INTERIOR DESIGN®

MAY
2012

preserved for posterity

firm: ***smithgroupjjr***
site: ***bloomfield hills, michigan***

Rigorously modern, architecture on the campus of what's now known as the Cranbrook Educational Community was definitely ahead of its time when Eliel Saarinen planned its influential Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1925. Often called the Bauhaus of the U.S., the school served as a launching pad for Eliel's son, Eero, as well as Florence Knoll Bassett, Charles and Ray Eames, and Harry Bertoia. The building eventually evolved into the Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum, a 1952 icon complete with a monumental colonnade. Unfortunately, however, the museum lacked climate controls, putting delicate art and design objects at risk—haphazardly stored as they were in a closed-off gallery.

When SmithGroupJJR came to the campus, in the Detroit suburb of Bloomfield Hills, to upgrade the museum and construct additional state-of-the art storage, the property committee had three architects on it. And one of them was related to Eero Saarinen. "That created a tremendous sense of responsibility for us," vice president of design Paul Urbanek says. His two-story, 20,000-square-foot addition also permits examination of the 6,000 objects not on gallery view, as the facility is open to the public by appointment or on docent-led tours.

Accent materials bring a touch of luxury to the utilitarian scheme. On the exterior, hot-dipped galvanized-steel panels

iida awards

Clockwise from top left: *In the storage addition to the Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum, incandescent track lighting illuminates flat files for works on paper. Racks for paintings roll out. Stainless-steel plate frames a custom freight elevator. Hot-dipped galvanized steel encloses the service court. A sliding door in sapele gives a corridor access to the industrial lift.*

From top: *A custom sliding door in orbital-finished stainless steel separates a museum gallery from the storage addition. Eero Saarinen chairs sit in front of modular metal shelving. Laminated glass protects ceramics holdings.*

enclose the service court, acting as a counterpoint to the lead coating on a neighboring studio building by Rafael Moneo. Interior door frames are stainless-steel plate, while sapele sliding doors sport substantial steel hardware. Above an orbital-finished stainless door that slides back to connect the museum with storage, a curved lighting cove recalls the dining room in the art deco house and studio that Eliel Saarinen built for himself and his family at Cranbrook. *—Craig Kellogg*

FROM FRONT **DELTA DESIGN:** FLAT FILES (STORAGE). **CASPER CORPORATION:** CUSTOM OPEN CABINETRY, FURNITURE RACKS. **LSI INDUSTRIES:** TRACK LIGHTING. **CRYSTALLIZATIONS SYSTEMS:** ROLLING RACKS. **LITHONIA LIGHTING:** LINEAR FIXTURES. **BUMLER MECHANICAL:** DUCTS. **THYSSEN KRUPP:** CUSTOM ELEVATOR. **ENDICOTT CLAY PRODUCTS CO. THROUGH BRICK TECH ARCHITECTURAL:** BRICKS (EXTERIOR). **BEGA:** BOLLARDS. **GOTHAM:** CEILING FIXTURES (HALL). **CROWN INDUSTRIAL:** CEILING TRACK. **McNICHOLS:** CUSTOM CEILING PANELS. **UNIQUE METAL PRODUCTS:** CUSTOM DOOR (GALLERY). **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS:** COVE LIGHTING. **MARK ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING:** RECESSED CEILING FIXTURES (GALLERY, HALL). **SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY:** PAINT. **THROUGHOUT** **GRAND BLANC CEMENT PRODUCTS:** CONCRETE BLOCK. **RETAIL SPECIALTY:** CUSTOM DOOR PULLS, FRAMES. **SOLOMON COLORS:** FLOOR TINT. **SPALDING DEDECKER ASSOCIATES:** CIVIL ENGINEER. **DAIEK WOODWORKS; MOD INTERIORS:** WOODWORK. **ROSS STRUCTURAL STEEL:** STEELWORK. **EDWARDS GLASS CO.:** GLASSWORK. **RRD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY:** CONCRETE CONTRACTOR. **FRANK REWOLD AND SON:** GENERAL CONTRACTOR.