

# COOPER HEWITT

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MEDIA ONLY

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## ARCHITECTURAL FACT SHEET

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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum has renovated its home, the Carnegie Mansion on New York City's Museum Mile, to transform a grand early-20th-century residence into a 21st-century museum. The nation's only museum devoted exclusively to historic and contemporary design, Cooper Hewitt will now have 60 percent more gallery space to present its important collection and temporary exhibitions and will offer an entirely new and invigorated visitor experience, with interactive, immersive creative technologies.

The transformation of the Carnegie Mansion respects the spirit and character of the landmark building, restoring key elements to the original grandeur while providing much-needed upgrades to lighting and signage, more flexibility to reduce installation time and better accommodate object handling and above all enhanced public access on every level.

Through reprogramming of portions of the mansion and the adjacent townhouses, as well as reconfiguring conservation and collection-storage facilities, the project will increase the museum's total exhibition space from approximately 10,000 square feet to 17,000 square feet, including the 6,000-square-foot gallery on the third floor, which has never before been used for public exhibitions.

### OPENING

December 12, 2014

### LEADERSHIP

Caroline Baumann, Director; Barbara A. Mandel, Chairman, Board of Trustees; and Beth Comstock, President, Board of Trustees

### ORIGINAL CARNEGIE MANSION ARCHITECT

Babb, Cook & Willard (completed 1902)

### ARCHITECTS

Gluckman Mayner Architects, New York; Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP, New York; Diller Scofidio + Renfro, New York

### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Hood Design, Oakland, CA



## PROJECT COST

\$91 million project includes \$81 million renovation/expansion and \$10 million endowment

## PROJECT TIMELINE

April 2007

Project architect and designers chosen; Mansion design unveiled

March 2010

Phase 1 groundbreaking

August 2011

Phase 1 complete

January 2012

Phase 2 begins

Dec. 12, 2014

Public opening

## MAJOR FEATURES

### ORIGINAL DESIGN FEATURES

Built for the family of Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Mansion was the first private residence in the United States to have a structural steel frame and one of the first in New York to have a residential Otis passenger elevator (now in the collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.). Other innovations were the inclusion of central heating and a precursor to air-conditioning. In the cellar a pair of enormous twin boilers were fed by coal transferred from storage bin to furnace by a coal car that traveled over a miniature railroad track.

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND MODERNIZATION

The integration of new mechanical/electrical systems, fire egress stairs, ADA accessible routes and fire detection and sprinklers were carefully integrated into this National Historic Landmark. A Historic Structures Report and a Preservation Plan were generated by Beyer Blinder Belle to inform work and, aided by materials conservation studies, the Great Hall and Stairs, the Teak Room and other significant spaces on the first two floors were meticulously restored. Historic spaces were documented and representative finishes and details were saved as part of the important historic record.

## **EXTERIOR**

The project included cleaning and repair of exterior masonry and the historic wrought-iron fence.

## **NEW ENTRANCES**

A thorough refurbishment of the 91st Street foyer has removed a dozen layers of paint to reveal magnificent Caen stone, restoring the graciousness of the main entrance to the mansion. The new public entrance on 90th Street creates a heightened street presence for the museum.

## **GALLERIES**

First-floor galleries have been restored to provide improved spaces for an interactive introduction to design.

Second-floor galleries have been expanded by converting existing office space to provide more room to showcase the museum's collection and temporary exhibitions.

There is a new 6,000-square-foot gallery on the third floor, which has never before been used for public exhibitions.

## **GARDEN & TERRACE**

Hood Design is evolving the original Richard Schermerhorn, Jr. design from 1901, using durable local New York schist as terrace pavers, garden pathways and in the re-imagined rockery, tying the garden to its larger context of Central Park.

## **UNIQUE PIVOT SYSTEM**

A unique new pivot system of cornices on the third floor preserves historic detailing while accommodating the installation of large design objects.

A 2,000 pound "secret" pivot door in the Great Hall conceals back-of-house functions.

## **COOPER HEWITT, SMITHSONIAN DESIGN LIBRARY**

The Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Library was moved from the Mansion to the townhouses at 9 East 90th Street in 2011 as part of Phase One of the renovation project. The new Library includes the Arthur Ross Reading Room; an additional elegant, quiet study room; the Fred and Rae S. Friedman Rare Book Room; reference spaces; a workroom; open stacks; and offices.

## **RETAIL & CAFÉ SPACES, OTHER VISITOR AMENITIES**

SHOP Cooper Hewitt has been relocated from the Carnegie Library on the western end of the first floor to the eastern end of the first floor, adjacent to the café, creating a new visitor path.

The new SHOP was designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, working in collaboration with the museum. A new café was designed by Gluckman Mayner Architects and Beyer Blinder Belle with expanded communal seating, and increased service times. The café will have expanded hours matching the garden, so neighbors and tourists alike can enjoy an early morning cappuccino from 8:00 a.m.

Additional major improvements to the Mansion include expanded public restrooms, a new conservation lab, and conveniently located and enlarged registrar spaces.

## **SUSTAINABLE FEATURES & MECHANICAL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

In keeping with Cooper Hewitt's public mission of design, the building project is seeking LEED Silver certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green-building rating system. LEED achievements include:

- Recycling and/or salvaging 75% of construction waste and creating a construction waste management plan
- Optimizing energy performance by 10.5% - 14%
- Purchasing green-e-certified electricity supply for 2 years, for 35% of the building's electricity demand
- Reducing water use by 40%

Not visible but crucial to the project were the careful integration of many mechanical system improvements including: lighting, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical, fire protection, security and data infrastructure throughout the building, as well as the discreet introduction of fire sprinklers throughout the Mansion's main floors.

## **DIMENSIONS & FIGURES**

### **Exhibition Space**

17,000 square feet

### **Education Space**

3,146 square feet

### **SHOP Cooper Hewitt**

1,450 square feet

### **The Arthur Ross Terrace & Garden**

7,600 square feet

### **Café**

600 square feet

# COOPER HEWITT

## **ABOUT COOPER HEWITT, SMITHSONIAN DESIGN MUSEUM**

Founded in 1897, Cooper Hewitt is the only museum in the nation devoted exclusively to historic and contemporary design. The museum educates, inspires and empowers people through design, presenting compelling educational programs, exhibitions and publications.

International in scope and possessing one of the most diverse and comprehensive collections of design works in existence, the museum's rich holdings range from Egypt's Late Period/New Kingdom (1100 B.C.) to the present day and total more than 210,000 objects.

For further information, please call (212) 849-8400, visit Cooper Hewitt's new website at [www.cooperhewitt.org](http://www.cooperhewitt.org) and follow us on [www.twitter.com/cooperhewitt](https://www.twitter.com/cooperhewitt) and [www.facebook.com/cooperhewitt](https://www.facebook.com/cooperhewitt).

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