

# WHITNEY

***“One of the most important reasons for the architect’s work, which keeps us going and gives us the strength to continue our projects, is the idea of not creating buildings indifferent to the city, but meeting places, where people will get together and share their values.”***

**—Renzo Piano, architect**

## **New Building Architecture & Design Fact Sheet**

<b>Project</b>	The Whitney Museum of American Art’s new building in downtown Manhattan’s Meatpacking District opened to the public on May 1, 2015. Designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano and situated on Gansevoort Street between the High Line elevated park and the Hudson River, the new building greatly increases the Whitney’s exhibition and programming space, providing the most expansive view ever of its unsurpassed collection of modern and contemporary American art. The building features outdoor galleries with striking views of the city and will provide state-of-the-art facilities for performance, film, video and enhanced education programs, as well as a study center for works on paper, conservation lab, library reading room, street-level restaurant, and eighth-floor cafe.	
<b>Location</b>	99 Gansevoort Street, between Washington and West Streets, New York City	
<b>Design Architects</b>	Renzo Piano Building Workshop	
<b>Executive Architects</b>	Cooper Robertson	
<b>Project Team</b>	Owner’s Rep:	Gardiner & Theobald, Inc.
	MEP Engineer:	Jaros, Baum & Bolles
	Lighting/Daylighting Engineer:	Ove Arup & Partners
	Structural Engineer:	Robert Silman Associates
	Construction Manager:	Turner Construction, LLC
<b>Restaurateur</b>	Union Square Hospitality Group / Danny Meyer	
<b>Key Dates</b>	Design Unveiling	April 30, 2008
	Groundbreaking	May 24, 2011
	Topping Out (Structural Steel)	December 17, 2012
	Public Opening	May 1, 2015
	<i>See New Building Project Timeline for additional details</i>	
<b>Building Cost</b>	\$ 422 million	
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	\$ 760 million (includes building cost, endowment and other expenses)	

<b>Size</b>	Stories	9	
	Total building size	220,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (20,500 m <sup>2</sup> )	
	Interior exhibition space	50,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (4600 m <sup>2</sup> )	
	Outdoor galleries & terrace	13,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (1200 m <sup>2</sup> )	
<b>Design</b>	Renzo Piano’s design takes a strong and strikingly asymmetrical form—one that responded to the industrial character of the Meatpacking District, while asserting a contemporary, sculptural presence. The building presents beautiful views of the Hudson River to the west and the High Line and downtown Manhattan to the east.		
<b>Design Highlights &amp; Principal Spaces</b>	Outdoor Plaza	Pamella and Daniel DeVos Family Largo provides 8,500 ft <sup>2</sup> (600 m <sup>2</sup> ) of landscaped public space and casual outdoor seating adjacent to the southern entrance to the High Line elevated park	
	Floor 1	A 7,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (650 m <sup>2</sup> ) lobby, Kenneth C. Griffin Hall; John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation Gallery, open to the public free of charge; Andrea and James Gordon restaurant, Untitled, operated by Danny Meyer’s Union Square Hospitality Group; and the museum shop	
	Floor 3	170-seat Susan and John Hess Family Theater* with dramatic views of the Hudson River; Laurie M. Tisch Education Center* with state-of-the-art classrooms	
	Floor 5	Neil Bluhm Family Galleries for special exhibitions, the largest column-free museum gallery in New York (18,000 ft <sup>2</sup> / 1675 m <sup>2</sup> ); Kaufman Gallery for film, video, and performance; outdoor gallery	
	Floor 6	Permanent collection gallery; Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson Foundation Outdoor Gallery; Bucksbaum, Learsy, Scanlan Conservation Center; and the Sondra Gilman Study Center for works on paper*	
	Floor 7	Robert W. Wilson Galleries for permanent collection; Jasper Bloomberg Outdoor Gallery; and the Frances Mulhall Achilles Library	
	Floor 8	Hurst Family Galleries for special exhibitions; Studio Cafe, operated by Danny Meyer’s Union Square Hospitality Group; and outdoor cafe terrace	
		<i>*Education center, theater, and study center are all firsts for the Whitney</i>	
	<b>Environmental</b>	LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Gold rating expected from the US Green Building Council would make the Whitney New York City’s first certified LEED-Gold art museum	
<b>Principal Materials</b>	Concrete, steel, stone, reclaimed wide-plank pine floors, and low-iron glass		
<b>Site &amp; Neighborhood</b>	The Whitney’s new building in Manhattan’s Meatpacking District is a cultural anchor of a revitalized downtown neighborhood, adjacent to the southern entrance to the High Line, New York City’s elevated 1.45 mile-long public park. The Meatpacking District is a twenty-square-block area on the far West Side of Manhattan. Surrounding the meatpacking plants just north of Gansevoort Street are some of		

New York's most notable restaurants, bars, fashion boutiques, clubs, and hotels. The neighborhood is bordered to the north and east by Chelsea, renowned for its contemporary art galleries. The West Village's nineteenth-century townhouses, charming streets, and unique shops border it on the south. To the west is the Hudson River.

The new building engages the Whitney directly with the bustling community of artists, gallerists, students, educators, entrepreneurs, and residents in the Meatpacking District, Chelsea, and Greenwich Village, where Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney founded the Museum in 1930.

### **Flood Mitigation**

The Museum determined after super storm Sandy that measures had to be taken to ensure the completed building was protected against future extreme weather events. After a worldwide search for flood control and mitigation experts, the Museum brought in WTM Engineers of Hamburg, Germany, to help design and install a flood mitigation protection system, including:

- Reinforced foundation walls and structure with enhanced waterproofing in the basement and along the north wall.
- A flood gate system to protect the loading dock and employee entrance on the northern part of the west wall.
- A mobile flood barrier system that will be deployed on the south, east, and southeast sides of the building when a storm is imminent.
- Waterproofing and closure systems for all points of entry for utilities and drainage, and extensive redesign of the building's drainage system.
- Improvements to the building's recovery system in the event of a flood, including increased emergency fuel tank capacity (1,000 to 4,000 gallons), increased sump pump capacity, and a connection between the sump pump and emergency power.

### **About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is new and influential in American art today.

### **Contact**

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