

MOMENTUM



Mueller

Fall 2008

> **PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS** <

MUSEUMS IN THE MID-ATLANTIC

Bright, Flexible Environments Attract Visitors and Enhance Communities



The Geppi Entertainment Museum, which recently earned accolades such as “Best Teen Museum” and “Best Non-Art Museum,” is located in Baltimore’s historic Camden Station.

Seven-foot-tall prehistoric shark jaws...turn-of-the-century bathing suits... vintage Barbie dolls... masterpiece paintings by Matisse, Cezanne, Picasso, and van Gogh...museums throughout the mid-Atlantic region offer something for everyone. Today, with expansive new facilities, multimedia technology, and galleries that feature dynamic, interactive exhibits, museum administrators are clearly focused on appealing to visitors of all ages.

With a goal of boosting attendance and increasing membership, many museums are looking to develop new facilities or renovate existing space. Mueller Associates has recently been involved in the development of several new museums, as well as significant expansions, renovations, and historic restorations.

“Our work for museums was one of the most compelling reasons for me to join Mueller more than 20 years ago,” says Bob Marino, P.E., LEED AP, president of Mueller Associates. “The inherent challenges of designing these complex spaces appealed to me. We find that our museum clients, and the architects they select, are very sophisticated and knowledgeable about their objectives. We pride ourselves on being up to the challenge.”

Mueller recently provided engineering services for the renovation of the Delaware Museum of Natural History in Wilmington, which had not been updated in nearly 35 years. The project, completed with BSA+A, added a new glass lobby, a state-of-the-art exhibit hall, a theater, and expanded retail and dining space. Mueller designed improvements to the building’s environmental controls, HVAC, and life safety systems; and provided lighting design.

Also in Delaware, Mueller recently completed the design of the Rehoboth Beach Museum with Quinn Evans Architects. The project involved the adaptation and renovation of the circa-1916, two-story Ice House and a two-story addition. Mueller provided complete mechanical/electrical/plumbing engineering and lighting design services for the 7,000-square-foot project.

Mueller has completed several museum projects in Baltimore, including such prominent attractions as the Star-Spangled Banner Flag Museum, the

renovation of the Walters Art Museum, and the expansion of the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA), which also included the design of a major chiller upgrade. Recent projects include the Sports Legends at Camden Yards and Geppi’s Entertainment Museum (GEM).

Several of these projects involved working with historic buildings. BMA’s facilities date as far back as 1929, and Sports Legends and GEM—both completed with Cho Benn Holback + Associates—are located in the circa-1856 B&O railroad terminal. Working within the historic station required careful planning and creative use of the attic and basement space in order to accommodate new systems and equipment.

Additional Maryland projects include the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis and the Historic London Town & Gardens. Both were also completed with Cho Benn Holback + Associates. The Banneker-Douglass Museum involved the construction of a new four-story building on a compact site north of the existing museum’s historic structure. At London Town, south of Annapolis, Mueller provided engineering services for the new 12,000-square-foot visitor center and museum, built over a former underground wastewater treatment plant. The unusual site enabled Mueller to reuse one of the plant’s compartments as a fire water storage tank.

In Washington, D.C., the Smithsonian Institution has just opened Ocean Hall, the newest

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and largest exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History. The 23,000-square-foot exhibition features several galleries that detail the importance of the ocean as a global ecosystem. Mueller worked with Quinn Evans Architects on the project, which also required extensive coordination in order to work within the tight constraints of the

early 20th-century building.

A little further south, in Fredericksburg, Virginia, the Fredericksburg Area Museum & Cultural Center is preparing to open a major expansion in a historic bank building directly across from the existing museum. Use of the circa-1927 building will more than double

the museum's size. Mueller is providing complete mechanical/electrical engineering services for the adaptive reuse project, working with GWWO Architects.

For more information on Mueller's portfolio in museums and cultural facilities, visit www.muellerassoc.com.

BRIGHT IDEAS

Lighting Designs Create Welcoming Spaces

From artful and dramatic museum display lighting to systems that support highly functional laboratories and academic settings, Mueller's portfolio in lighting design reflects diverse expertise in this important specialty. The recent completion of several major projects throughout the mid-Atlantic highlights Mueller's unique skills in lighting design, including LEED® projects, complex retrofits, and systems that are carefully planned to complement building architecture.

At the Duke University School of Nursing in Durham, North Carolina, Mueller's team of lighting specialists created a flexible and cost-effective system for the new 77,000-square-foot building, which earned LEED Silver certification. "Mueller's work on the lighting design for the School of Nursing reflected an integrated approach that supported the design of the building," says Earl Purdue, AIA,

LEED AP, a principal with the architectural firm of Ayers | Saint | Gross. "It was highly functional, energy-efficient, and aesthetically pleasing."

At the new Rehoboth Beach Museum in Delaware, Mueller's lighting services helped keep costs in line. "While the project budget on the museum did not allow for a complex solution, Mueller provided a cost-effective and appropriate design for the lighting," notes Jeffrey Luker, AIA, LEED AP, a principal with Quinn Evans Architects. "We were especially pleased with the quality of the documentation and the follow-through during construction."

Lighting solutions also played a key role at the recently renovated Delaware Museum of Natural History in Wilmington. According to Tony Vassalotti, project manager with BSA+A, "The building before was very dark due to a lack of daylight and

poor artificial lighting, and the museum wanted to change that. They wanted people to come back often and stay longer. It is now a brighter, much more inviting space."

"We really try to focus on designing systems that work well with architectural concepts," says Yancy Unger, P.E., L.C., who directs Mueller's lighting services. "We look for creative, energy-efficient, and cost-sensitive ways to illuminate a space. Using our multidisciplinary project teams, we closely coordinate our lighting system designs with that of the building mechanical/electrical systems. Through this collaboration, we're able to develop integrated, effective solutions."

The Delaware Museum of Natural History now offers a more dramatic exterior and brighter, more inviting gallery space.

Mueller's lighting services include:

- ▶ **Lighting systems for interiors, exteriors, and landscapes**
- ▶ **Energy-efficient and LEED design**
- ▶ **Lighting control and dimming systems**
- ▶ **Emergency lighting strategies**
- ▶ **Life-cycle cost analyses**

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