

# San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Architectural Fact Sheet

## Project Overview

SFMOMA, in collaboration with the architecture firm Snøhetta, is completing a transformational expansion that incorporates and renovates the museum’s existing Mario Botta–designed building, which debuted in 1995. The new museum will accommodate the significant growth of SFMOMA’s collection, program and visitorship. The expansion nearly triples the museum’s gallery space, including nearly 45,000 square feet of free public-access space and weaves SFMOMA into its urban setting as never before.

## Design Architect

Snøhetta

## Associate Architect

EHDD, San Francisco

## Project Construction Cost

\$305 million

## Square Footage - Total

460,000 square feet: 225,000 sf (Botta building) plus 235,000 sf (Snøhetta expansion)

## Square Footage - Breakdown

	Pre-Expansion	Post-Expansion
<b>Total Gallery Space</b>	70,000 square feet	170,000 square feet
<b>Indoor</b>	59,500	146,000
<b>Outdoor</b>	9,700	24,000
<b>Public access/free space:</b>	7,000	43,000
<b>Education space:</b>	3,400	13,000
<b>Performance/event space:</b>	3,300	37,000
<b>Conservation lab:</b>	2,800	4,000
<b>Museum Store:</b>	5,400	6,000
<b>Restaurant/Dining:</b>	3,900	13,000

## Key Dates

April 2009	Plan to expand announced
September 2009	Museum partnership announced with the Doris and Donald Fisher Collection
February 2010	<i>Campaign to Transform SFMOMA</i> announced
September 2010	Snøhetta selected as architect
February 2011	First promised gifts for the Campaign for Art announced
June 3, 2013	SFMOMA closed to the public
June 2013	Construction begins

June 2013–January 2016  
May 14, 2016

SFMOMA On the Go exhibitions and programs on view  
New SFMOMA opens

### **Siting and Circulation**

The project was conceived to create a more open and welcoming SFMOMA, with the volume of the expansion rising up behind the Botta building and stretching the full city block from Minna Street to Howard Street. This placement activates existing mid-block streets as pedestrian pathways and opens up new entrances, deeply integrating the museum into the South of Market (SoMa) neighborhood, including nearby Yerba Buena Gardens and the Moscone Center.

Two entrances on Third and Howard Streets connect visitors to free ground-floor exhibition spaces that include a presentation of Richard Serra's monumental sculpture *Sequence* (2006) in the Roberts Family Gallery, where the museum will present commissioned works in the future. A reconfigured entrance on Minna Street welcomes school groups to the Koret Education Center, as well as visitors attending performances in the Phyllis Wattis Theater and the White Box performance and installation space.

The pathways from all three public entrances converge at the second-floor Helen and Charles Schwab Hall, a spacious gathering place with views to an outdoor sculpture terrace and the museum's new vertical garden, the largest living wall of native plants in the Bay Area. In Schwab Hall, visitors may pass from the free ground-floor exhibition spaces into the upper floors of ticketed galleries for the permanent collection and special exhibitions.

### **New Galleries and Spaces**

The expansion provides galleries well-tailored to the collections on view, and the gallery design rigorously eliminates visual clutter and emphasizes simplicity. Special areas within the expansion include designated spaces for:

- **The Pritzker Center for Photography** (Floor 3)  
15,000 square feet of gallery, study and interpretive space—the largest gallery and interpretive space in a U.S. art museum permanently dedicated to photography
- **The Doris and Donald Fisher Collection Galleries** (Floors 3, 4, 5, 6)  
60,000 square feet of gallery space on three floors (4, 5, 6) dedicated to selections from one of the most outstanding collections of modern and contemporary art in the world, as well as an additional gallery on the third floor dedicated to works by Alexander Calder from the Fisher Collection
- **Contemporary Art** (Floor 7)  
8,800 square feet showcasing a rotating selection of contemporary art in a loft-like gallery framed by extensive city views from the adjacent outdoor terrace
- **Architecture and Design** (Floors 3, 6)  
Two galleries providing 3,500 square feet dedicated to the museum's important holdings of architecture and design, as well as special exhibitions
- **Media Arts** (Floor 7)  
Two galleries providing 4,400 square feet of gallery space reserved for rotating and special exhibitions from the museum's media arts collection, furthering SFMOMA's commitment to the field
- **New Work Gallery** (Floor 4)

An 1,100-square-foot gallery permanently dedicated to showcasing emerging artists selected by the museum's four curatorial departments

- **Koret Education Center** (Floor 2)  
A 4,800-square-foot education center including a resource library and two classrooms. Accessible through a specially reconfigured entrance on Minna Street, the center will serve 55,000 K-12 school children annually
- **Performances and Events** (Floors 1, 2, 4, 5)  
The White Box, a flexible, double-height space, along with the museum's upgraded Phyllis Wattis Theater provide locations for a wide range of performances and events
- **Conservation** (Floors 7, 8)  
A new two-story, 4,200-square-foot conservation center, adjacent to exhibition galleries with exceptional natural light, reveals to the public some of the museum's vital work in this field, while also providing a studio space for artists
- **Library and Archives** (Lower Level)  
A new 4,000-square-foot space for the museum's extensive library and archives, containing nearly 250,000 objects, available to scholars and researchers by appointment
- **Administrative Offices** (Floors 8, 9, 10)  
Office space for the museum's administrative staff

### Special Features

- The **façade** of the Snøhetta expansion, inspired in part by the fog and the waters of the San Francisco Bay, comprises more than 700 uniquely-shaped FRP (fiberglass-reinforced polymer) panels affixed to a curtain-wall system to create rippling horizontal bands which appear to shift in appearance with the changing light.
- The maple-faced **Roman steps** in the Roberts Family Gallery overlooking Richard Serra's monumental work, *Sequence* (2006), offers one of San Francisco's liveliest new public gathering places.
- A new **sculptural staircase** designed by Snøhetta leads visitors from the Haas, Jr. Atrium to the second floor. Located beneath Botta's iconic oculus and Alexander Calder's mobile *Untitled* (1963), it replaces the original 1995 stair. Opening up the space, the new, sculptural stair helps make a seamless connection between the existing and new buildings and accommodates the occupancy needs of the expanded museum.
- Six **outdoor terraces** provide spaces for installations of sculpture, and from the seventh floor highlight a dramatic view of the San Francisco cityscape.
- The largest **living wall** in the Bay Area provides a background for sculpture on the third floor terrace. With 16,000 plants, including 24 native plant species, the living wall is an ever-changing work of natural art supported with a recycled water system.

### Environmental

The museum is on track to receive LEED Gold certification for the new building, with a 46% reduction in energy use and a 60% decrease in potable water use.

### Snøhetta Team

Partner-in-charge: Craig Dykers  
Project Architects: Aaron Dorf, Simon Ewings, Lara Kaufman, Jon McNeal  
Senior Architects: Alan Gordon, Marianne Lau, Elaine Molinar, Kjetil Thorsen (Partner)

**EHDD Team**

Duncan Ballash, Principal & President  
Lotte Kaefer, Project Architect  
Rebecca Sharkey, Project Manager

**Project Managers**

Terry Reagan, Don Young, Bob Reuter, TJ Reagan, Inc.

**Webcor Builders, General Contractor**

Jes Pedersen, CEO  
Matt Rossie, Vice President/Project Executive  
Pat Reidy, Construction Manager  
Matt Paves, Senior Project Manager  
Jim Roux, Senior Project Manager  
Adam Bird, Project Manager  
Joe Hovan, Senior Superintendent

**Plant Construction Company, Special Projects**

Conrado Vellve, Vice President  
Ken Ahrens, Senior Project Manager  
Bob Klovich, Superintendent

**Collaborators**

Landscape Architecture: Snøhetta  
Structural Engineer: Magnusson Klemencic Associates  
Mechanical and Plumbing: Taylor Engineering  
Electrical: The Engineering Enterprise  
Sustainability Consultant: Atelier Ten  
Civil Engineering: KPFF  
Façade Design Assist: Kreysler & Associates, Enclos  
Lighting, Acoustics, AV and Façade Engineers: ARUP  
Security design: Turk Technologies  
AV design: BBI Engineering  
Network design: TEECOM  
Conservation studio, lab and art storage design: Samuel Anderson Architects  
Living Wall consultant: Habitat Horticulture and Hyphae Design Lab  
Fire Life Safety Code and Sprinkler Engineering: The Fire Consultants  
Vertical Transportation: EWCG  
Façade Maintenance Engineer: CS Caulkins  
Signage: SOM Graphics  
*In Situ* restaurant design: Aidlin Darling Design  
*Sightglass at SFMOMA* coffee bar design: Boor Bridges Architecture  
MuseumStore design: Shopworks Design  
Furniture selection and design: Studios Architecture  
Phyllis Wattis Theater design: Auerbach Pollock Friedlander

Visit [sfmoma.org](https://sfmoma.org) to learn more about the [museum's expansion](#) through [images](#) and [video](#).

**Media contacts**

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