

22 E 91ST STREET  
NEW YORK NY 10128

PHONE 212.849.8400  
FAX 212.849.8401  
COOPERHEWITT.ORG

MEDIA ONLY

GREGORY GESTNER  
212.849.8420  
GESTNERG@SI.EDU

JENNIFER NORTHROP  
212.849.2954  
NORTHROPJ@SI.EDU

## ARCHITECTURAL FACT SHEET

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum has renovated its home, the Carnegie Mansion on New York City's Museum Mile, transforming 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 now has 60 percent more gallery space to present its important collection and temporary exhibitions and offers 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 portions of the mansion and the adjacent townhouses, as well as reconfiguring conservation and collection-storage facilities, the project increased 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 mansion's third floor, which has never before been used for public exhibitions.

### OPENING

December 12, 2014

### LEADERSHIP

Caroline Baumann, Director; Brooke Hodge, Deputy 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

May 2009

Phase 1/Collection moved to off-site conservation and storage facility

March 2010

Phase 2/90<sup>th</sup> Street townhouses groundbreaking

August 2011

Phase 2/Townhouses complete, mansion vacated

January 2012

Phase 3/Mansion construction begins

Dec. 12, 2014

Public opening

June 2015

Garden 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.

### **UNIQUE PIVOT SYSTEM**

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

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

## **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 garden 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.

## **CONSERVATION LAB AND REGISTRAR**

Additional major improvements to the mansion include a new conservation lab and conveniently located and enlarged registrar spaces.

## **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. The garden, which will be free to the public, will be fully realized in summer 2015.

## **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 Two 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 & CAFE SPACES**

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 new café.

Taralucci e Vino will operate the new café, which has expanded communal seating, and increased service times. The café will feature a greenmarket-inspired menu and will open daily at 7:30 a.m.

## **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

Tarallucci e Vino café at Cooper Hewitt

600 square feet