

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA STANLEY MUSEUM OF ART

Building Spaces

FAST FACTS

- Building Opening Date: August 26, 2022
- Architect: BNIM Iowa; lead, Rod Kruse
- **Building Sq. Ft.:** 63,000 sq. ft. total; more than 16,500 sq. ft. of exhibition space; 2,200 sq. ft. of outdoor gallery space
- Building Costs: \$50 million
- Location: 160 W. Burlington Street, adjacent to Gibson Square Park
- Free to the Public: Tues-Sat 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Thurs 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sun 12-4:30 p.m. (closed Mon)

OVERVIEW

The new home of the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art is a beautiful, unique structure that complements the museum's collections with its design and composition. Created as a timeless rectilinear structure, the building is punctuated by voids formed by two outdoor terraces and a three-story lightwell. The façade is composed of airy glass and dark brick masonry that has been treated with manganese for a luminous quality. The interior of the museum features white, light-filled spaces and warm white birch wood detailing to highlight the collection. Significant building spaces include the first-floor lobby and event space, the second-floor exhibition galleries, and the third-floor education suites for studying, teaching, and learning directly from works in the collection.

OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM

The new UI Stanley Museum of Art overlooks Gibson Square Park, across the street from the UI Main Library. The dimensions of the park remain intact since the new facility was built on the footprint of the library parking lot. This parking lot also still exists, now partially enclosed underneath the museum. In addition to offering public parking, this garage helps with flood mitigation since any floodwater would have to fill that space before being able to enter the building.

From Gibson Square Park, you will approach the museum using the front steps that lead to the Willis Plaza. This front terrace facing Gibson Square Park is an ideal performance space and will be the site of musical, dance, and theatrical performances throughout the warm months of the year. The plaza will act as a gathering space, welcoming guests into the entrance of the museum, and be home to the Stanley's outdoor sculpture collection. From the Willis Plaza, you are met with a full view into the main lobby. The windows, which enclose the first floor, allow for light to fill the lobby and ease your transition from exterior to interior.



Building Spaces

FIRST FLOOR

The Stanley Museum of Art lobby welcomes you and serves as an educational and social hub for the museum's broad range of visitors. You are greeted by a student gallery host and can check in your coats, bags, and strollers in the coatroom to the left of the stairwell. You are introduced to art as soon as you step into the building. The west lobby wall features rotating installations by artists with a strong connection to the state of lowa.

The museum lobby acts as a social and collaborative study space for students by providing comfortable seating, electrical outlets, and a coffee cart for hot drinks. Lectures, programs, social events, and family-friendly art experiences are presented within this area. The lobby's acoustic ceiling and integrated hearing loop allow for fully accessible performances of music and dance. Student groups and the public can rent out the spacious, light-filled lobby for events. You can use the elevators or the three-story stairwell to make your way through the building. The suspended staircase is made of perforated steel to add texture reminiscent of a textile, just one instance of the way the museum's design complements its collection. Located next to the stairwell, the lightwell is open at the top, created to accommodate any weather and allowing light into all three floors of the Stanley. It can also house outdoor sculpture.

In addition to the lobby, the first floor back of the house contains the building's state-of-the-art mechanical systems, preparation areas, and freight elevator custom-made to meet the size requirements of Jackson Pollock's *Mural*, a key work in the Stanley collection, which is 10 feet wide by 21 feet deep by 12 feet tall. The elevator has a weight capacity of ten thousand pounds.

SECOND FLOOR

The second-floor gallery spaces are dedicated to the presentation of art. They showcase works from the Stanley Museum of Art's permanent collection, provide space for traveling exhibitions, and serve as visual learning spaces for the campus and the community. The doorways throughout the galleries have been staggered to create a more intimate experience for museumgoers as they walk through and contemplate art.

The inaugural exhibition encompasses the entire second floor and runs until July 2025. It celebrates the works of art that the public has missed most in the museum's fourteen years without a building. Jackson Pollock's *Mural* is on view in the DeWolf Family Gallery, which is situated in the northwest corner. Works in the African Art collection will be held primarily in the east gallery spaces. Movable gallery walls allow tailoring of the spaces for collaborative projects with students, faculty, and campus partners that support academic research and scholarship. For example, the walls can be used to create smaller gallery spaces that will be available for multiple student-curated exhibitions.

The second level of the building also utilizes visible storage, a technique practiced by a broad range of museums. Visible storage employs glass-front cabinets to both store and display the museum's collections, allowing a much broader range of objects to be shown while also safely securing them. These storage spaces surround the stairwell and lightwell.





Building Spaces

THIRD FLOOR

The top floor of the building features the education suite, collection storage, and two outdoor terraces.

The museum's third floor is primarily devoted to experiential learning through art. The education suite consists of a seminar room and two classrooms—the visual classroom and the visual laboratory. Regular changes to the artwork displayed will accommodate the needs of various classes and individuals. This substantial circulation of the Stanley's collection, enabled by the back-of-house, third-floor storage, allows the museum to make objects accessible as an expansive teaching resource. Under the guidance of the museum's curators and educators, students will be able to closely examine and personally interact with works of art from the collection. The visual classroom can have up to six classes a day viewing art specially matched to their coursework. Meanwhile, the adjacent visible laboratory is a place students can study artworks over a period of one to three weeks for course assignments and research. The seminar room is available for classes to discuss their recent encounters with the inaugural exhibition.

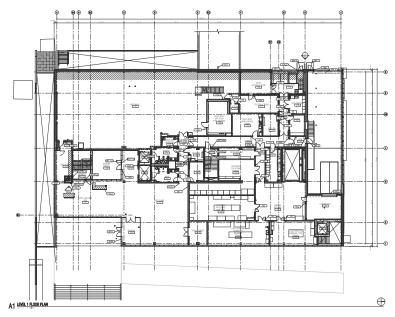
There are two areas of collections storage located on the third floor. The primary storage that houses most of the permanent collections also includes state-of-the-art, walk-in cold storage for textiles and photographs to mitigate their faster rate of deterioration. There is an additional storage space dedicated to works on paper. The placement of collections storage on the third floor was another consideration designed to mitigate flood risk.

The two outdoor third-floor terraces overlook campus and downtown lowa City. Located on the south and east sides of the building, the Summerwill and Horan McBride Family Terraces, respectively, act as a social space and an event space, along with showcasing installations of outdoor art.

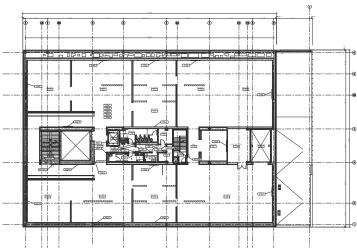


Building Spaces

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR

