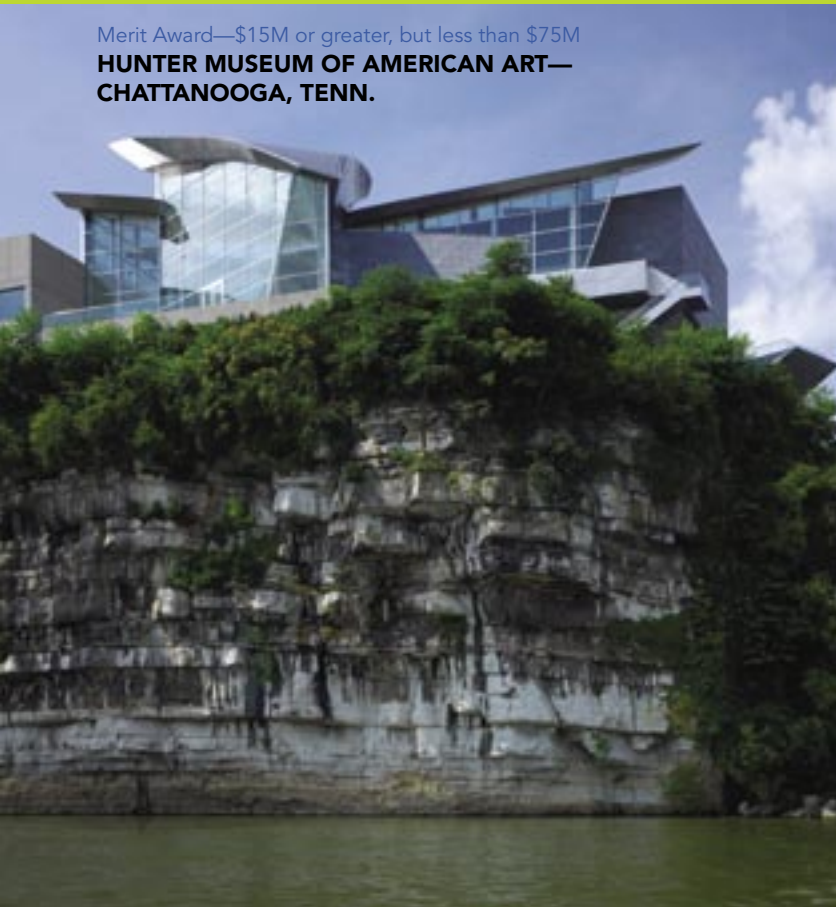


Merit Award—\$15M or greater, but less than \$75M  
**HUNTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART—  
 CHATTANOOGA, TENN.**



Tim Griffith Photography

JUROR COMMENT

**“A creative juxtaposition of structural materials produced a geographically sensitive museum.”**

**A** 2005 renovation and expansion of the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga, Tenn. transferred the museum’s image from that of a private space—a 1905 mansion—to a civic forum for the arts.

The project re-establishes the primacy of the mansion, which was first expanded in the 1970s, as the center of the museum complex and brings balance to the overall facility and site composition.

The expansion rises above a limestone bluff overlooking the Tennessee River, and a new steel-framed pedestrian bridge forms a link from the site to the city’s downtown.

Structural steel was selected to support the expansion’s long spans—including floor spans of 52’ and cantilevered spans of 25’—and high load conditions. The design improves museum functionality for visitors by consolidating the permanent collection onto a single floor. The collection is accessible through new public areas including a lobby, auditorium, education studios, café, and gift shop.

A new temporary exhibitions gallery is located above the auditorium. This design frees the lower level for administrative and museum support areas. A new below-grade loading dock minimizes delivery traffic presence on the site and supports a new suite of spaces for receiving, exhibit preparation, security, and art storage.

The exterior consists of a glass and aluminum curtain wall, oxidized zinc cladding, and a stainless steel roof. Structural steel was used to achieve the multi-directional curves of the roof, minimizing its weight and allowing its vertical elements to remain slender.

**Owner**

Hunter Museum of American Art

**Architects**

Design—Randall Stout Architects, Inc., Los Angeles  
 Associate—Derthick, Henley & Wilkerson Architects, Chattanooga, Tenn.

**Structural Engineer**

John A. Martin and Associates, Los Angeles

**Engineering Software**

RAM Structural System  
 RISA 3D  
 SAP2000

**Fabricator, Erector, and Detailer**

Superior Steel, Inc., Knoxville, Tenn., AISC member,  
 NISD member

**Detailing Software**

SDS/2

**General Contractor**

EMJ Corporation, Chattanooga, Tenn.