

Columbia Museum of Art

Columbia, South Carolina

Role: Architect and Museum Planner for Expansion and Renovation; led full team of specialist museum consultants and engineers through all planning and design phases

Program: Art galleries, new entrance, collection storage, auditorium, lobby, gift shop, flexible events space, classrooms, exhibit support, and offices

Building Area: Total area: 127,600 sf, Renovated areas: 54,700 sf

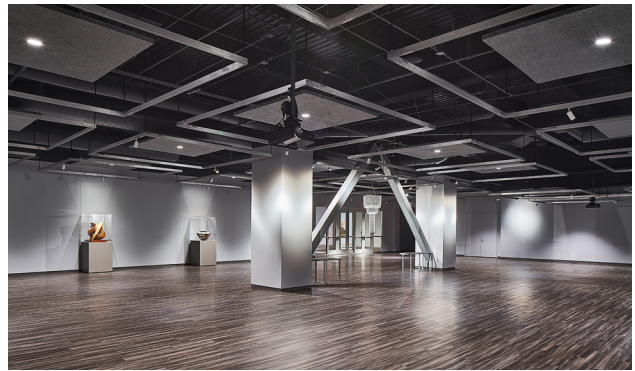
Status: Completed in 2018

Description: In December of 2018, the Columbia Museum of Art completed its major revitalization, expansion and renovation project. It has now opened to the public, after completing successful planning, capital campaign, design and construction phases.

In 2011, Verner Johnson, along with a full museum consulting team, worked with the Columbia Museum of Art to develop a Comprehensive Master Plan that addresses issues of financial sustainability and facility functionality. This Plan, driven by institutional needs and goals, visitor surveys, and stakeholder interviews, presented strategies to attract visitors and improve their experience, highlight and engage the collection, expand the successful educational program, enhance event/rental opportunities, and increase revenue streams to improve overall financial health.

The Master Plan also called for engaging Main Street with a new entrance, banners, and the renovation of the Museum shop. Gallery spaces would be expanded and improved, allowing for flexibility and display of more of the collection in the permanent galleries. All of the galleries would be reorganized by topic rather than chronology. Dedicated flexible events space would be added on the second floor, providing the opportunity for simultaneous events and increased revenue.

In 2016, after a successful fundraising campaign, VernerJohn-





son was retained as the Architect to complete the design and construction of the Master Plan combined phases. Working with Columbia-based engineers and specialist museum consultants, our original conceptual designs were further developed to include the new Main Street entrance components, revised and expanded galleries and education spaces, new and improved special events spaces, lobby renovations and

back-of-house improvements.