



MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, SAN DIEGO

Architects: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc. in association with David Singer Architect

Location: La Jolla, CA

Client: Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego

Area: 10,000 sf (new); 42,000 sf (renovation)

Construction Cost: \$6,180,000

Completion: 1996



VSBA completed 52,000 sf of renovations and additions to the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego. Since 1941, this distinguished Museum has occupied the Scripps House, Irving Gill's extremely significant 1915 villa. The distinguished building had been subsequently swallowed up by additions. VSBA created a new facade in order to enrich the Museum's image and civic presence and to make it more inviting for visitors. At the same time, the Scripps House facade was been exposed and restored and the vine-covered pergolas of the original Prospect Street garden were reconstructed to form a new entrance court for the Museum.



The Museum's new facades extend beyond the house facade and contain institutional-scaled arched windows whose form and rhythms are reminiscent of other Irving Gill buildings -- especially those of the Women's Club building across the street -- and thereby gently enhance the scale of the Museum and the urban unity of the building's immediate context. At street level inside, a new central lobby surmounted by a star-shaped clerestory serves as a kind of courtyard, providing access to a bookstore, the auditorium, and galleries. It's also used as a banquet hall for special gala events. VSBA redesigned and expanded the existing Coast Room used for meetings, events, and educational activities; our renovations also created a larger library and reading / conference room. The garden was enhanced with additional wheelchair-accessible paths and ramps while significant plants and vistas were preserved. In addition, Sherwood Auditorium was given a new entrance, refurbished seats and finishes, critically needed repairs, and new lighting and other systems.



A second phase of the project, not yet scheduled for completion, is to include the creation of a new gallery and art storage addition at the northwest corner of the site. Exhibition space would include four new galleries as well as smaller intermediary spaces to provide "intermissions" between the main galleries -- views to the ocean, window seats, and access to paved terraces overlooking the beautiful garden below.





