CAMPBELL SPORTS CENTER
Baker Athletics Complex, Columbia University, New York, NY

Columbia University’s new 5-story sports center is the primary athletics facility for its outdoor sports programs. With a combination of strength and conditioning spaces and student-athlete spaces that include study rooms and lounges, the state-of-the-art building is meant to serve both the minds and bodies of Columbia’s student athletes. The facility also includes offices for varsity sports and football, an auditorium, a hospitality suite, and a theater-style meeting room.

The building’s conceptual design is taken from “points on the ground, lines in space”, a phrase used to describe field play diagrams used by sports teams to strategize their plays. In this case, the points are the building’s foundations on its sloping site and the lines are its terraces and exposed external stairs. The superstructure is a series of shifting floor plates anchored to non-orthogonal, consistent column lines that run east-west on the site. A double-height steel truss that spans sixty-five feet at the fourth floor connects the main body of the building to an elevated arm that extends towards the playing fields below. This creates an expansive column-free zone below that frames the entrance to the soccer fields from the street. The tip of the building’s arm is supported by a configuration of slender, architecturally exposed, skewed columns standing nearly 40 feet tall and fulfills the “points on the ground” portion of the design concept.

The building is located just west of the elevated tracks of the 1 train on Broadway – passengers on the train can look through large picture windows into the double-height weight room on the second floor. As a result, the building framing and construction sequencing plan additionally had to be reviewed by the New York City Transit Authority.

PROJECT DETAILS
2012
48,000 sf
$30 million
LEED Silver

Architect
Steven Holl Architects

Awards
2013 MASterwork Award, Best New Building
2013 SEAoNY Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards, Engineers’ Choice
2014 ACEC New York Engineering Excellence Awards, Building/Technology Systems - Platinum Award
2014 Architect’s Newspaper Best of Design Awards, Building of the Year - TIE
2014 AIA New York Chapter Design Awards, Architecture Honor Award
The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)—the institution and the building—embodies the African American spirit. The new NMAAHC facility is designed to be a building worthy of the museum’s vision—and its prominent place on the National Mall. The primary architectural idea for the museum was derived from the classical tripartite column with its base, shaft and capital. In Yoruban art and architecture, the column or wooden post was usually crafted with a capital resembling a crown. This crown or corona form is the central idea which has driven the design of the museum. Reaching toward the sky, the bronze clad corona expresses faith, hope and resiliency.

RSA participated in the initial programming study which was completed in the fall of 2008, and was a member of the design team for this new museum. Currently in construction, the museum is expected to be complete by 2015. Site conditions include consideration of flood conditions, archaeology and the poor soils common on the National Mall.

PROJECT DETAILS
Total Cost $500 million
350,000 sf
Estimated Completion 2015

Architect
Davis Brody Bond, The Freelon Group, Adjaye Associates and SmithGroup

Agency
Smithsonian Institution
Robert Silman Associates is currently designing a new museum building for the Whitney Museum of American Art that will be located on Gansevoort Street adjacent to the historic High Line. The building being designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop will have six main levels above grade and two levels below grade. There will also be intermediate mezzanine levels.

The building will be approximately 220,000 square feet and will include galleries, support space, and a maintenance and operations facility for the new High Line Park. Site complexities include a complex load bearing structure, poor soil conditions, and a high water table due to the proximity to the Hudson River.

**PROJECT DETAILS**
- Estimated Completion: 2015
- 220,000 sf
- LEED Silver (anticipated)

**Architect**
Renzo Piano Building Workshop in collaboration with Cooper, Robertson & Partners
STU BELL TOWER AND GATEWAY
Shantou University, Shantou, Guangdong, China

Shantou University (STU) is the only public university supported by private funds in China. Located in a southern city to the north of Hong Kong, the 30-year-old university is expanding its campus. World-renowned architects have designed a new library (Ray Chen); a new research and medical facility (Herzog & de Meuron); and a new sport, conference, and entertainment facility: the Sports Park (MANICA Architecture). Maya Lin Studio is designing a new campus park and bell tower as part of the expansion.

The bell tower consists of a 75-foot-tall freestanding concrete wall and a custom stainless steel structure that ramps up around the concrete wall to support a traditional Chinese bell hanging about 70 feet above-ground. The bell is an actual bell that weighs about 5,000 pounds.

PROJECT DETAILS

Architect
Maya Lin Studio
This project is the winner of a design competition for a new assembly hall in Libreville, the capital city of Gabon. *L’Assemblée Radiëuse*, as the project has been called, is a self-shading, circular structure that maximizes active and passive design while incorporating the vibrant ecology of the Gabonese Republic. The new building was conceived around the preservation and reuse of structural elements from an earlier conference center on the site and includes conference, assembly, and dining facilities organized around three carved courtyards.

A 1,000-seat auditorium is designed to divide into two separate spaces that incorporate optimal acoustics and sightlines. In addition, the central auditorium includes a triple-height banquet hall along with a number of smaller meeting spaces.

The exterior of the conference center is designed to include garden courtyards, which are linked by semi-enclosed and shaded paths. The continuous promenade connects to three gardens and provides views of the capital city as well as the surrounding landscape to the sea beyond.
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is located on the banks of the Potomac River. It is the nation’s busiest arts facility and home to the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington National Opera and The Suzanne Farrell Ballet. The Kennedy Center was designed by Edward Durell Stone, and construction began in 1966.

The South Plaza Expansion Project creates rehearsal space for the performing arts, offices, underground bus parking, a green roof terrace, and three unique pavilions integrated within the memorial. The basic concept consists of three pavilions cascading toward the river. The eastern pavilion is the Entry Pavilion, the center is the Glissando Pavilion, and the western pavilion is the River Pavilion, located in the river and connected to the terrace level by a single bridge.

The two story below grade structure and four story pavilions above grade will be framed with cast-in-place concrete walls and columns. The terrace level and pavilion roof slabs will consist of long span post-tensioned slab systems. There are also a series of ruled vaults throughout the multi-level terrace that will be framed in cast-in-place concrete.