This 204,000 sqft expansion to a contemporary museum on 230 acres of rolling hills and woodland seamlessly integrates art, architecture, and landscape for an unparalleled visitor experience. Daylight and connection to the outdoors were key drivers throughout the design, and formed a basis for the layout, placement, and envelope design of 11 rooms arranged around a central passageway and Water Court. Each room features individualized lighting conditions tuned to the site-specific artwork installed within.

Rooms arranged around the passage and Water Court allow the visitor to pass through varying levels of daylight and views, allowing points of respite between galleries. Descending into the passage, visitors are greeted with sweeping views of the landscaped Water Court. Each room’s entrance is designed around a progression of light and shadow.

In the galleries, one of the several daylighting approaches is a double-layer clerestory monitor that provides even, tempered illumination while permitting changes in the outdoor lighting environment to be subtly visible. A second strategy utilizes skylights and interior laylights. Used in taller spaces, light flows downward into the space and illuminates the art zone on vertical surfaces. Soft, even illumination changes in brightness with time of day and season, creating a dynamic experience.

"By combining our design know-how with robust technical knowledge, the Arup team was able to help Thomas Phifer deliver the project he envisioned - a beautiful, multi-faceted arts building designed for daylight viewing that really acknowledges the importance of its setting."

— Matt Franks, Arup

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Thomas Phifer and Partners
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PHOTOGRAPHY
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CITATION for Daylighting Design

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