

# Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Kansas City, Missouri

**Role:** Architectural programming and museum planning

**Program:** Exhibition galleries, collection storage, lobby, cafe, gift shop, library, exhibit support, and offices

**Building Area:** 306,000 sf

**Description:** In 1999, we prepared Organizational Concepts and a Detailed Facility Program for the \$95 million expansion of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. The expansion will include 140,000 SF of new construction and renovation and reorganization of the 166,000 SF existing building.

We worked with the Museum's staff to develop a detailed analysis of their needs with particular attention to long-term storage and conservation needs for the Museum's extensive collections.

Our final planning documents were used as the basis for an international architectural design competition that attracted entries from around the world. Stephen Holl's winning "glowing lantern" design opened in 2007.

Although the Nelson-Atkins has prestigious collections of European and American art, it is known above all for its magnificent collection of Asian art. The collection is considered one of the finest in the West for its scope, depth, and consistently high quality. It includes art from China, Japan, Iran, Indonesia, Korea, India, and other countries. The Chinese collection comprises masterpieces from every phase of Chinese art. The bronze age (1200 B.C. to 500 B.C.) is especially well represented in a series of ceremonial vessels and weapons.

