



The renovated building



Galleries

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BARNES FOUNDATION

Architects: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc.

Location: Merion, PA

Client: The Barnes Foundation

Area: 19,560 gsf

Construction Cost: \$6,432,000

Completion: 1996

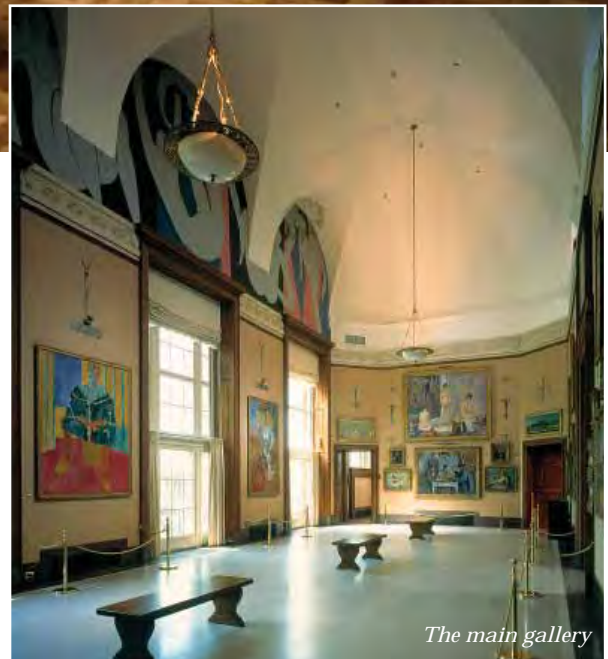


The gardens

In 1996, VSBA completed the renovation and restoration of the Barnes Foundation's gallery building, designed by Paul Cret in 1924 to house Albert C. Barnes' spectacular art collection.

Our principal objectives were to establish a state-of-the-art conservation environment ensuring long-term maintenance of the collection; improve visitor services; upgrade security; establish full access for the disabled; improve fire safety; upgrade artificial and natural lighting systems; and perform alterations to windows and skylights, including provisions for ultraviolet/sun control systems. Most importantly, the Foundation's Board stipulated gallery alterations could not in any way change the Collection's original and specific hanging.

VSBA also completed site improvements, including the construction of a small gatehouse. The Barnes Foundation's arboretum staff restored the extensive adjacent gardens.



The main gallery

Three views of the galleries, illustrating the collection's specific and idiosyncratic arrangements

Barnes Foundation