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Crocker Art Museum – A Masterpiece in the Making About the Design

Architect: Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects, New York

Process:

- Master planning process involved city and museum officials along with community members, November 2000 – January 2002
- Concept design phase, April 2002 – March 2003
- Schematic design phase – design is finalized after historic preservation and environmental impact reports, March 2003 – November 2004
- Construction drawings, November 2005 – July 2007

Goal: Create classic, contemporary architecture that will enrich the visitor experience, pay tribute to the historic structure and significantly improve museum operations.

Features: **Designed from the Inside Out**
A focal point of the design was to ensure that the new building and the internal reconfiguration of the existing structures would greatly enrich the visitor experience.

Classic Contemporary Design Pays Tribute to Historic Architecture

The new building is designed to maintain the Art Gallery Building as the architectural jewel and centerpiece of the complex.

The design pays tribute to the historic structure in several ways:

- Creates a new tripartite composition with the historic Art Gallery Building as the centerpiece
- Respects the width and height dimensions of the historic structure and emulates certain design elements including the three-story structure, porches, window placement and curved planes
- Separates the new building from the historic with an outdoor Courtyard and offers a glass-enclosed reception area, where the visitor can experience both architectural styles simultaneously
- Uses a calm color palette and features a variety of planes as not to overwhelm the existing architecture

Improving Museum Operations

The current structure limits on collection care and program offerings. The new building and reconfigured interior of the existing structures will create:

- More ideal collection care, moving art storage from below grade where it is susceptible to flooding to higher ground
- A dedicated home for each part of the collection for the first time in the Museum's history
- A loading dock and freight elevator for easier and higher standards of art handling
- Dedicated staff offices to house the 40+ Museum employees; the current building was configured for 1 staff member
- A catering kitchen and café