

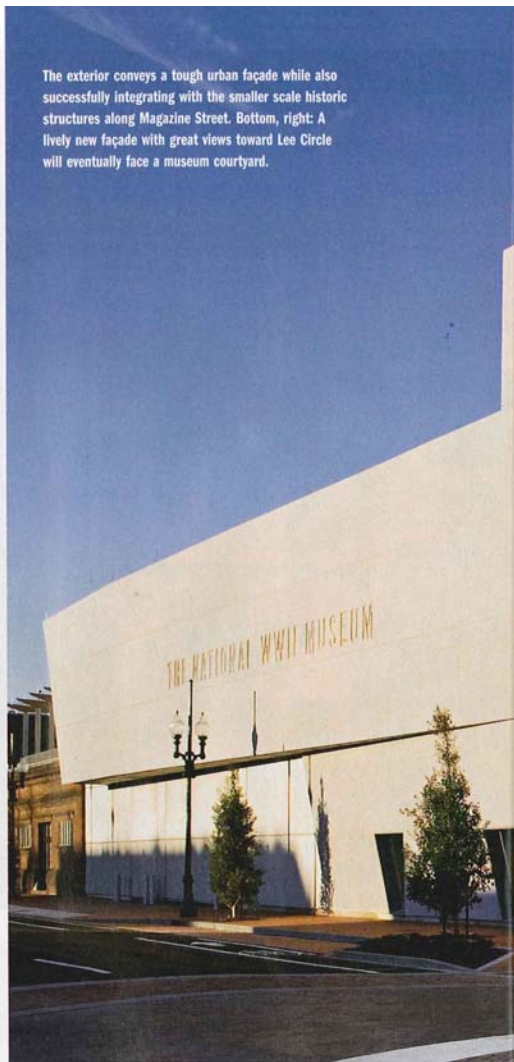
THE YEAR'S BEST ARCHITECTURE

6 PROJECTS WORTH EXAMINING

BY JOHN KLINGMAN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFFERY JOHNSTON

This year marks the end of projects designed before Hurricane Katrina and the preponderance of those that have been conceived and executed after the storm. With the new construction there is a change in building types and an increasing number of public facilities. There is another building type being represented this year: we're featuring two apartment complexes - a medium rise and a high rise. Two high-profile projects with significant high tech aspects, the Regional Transportation Management Center and the National World War II Museum Expansion, bring our architecture into a distinctly 21st century mode.



The exterior conveys a tough urban façade while also successfully integrating with the smaller scale historic structures along Magazine Street. Bottom, right: A lively new façade with great views toward Lee Circle will eventually face a museum courtyard.

The National World War II Museum Phase 4

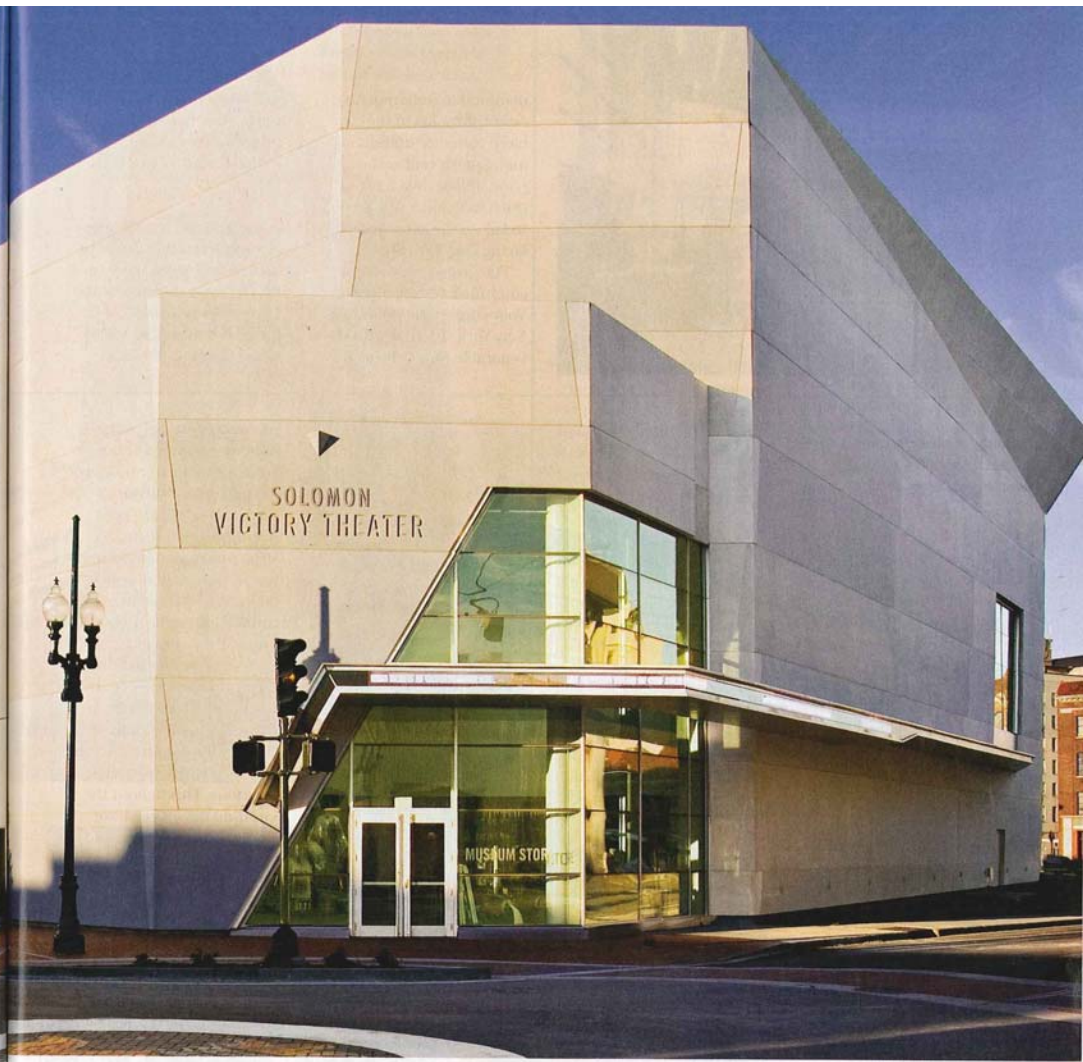
Perhaps the highest profile project this year is the substantial expansion of the highly regarded National World War II Museum. Although this project doesn't complete the campus, it establishes a new architectural vocabulary and offers a substantial increase in the program. Both inside and out, this project is highly successful.

On the exterior, it conveys a kind of tough urban façade while also successfully integrating with the smaller scale historic structures along Magazine Street. The palette of enormous precast pieces, corrugated steel, aluminum and glass is reminiscent of the industrial underpinnings of the U.S. war effort. There is a lively new façade with

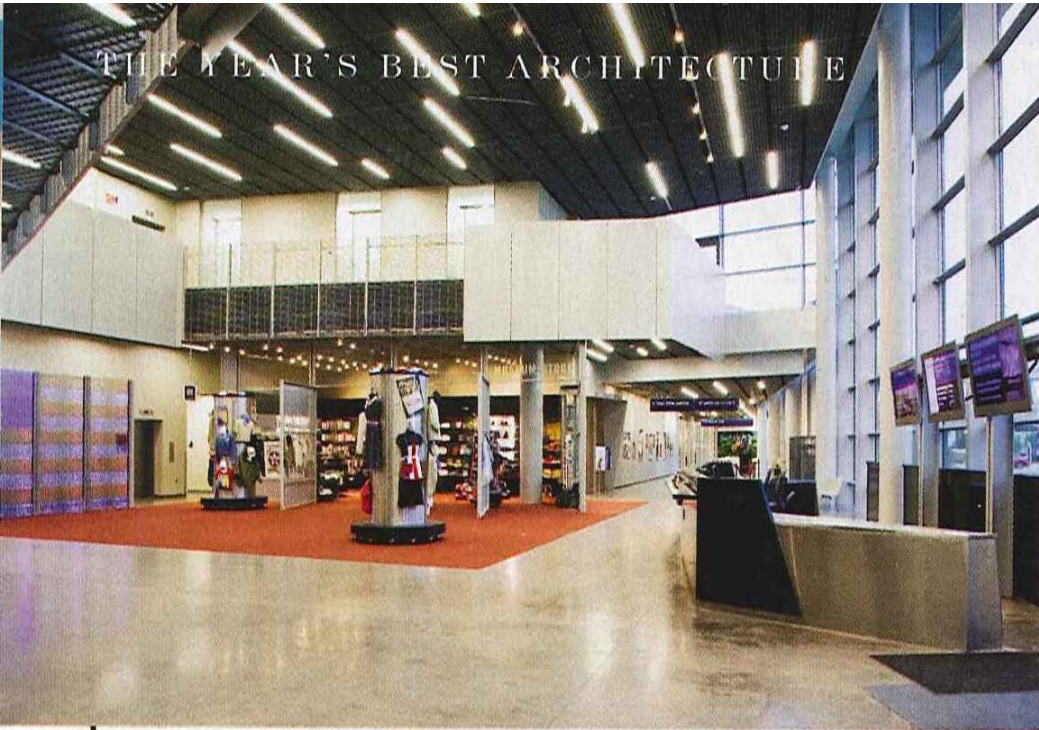
great views toward Lee Circle; this will eventually face the Parade Ground, a central museum courtyard.

Inside, although the industrial vocabulary continues, even to the concrete floors, a lively program has induced other architectural responses. While the major public spectacle occurs within the high-tech Solomon Victory Theater, architecturally three other spaces are even

more noteworthy. These include the double-height lobby space that orchestrates current and future entrances, including future upper level pedestrian bridge connections. Also noteworthy is the Stage Door Canteen, which evokes a 1940s USO club and the adjacent restaurant and cocktail bar, The American Sector. This interior, easily one of the most



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memorable contemporary establishments in the city, has a complex, undulating metal mesh ceiling that plays well against a historic brick wall and a new green trellis on the exterior terrace facing Poeyfarre Street.

The project represents combined design effort of Voorsanger Architects of New York together with the venerable New Orleans firm

of Mathes Brierre. Together, the designers have created a project appropriate to its national stature and its New Orleans place.

Voorsanger Mathes LLC; Voorsanger Architects, Bartholomew Voorsanger, Masayuki Sono, Martin Stigsgaard, Peter Miller, Jim Macdonald; Mathes Brierre Architects, Edward C, Mathes, Peter Priola, Tony Alfortish, Nichole Chauvin, C. H. Palm Jr.