

February 4, 2022

## **Manetti Shrem Museum Named one of the 25 Best Museum Buildings of the Past 100 Years**

The Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, at the University of California, Davis, has been named one of the 25 best museum buildings of the past 100 years by ARTnews — one of just four museums in the United States selected. The Manetti Shrem Museum is also the only California museum and only public university museum to appear on this prestigious list.

ARTnews includes the museum in the company of some of the most important and revered museum buildings from around the world, including the Louvre and Louvre Abu Dhabi, Centre Pompidou, the Guggenheim Museum, Guggenheim Bilbao, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). “As many architects have realized over the years, museum buildings can, if anything, function like artworks themselves, as objects for appreciation,” the article says.

As lead architect Florian Idenburg, founding partner of SO – IL, noted at the museum’s opening on Nov. 13, 2016, the 21<sup>st</sup> century museum is “neither isolated nor exclusive, but open and permeable; not a static shrine, but a constantly evolving public event.” Associated architects SO – IL and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, along with contractor Whiting-Turner and UC Davis’ Design and Construction Management team, worked to achieve a new form of museum architecture that blurred the usual hierarchical relationship between exhibition and teaching spaces.

“The building’s main focal point is an undulating canopy comprising grids of stretched aluminum beams that cascades over the roof and also shades some outdoor spaces,” ARTnews writes of the “sun-filled” Manetti Shrem Museum. “The canopy’s pattern was inspired by the fields of agriculture that surround the northern California campus.”

Idenburg, whose firm was recently awarded a United States Artist fellowship, said, “We are thrilled to be included among this exceptional group of institutions, as this project was a pivotal turning point in our young firm’s trajectory. The values of openness and dynamic innovation expressed in its design represent our commitment to fostering kinetic, unrestrictive modes of experiencing art and community. We hope this facility continues to serve the museum’s diverse and intrepid programming well into the next hundred years.”

“We’re so proud the museum has been recognized not only for its exhibitions and programs but also for its magnificent architecture,” said Founding Director Rachel Teagle. “The Manetti Shrem Museum is quintessentially of its place and time: an integration of the indoors and outdoors that is horizontal, light-filled, porous and flexible.”

The museum’s design grew out of an ideas-driven, interdisciplinary collaboration of museum and campus leaders, community members, architects, engineers, fabricators and builders. The support of the university, lead donors Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, Margrit Mondavi and many others helped make the long-held vision a reality.

**Media contact & images**

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**Visitor Information**

Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art  
254 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA, 95616  
[manettishrem.org](http://manettishrem.org)

**Hours**

The museum is open to the public Thursday-Monday. Admission is Free for All.

**Art Wide Open**

The Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at the University of California, Davis, is a contemporary art museum for today, committed to honoring the past and shaping the future, and making art accessible and approachable to all. It builds on UC Davis' legacy of exceptional teaching and practice of the arts to offer engaging experiences, exhibitions and educational programs that reflect and serve the community. The museum shares the university's core values of innovative research, interdisciplinary experimentation and a commitment to educational programming: It's a hub of creative practice for thinkers, makers and innovators. One-third of the museum's 50,000-square-foot space is devoted to instruction, including a 125-seat lecture hall, classroom space and the drop-in Carol and Gerry Parker Art Studio. Opened in November 2016, the museum has earned LEEDv3-NC Platinum status and numerous awards and honors for its architecture.