

# Cleveland Institute of Art

## *McCullough Building Renovation and Addition*

### DESCRIPTION PAGE

**Respect for a historic structure, but an eye for the future was key to the design of the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA) addition.**

The institute desired an iconic design as a counterpoint to the historic McCullough building, which began its life in 1913 as an assembly plant for Model T Fords, designed by Albert Kahn. In 1976, the college acquired the building and operated a campus of two separate buildings, a half mile apart from each other. The completion of this 80,000 square-foot addition unifies CIA's campus in one centralized location enhancing student collaboration while significantly reducing operational costs.

The design was developed within the restrictive confines of regulations for both Ohio Historic Tax Credits and Federal Lost Development Tax Credits. The building was designed to meet LEED Silver requirements, but certification was not pursued. The entire facility houses 250,000 square feet of teaching studios, classrooms, galleries, auditorium space, and administrative/faculty offices. The design also integrated the latest in lab and computer technology to support the institute's creative edge. The facility houses public gallery spaces for visiting collections and student art as well as The Cinematheque, a theatre for screening of classic and art films. The main entrance to the building is on axis with an esplanade that provides a visual connection to the Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art.

One of the major design challenges was to respect the historic character of the classic Albert Kahn design while giving the Institute a fresh modern face that speaks to its current mission and unifies it with the new Uptown development to the west. The front façade echoes the forms and proportions of the original Kahn design in a frit patterning on an all glass skin, as you turn the corner a "stitched" metal panel façade punctuated by random punched openings joined by a ribbon of horizontal and vertical glass. The western façade is highlighted by a fifty by thirty foot Media Mesh panel, a high definition LED screen which displays images and video of student art to passersby. The rear portion of the building sets off a two story element wrapped in deep blue glazed brick which houses the 300 seat Peter B. Lewis Theatre.

The addition allows for innovation and collaboration between students in different disciplines which was lost when the facilities were not physically connected. The new environment

provides both traditional classroom space along with a flexible, open floor plan approach where students studying different disciplines can work side by side. One of CIA's goals was to provide an opportunity for students to work in an environment that employed an "open office" concept common within the creative sector workplace.

The plan of the new building is centered around a three-story atrium which acts as the "living room" for the Institute. In the original construction this space was an exterior light well which was later converted to a sloped glass atrium in the 1970s, and became an interior space and unifying element within the new structure. The atrium, which has its floor on the second level of the building is traversed by 3 bridges connecting the studio spaces in the addition to the original building and is topped by a full length skylight which provides natural light to flanking studios. The atrium serves as a student collaboration space complete with a cafe, as a home for social/fundraising gatherings and as an exhibit space. The addition's ground level includes the admissions office, its 50,000-volume art library, the 3,400-square-foot Reinberger Galleries and a separate student gallery. The project also includes the new 300-seat Peter B. Lewis Theatre, home of the Cleveland Cinematheque. Located in a two-story section of the new building the Cinematheque also functions as a lecture and classroom space and is topped by an outdoor plaza/function space. Upper floors contain flexible studio spaces linked to the original building by bridges across the atrium and administrative offices on the top floor.