



DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

★ BUILDING DESCRIPTION

The Museum of the American Revolution rises three stories above the street, encompassing 118,000 total square feet, including permanent and temporary exhibit galleries, theaters, education spaces, collection storage, a café, a retail store, offices, and a welcoming rotunda. Located at the corner of Third and Chestnut Streets, the state-of-the-art building was designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects.

Visitors enter the Museum through a domed bronze-cladded entrance on Third Street into the rotunda, which features a dramatic window looking out to the activity on Chestnut Street. The cross-vaulted ceiling features an illuminated laylight representing the six-pointed star from Washington's Standard flag, which is in the Museum's collection. *(photo below, center)*

The ground floor interior is organized around a skylit central rotunda featuring terrazzo floors and an elliptical staircase, which provides a dramatic pathway to the Museum's second floor exhibition galleries. Serving as the crossroads of the Museum, the rotunda also provides access to a theater where visitors will view the Museum's orientation film, *Revolution*; 5,000 square feet of temporary exhibition and program space; a retail shop; and Cross Keys Café with seating on a terrace that opens to the sidewalk on Third Street.

At the top of the sweeping grand staircase, the second floor features 18,000 square feet of galleries and a 100-seat theater dedicated to George Washington's

War Tent. The third floor includes staff offices and Liberty Hall, an elegant special event and programs space with views of Carpenters' Hall, the First Bank of the United States, and Independence Hall through nearly floor-to-ceiling windows and an open-air balcony. *(photo below, right)*

The Museum's lower level includes classrooms for students and other groups, collection storage, and Revolution Place, a new a discovery center where children can explore their own role in making history.

★ ARCHITECT

The internationally recognized firm of Robert A.M. Stern Architects created a landmark design for the Museum in a style that reflects and honors the rich history of the neighborhood. The firm has completed numerous notable buildings across the country, including the George W. Bush Library in Dallas and the Comcast Center in Philadelphia.

★ GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Construction of the \$60 million building began in 2014. INTECH Construction, a Philadelphia-based firm, served as the Museum's construction manager and general contractor. The firm has built many pre-eminent projects in the metropolitan region including the National Museum for American Jewish History, and has renovated the Curtis Institute of Music.

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Photo by Peter Aaron / Otto for Robert A.M. Stern Architects

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION *Continued*

* LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Designed by Philadelphia's OLIN landscape architects, the Museum's outdoor plaza is paved in native Pennsylvania bluestone and brick. It includes generous seating shaded by Valley Forge elm trees, one of which was designated as "America's Liberty Tree" and enriched with soil from Revolutionary sites around the country at the Museum's groundbreaking event in 2014.

Dramatically lit at night, the plaza is accessible before, during, and after the Museum's operating hours for visitors and passersby to rest, reflect, or snap a unique photo to share. It features a dramatic display of cannons from the Revolutionary era, an engraving of powerful words from the Declaration of Independence, and a set of large-scale (20 feet by 40 feet) bronze sculptural panels designed and donated by Philadelphia-based Chinese artist Ellen Quinzhaoh. *(photo below, right)*

* SUSTAINABILITY

The Museum has achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification. The design incorporates eco-friendly elements such as a green roof, state-of-the-art stormwater management, air-cycling, and heat-recovery systems. The site uses collected stormwater to help with climate control to preserve artifacts, marking the first time a system like this has been implemented in Philadelphia. The HVAC system features several energy-efficiency measures, such as dedicated outdoor air processing and frictionless centrifugal chillers. Locally sourced materials were used whenever possible.

* CONSTRUCTION PARTNERS

Additional construction partners include structural engineer Keast and Hood, Co.; cost management consultant Becker & Frondorf; civil engineer Pennoni Associates, Inc.; acoustical and audiovisual engineer Shen Milsom Wilke; lighting consultant Cline Bettridge Bernstein; specifications consultant CSI Specifications, Inc.; mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection engineer Altieri Sebor Wieber; environmental consultant Atelier 10; security consultant Kroll; stone consultant Swenson Stone Consultants, LTD; and elevator consultant Van Deusen Associates.

* EXHIBIT DESIGN TEAM

The Museum's President and CEO Dr. R. Scott Stephenson assembled a team of interdisciplinary specialists to develop over 32,000 square feet of exhibits and theaters, plus integrated educational space. Dr. Stephenson has extensive experience developing exhibits, films, and interpretive and educational programs for numerous historical sites and organizations, including Colonial Williamsburg, the Smithsonian, and George Washington's Mount Vernon.

The exhibit development team included: HealyKohler Design, a renowned exhibit and graphic design firm; Donna Lawrence Productions, an award-winning producer of films and immersive experiences; Bluecadet, a noted innovator in developing creative digital interactives and games for museums; and StudioEIS, the nation's foremost figural sculpture studio.

