

projects



american folk art museum

Client: American Folk Art Museum (AFAM)

Location: New York, NY

Project Type: New Construction

Opening: 2001

Cost: \$21 Million

Architect: Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects

Contact: Billie Tsien | TWBTA | 212.582.2385

AD Scope: Acoustics | Sound Isolation | Noise Control

AFAM is famous for its ever-changing display of folk art such as American quilts, Shaker furniture, Navajo rugs, tinware, sculpture and other unique objects. Since its founding in 1961, the museum has been one of the most important centers for the exhibition and study of folk art in the world.

AFAM's new home is an eight-level building on West 53rd Street just down the block from the Museum of Modern Art and across the street from the American Crafts Museum. The Museum is capped by a skylight above a grand interior staircase with openings at each floor allowing natural light to filter into the galleries and through to the lower levels. Art is integrated into public spaces, utilizing a series of niches throughout the building that offer informal interaction with a changing series of folk art objects. AD addressed room acoustics and sound isolation in the 100-seat auditorium/lecture room, classrooms and lower lobby and provided noise control for mechanical equipment and the air distribution system throughout the building. In all cases, sensitive integration with the unique architectural design was critical.