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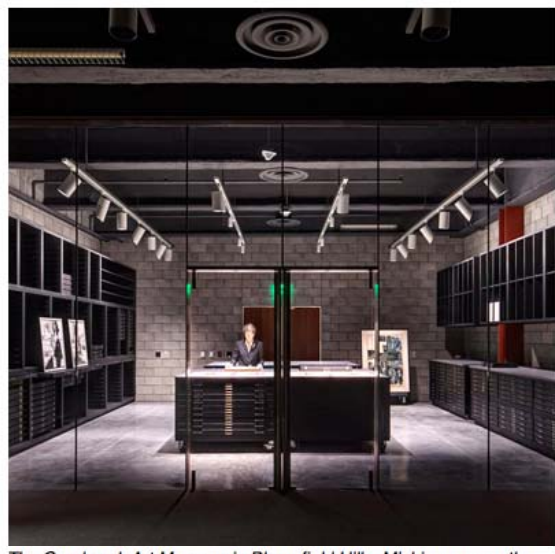
Hoki Museum by Nikken Sekkei



People and Places



Design with Enterprise



The Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, recently reopened after a renovation and expansion designed by [SmithGroupJJR](#). The new Collections Wing features open storage of Cranbrook's collected works. Photo: Courtesy SmithGroupJJR [Extra Large Image](#)

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The Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, recently reopened after a \$22 million renovation and expansion designed by the Detroit office of multidisciplinary firm [SmithGroupJJR](#). The project included restoration of the original 1942 structure, designed by [Eliel Saarinen](#), along with construction of the museum's new Collections Wing, which allows for open display of Cranbrook's collected works — comprising 6,000 pieces relating to art, architecture, and design — in handsome storage vaults accessible to students, academics, and artists.

The existing museum received substantial upgrades, most of which are hidden from view. The main mechanical plant was redesigned to regulate temperature and humidity at a constant level, and the main entrance was reconfigured slightly on the inside to create an air lock. Also, Saarinen's innovative coffered ceiling lights were restored. Exterior plazas and stairs were renovated and equipped with underground heaters to avoid the need for corrosive salt.

The new three-story, 31,200-square-foot (2,900-square-meter) Collections Wing consists of three rectangular volumes decreasing in height and width as the building progresses northward, away from the museum. The new building's west facade is a modest brick wall that steps down as the volumes recede. Void of fenestration, its deep-brown bricks are clear-coated and trimmed with fine stainless-steel blades, providing a crisp, understated complement to Saarinen's original design.

The zinc-clad steel panels enclosing the service court provide a counterpoint to the masonry. Completing the exterior composition is an east facade of light-red brick and a large, square projecting window clad in stainless steel.

The building interior features utilitarian concrete block construction. Joints of standard gray block have been raked and the concrete's soft coating retained. Accents include stainless-steel plate surrounds and mahogany-plank doors.

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POPQUIZ



The new U.S. Embassy compound in Valletta, Malta, designed by [KCCT](#), has been completed. Photo: Alan Carville [Extra Large Image](#)

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The new U.S. Embassy compound in Valletta, Malta, has been completed. [Karn Charuhas Chapman & Twohey](#) (KCCT) of Washington, D.C., designed the eight-building, 97,000-square-foot (9,000-square-meter) facility, located on a ten-acre (four-hectare) site. The tiered three-story chancery uses local Maltese limestone and mahogany granite. Ancillary buildings feature buff-colored stucco. The buildings are oriented in response to the Mediterranean climate, and exterior sun shades, canopies, and covered walkways reduce heat gain.

The site plan is organized around Bronze Age and Roman archeological remains discovered during excavations, such as carved tombs, water tanks, and granaries. A central stone garden features several of these rare structures. Other archeological finds were documented and reburied for preservation.

About two-thirds of the site is designed as a xeriscape, with the remainder landscaped with native plant species to minimize water consumption. Large underground cisterns capture rainwater onsite for irrigation and other nonpotable uses. A photovoltaic system is slated to be installed on parking canopies in a second phase of construction.

KCCT's project team includes principals John Chapman, AIA, and Paul Phillips, AIA, LEED AP. The compound was built by American International Contractors, Inc. (AICI-SP).

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