

THE JOSLYN

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News Release

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SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

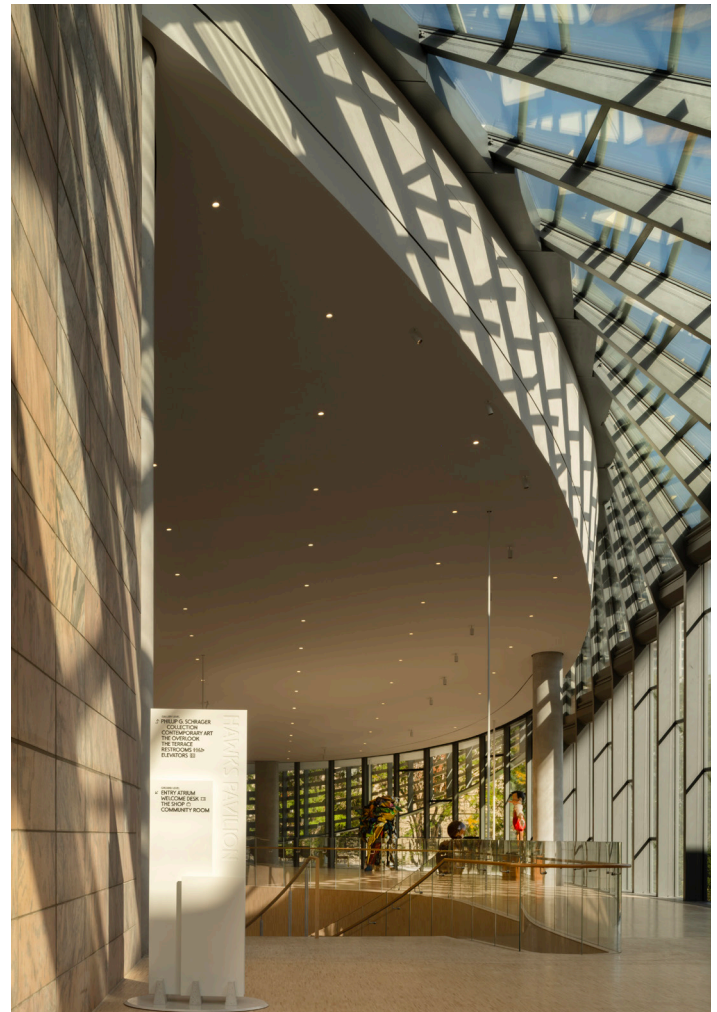
THE JOSLYN EXPANSION EARNS LEED GOLD CERTIFICATION



(Omaha, NE) — Joslyn Art Museum’s 2024 addition, the Rhonda & Howard Hawks Pavilion, has been certified LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold by the US Green Building Council. A testament to its commitment to sustainability, The Joslyn actively pursued LEED certification throughout design and construction of the Hawks Pavilion, with strict adherence to prerequisites that address carbon, energy, water, waste, transportation, materials, health, and indoor environmental quality.

Projects submitted for LEED consideration go through a stringent verification and review process facilitated by GBCI (Green Business Certification Inc.), founded to provide independent oversight of professional credentialing and project certification under the LEED green building rating system. GBCI awards points that correspond to one of four levels of LEED certification: Certified, Silver, Gold, or Platinum. The Joslyn’s achievement of LEED Gold is under the v4.0 BD+C for new construction and major renovations.

Currently, there are 197,000 LEED projects throughout 186 countries and territories worldwide with more and more new building projects aiming to meet the program’s standards. “LEED certification is an incredibly important goal and challenging to achieve. Any level of LEED certification shows exemplary leadership in sustainable building practices,” noted Jack Becker, The Joslyn’s executive director and CEO. “We are especially proud to have achieved the Gold level. With our expansion architects at Snøhetta and Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, and our partners Kiewit, Morrissey Engineering, Atelier Ten, Accenture, and other members of our project team, we aimed to create a public space and a space for art experiences that is also a better building—better for people and better for the climate.”



Interior view of The Joslyn’s Hawks Pavilion. Photograph © Nic Lehoux

The Joslyn's Hawks Pavilion expansion includes 16,700 square feet of new exhibition space, in which many portions of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems are custom and site-specific to minimize the visual impact of those systems on the architecture. Compared to a baseline design, the expansion is designed to use 32% less energy and 37% less water. Just some of the highlights of The Joslyn's Hawks Pavilion project include:

Architectural Elements

- Walk-off mats at entrances to capture dust and debris
- Renewable source wood floors with water-based sealant to minimize chemical emissions over time; wood flooring salvaged from offcuts from other wood products
- Low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) products selected to enhance environmental quality
- Sensitive land protection that safeguards and restores habitat

HVAC Equipment

- Equipped with premium-efficiency fan motors and UV lights for air and coil sterilization
- Features two sets of filters for efficient particle capture
- Energy recovery units paired with each air handler to transfer heat and moisture, saving a significant amount of energy

Water Conservation

- Landscaping designed to minimize irrigation needs, with native plants that require up to 80% less water
- Irrigation water separately metered to monitor and reduce excess usage
- Low-flow plumbing fixtures installed to further decrease water consumption

Lighting

- Combination of LED and natural lighting from skylights to save energy and provide consistent lighting
- Lighting system includes controls for dimming based on natural daylight present
- Automated solar and blackout shades to control sunlight and temperature
- Shading elements inside and outside to minimize direct sunlight and reduce glare

About LEED

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the world's most widely used green building rating system. LEED certification provides a framework for healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings, which offer environmental, social and governance benefits. LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement, and it is backed by an entire industry of committed organizations and individuals paving the way for market transformation. LEED buildings reduce contribution to global climate change, protect and restore water resources, promote sustainable and regenerative material cycles, enhance individual human health, protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services, and enhance community quality of life.

About The Joslyn

Joslyn Art Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George. From its first day, November 29, 1931, to today, the Museum has welcomed millions of visitors from around the world. The Joslyn's collection of over 12,000 objects represents 5,000 years of human creativity and the world's diverse cultures. The campus comprises three stunning buildings—distinct yet connected—surrounded by sculpture gardens. Learning and engagement opportunities abound, and general admission is free to all, always. Connect at joslyn.org and on social media @joslynartmuseum.

The Joslyn is a winner of the USA Today 10Best 2025 Readers' Choice Award for Best Art Museum.



**THE JOSLYN BRINGS
PEOPLE TOGETHER TO
EXPLORE ART ACROSS
TIME AND CULTURES.**