Building consists of geometric, titanium-clad angles, which reflect the nearby Rocky Mountain peaks and rock crystals. Visitors enter the building into the 120-foot-high El Pomar Grand Atrium that features dramatically sloping walls, a skylight, and a magnificent staircase that follows the walls to provide easy access to the building's galleries. An additional two-story atrium is located in the 19,000-square-foot bi-level Bonfils-Stanton Modern and Contemporary Galleries; those galleries also include the Bartlit Family Sculpture Deck, an outdoor sculpture area that provides magnificent views of downtown Denver.</p> <p>The building features a sharply cantilevered section that juts across a major Denver street toward the 1971 Museum building designed by Gio Ponti and Denver-based James Sudler Associates. An enclosed glass and steel bridge links the two structures and provides access to the new Duncan Pavilion, a 6,300-square-foot indoor/ outdoor event space. From the pavilion visitors can view the mountains and the Denver skyline.</p>
Landscape Design	The expanded Denver Art Museum complex includes the Lanny and Sharon Martin Plaza, a landscaped pedestrian plaza designed by Libeskind featuring significant works of outdoor sculpture. Three new sculptures are sited around the Hamilton Building: <i>Big Sweep</i> by Coosje van Bruggen and Claes Oldenburg, <i>Scottish Angus Cow and Calf</i> by Dan Ostermiller and <i>Denver Monoliths</i> by Beverly Pepper.
Hamilton Building Size	146,000 square feet
Total Museum Size	356,000 square feet

Area Breakdown in the Hamilton Building

Permanent Collection Galleries (Hamilton Building):
31,000 square feet

Temporary Exhibition Galleries (Hamilton Building):
22,000 square feet

Additional Public Space (Hamilton Building):
30,000 square feet

Visitor Amenities

Museum Shop:
5,600 square feet

278-Seat Auditorium:
2,800 square feet

Duncan Pavilion Indoor/Outdoor Event Space:
6,300 square feet

Construction Statistics

2,700 tons of structural steel
3,100 steel beams
9,000 titanium panels
14,500 cubic yards of cement

Building Materials

Facade:
Titanium

Lobbies:
Black granite

Galleries:
End-grain, Douglas fir hardwood floors

Studio Daniel Libeskind

Daniel Libeskind, lead architect

Davis Partnership

Brit Probst, principal

General Contractor

M.A. Mortenson Company

Media Contacts

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