

# Glenstone

## Architectural Fact Sheet

### **Glenstone Expansion Project Pavilions**

#### **Glenstone Overview**

Located on 200 acres in Potomac, Maryland, Glenstone strives to provide visitors with an experience that seamlessly integrates art, architecture and landscape. Its first exhibition building, referred to as the Gallery and designed by the late Charles Gwathmey, opened to the public in 2006 and hosts exhibitions of artworks drawn from Glenstone's collection of post-World War II art. The landscape is home to monumental sculptures sited amid rolling pastures and unspoiled woodlands. Admission is always free, and visits are scheduled to enable an unhurried, intimate engagement between viewers and their surroundings.

#### **Project Description**

Glenstone is now embarking on an expansion to strengthen its commitment to the public. The centerpiece of this project will be a new exhibition building, called the Pavilions, designed by Thomas Phifer and Partners. Its principal feature will be a series of discrete pavilions—in effect gallery rooms—surrounding a central water court, with many of the rooms devoted to single-artist installations. The building will significantly expand Glenstone's gallery space and provide increased support facilities. PWP Landscape Architecture (Peter Walker and Partners) has overseen a revised master plan of Glenstone's landscape. The expansion project will incorporate a new public entrance, a space for visitors that highlights sustainable practices at Glenstone, and visitor amenities to support a more comfortable and rewarding visit.

#### **Glenstone Principals**

Emily Wei Rales, Co-Founder and Director  
Mitchell Rales, Co-Founder

#### **Expansion Architect**

Thomas Phifer and Partners

#### **Landscape Architect**

PWP Landscape Architecture

#### **General Contractor**

HITT Contracting Inc.

Glenstone Museum  
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12002 Glen Road  
Potomac, Maryland 20854

[glenstone.org](http://glenstone.org)

**Groundbreaking**

June 24, 2013

**Estimated Completion**

2018

*Setting*

The new landscape design integrates walking paths, bridges and restored meadows and woodlands. When the expansion is complete, more than 6,000 trees of 43 native species will have been planted across the grounds, bringing the total installed at Glenstone to 8,000, and approximately 33 acres of existing pasture land will have been developed into sustainable meadows with a range of indigenous flora. The Pavilions' water court garden will be richly planted with water lilies, irises and rushes, creating a floating landscape that changes throughout the seasons. The landscape will be accented throughout the site with dry-stone walls sourced from a nearby quarry.

*Arrival Sequence*

Visitors will leave their cars in a parking grove and be greeted at the nearby Arrival Hall, where they can orient themselves for their visit. Their short walk to the Pavilions will proceed over a timber bridge and into an expansive meadow, where outdoor sculpture will be visible in the distance. As the path curves, visitors will glimpse the architecture through honey locusts, oaks and tulip trees, until the route straightens to offer a full view of the Pavilions' entrance.

*Building*

The Pavilions will first appear as a cluster of simple masonry forms, varying in size and embedded in a rise in the land. On reaching the building, the visitor will descend to gallery level and find a series of rooms, including two temporary installations and eight dedicated to single-artist, all of which will face inward toward the water court. Additionally, one room will face outward to offer a framed view of the landscape—a quiet space without art where the visitor can rest, think and recharge.

*Light*

Natural lighting is fundamental to the construction and design of the Pavilions. Most of the rooms will have large clerestories or oculi to provide balanced natural light from above. As seasons change the light will fluctuate, revealing subtle qualities in the art and providing a more natural, nuanced viewing experience.

*Materials*

The Pavilions' design emphasizes materials that evoke a direct, elemental and timeless dialogue with the surrounding landscape. The exterior of each room will be made of stacked blocks of cast concrete, individually poured to measure six feet long, a foot high and a foot deep. Although no color-altering pigment was used, the pouring method and mixture of cement and sand resulted in slight variations in the light gray color and in the texture. This finish deliberately contrasts with the smooth precision of the windows, which have been specially engineered using glass panels as large as 9 feet x 30 feet, and are set flush into stainless steel mullions. Together, the glass surfaces and concrete blocks form a seamless skin that bridges Glenstone's indoor and outdoor spaces. White maple is used throughout the building for selected interior walls, ceilings and floors.

*Continuation of the visit*

From the Pavilions, visitors may continue on a short wooded path to the Café. Like the Arrival Hall, the Café exterior is built of cedar, and is expected to weather to a soft gray that will echo the color of the Pavilions' exterior. Visitors will be able to proceed past the Café to the original museum building, called the Gallery, which will continue to host temporary exhibitions of works from Glenstone's collection. Past the Gallery, there will be an additional space, the Patio, to have coffee and a snack or gather and refresh prior to touring the landscape.

**Groundbreaking and Unveiling of *Split-Rocker***

Glenstone broke ground for the new museum building on June 24, 2013. To mark the occasion, Glenstone unveiled a major new acquisition, the living sculpture *Split-Rocker* by Jeff Koons, which now greets visitors when they enter the gate. Originally realized on a temporary basis in 2000 at the Papal Palace in Avignon, France, this monumental sculpture, approximately 37 feet x 39 feet x 36 feet, takes the whimsical but colossal form of one-half of a pony's head joined to one-half of a dinosaur's head, with both parts modeled on toy rocking-horses. The form is made up of approximately 27,000 live flowering plants of 122 varieties, supported on a stainless-steel framework. Glenstone is the first institution in the world to create a permanent installation of *Split-Rocker*.

**Gallery (Existing Museum)**

**Architect**

Charles Gwathmey, Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects

**Size** (figures are approximate)

23,000 square feet total

Gallery space: 9,000 square feet

**Materials**

Stone (for exterior walls, interior floors, and terrace), zinc (for exterior panels), teak, and glass

**Pavilions (New Museum)**

**Architect**

Thomas Phifer and Partners

**Size** (figures are approximate)

170,000 total square feet

Principal areas include

Galleries: 50,000 square feet

Offices: 12,000 square feet

Water Court: 18,000 square feet

**Materials**

Stacked cast concrete blocks for exterior walls. Large glass windows in stainless steel frames. Poured-in-place architectural concrete ceilings and terrazzo floors. Plaster walls for art display. White maple used for the interior floors, walls and ceilings of selected spaces

**Other Facilities**

Arrival Hall and Café: White maple interior and cedar exterior cladding

Environmental Center: pre-engineered steel buildings

**Project Team, Thomas Phifer and Partners**

Thomas Phifer, Gabriel Smith, Andrew Mazor, Michael Trudeau, Rebecca Garnett, Jon Benner, John Bassett, Bethany Mahre, Robert Chan, Lamare Wimberly, Elijah Porter, Isaiah King, Petra Pearsall

**Project Team, PWP Landscape Architecture**

Peter Walker, Adam Greenspan, Collin Jones, Julie Canter, Conrad Lindgren, Steve Tycz, Lauren Hackney, Seth Rosewald-Bates

**Consultants**

Owner's Representative: MGAC  
Structural Engineering: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP  
M/E/P/FP Engineering: Altieri Sebor Wieber LLC  
Natural Lighting Design: ARUP New York and London Offices  
Architectural Interiors: Stantec Architecture  
Landscape Architecture Consultant: RAFT  
Civil Engineering: VIKA, Inc.  
Sustainability: Buro Happold  
Geotechnical Engineering: Schnabel Engineering DC  
Concrete Consultant: Reginold D. Hough Associates  
Waterproofing: Henshell and Buccellato  
Façade Design: R.A. Heintges & Associates  
Code Review: PFP Engineering and Design, Inc.  
Elevators: Hector Columbani Associates, LLC  
Cost Estimator: Stuart-Lynn Company, Inc.  
Food Services: JGL Food Service Consultants  
Graphic Design: 2x4  
Café Creative Direction: HFB STUDIO  
Security Consultant: Layne Consultants International  
Specifications: Construction Specifications, Inc.  
General Contractor, Environmental Center: Whitener and Jackson, Inc.

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