

# National Architecture Week at Penn

## Penn Buildings and Landscapes Designed by Women Architects

Penn's main campus in University City features several notable buildings that were designed by women architects who were either the leading architect or a major member of the design team. There are also some women landscape architects whose work at Penn enhances the campus. With the help of University Architect David Hollenberg and Almanac's own future architect, Jackson Betz, C'19, who researched the faces behind the façades, we compiled the following list of buildings that can be found across campus.

### New Construction

#### Steinberg Conference Center (Barbara Hillier)

This 1986 addition to the Wharton campus, designed by the Hillier Group and then led by founders and husband-and-wife team Bob and Barbara Hillier, uses traditional Penn architectural elements like towers and archways but interprets them in a late 20th-century style at the Steinberg Conference Center at 38th and Spruce streets.



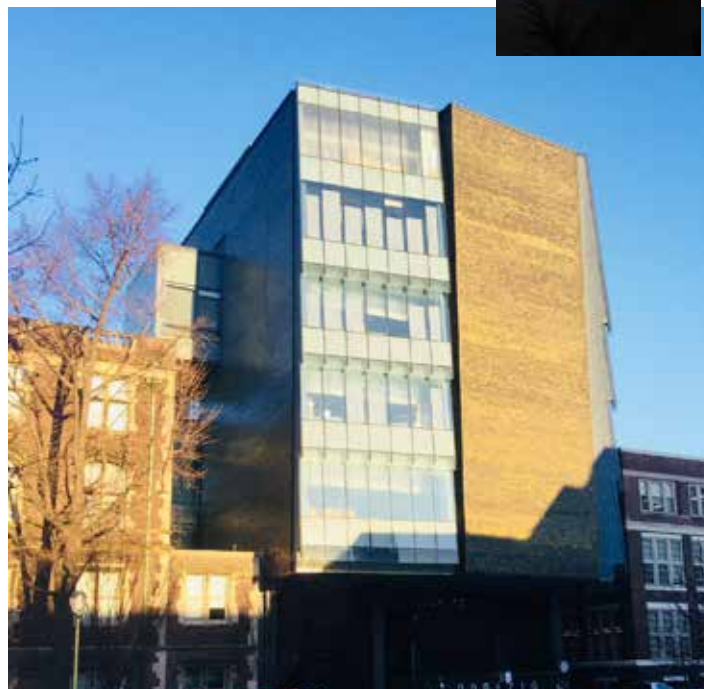
#### Krishna P. Singh Center for Nanotechnology (Marion Weiss)

In 2013, the Singh Center for Nanotechnology opened in a stunning new building at 33rd and Walnut streets designed by Marion Weiss and her husband, Michael Manfredi. Similar to other Weiss/Manfredi buildings, this work celebrates the scientific activity it contains, showing it off through a novel use of molded space, integrated landscape, glass curtain walls and a cantilevered study lounge.



#### Skirkanich Hall (Billie Tsien)

Highly visible at a bend on 33rd Street is this addition to Penn Engineering's campus. It was constructed in 2006 and designed by husband-and-wife team Tod Williams and Billie Tsien Architects. This innovative building, which features a unique green façade and roof, serves as the de-facto façade of the Engineering Quadrangle, uniting Engineering's four buildings with a common entrance and courtyard.



#### Institute of Contemporary Art (Adèle Naudé Santos)

The Institute for Contemporary Art is a dynamic part of campus life. The ICA occupies an equally dynamic building at 36th and Sansom streets, designed in 1990 by former chair of Penn's department of architecture, Adèle Naudé Santos (*Almanac* February 13, 1990), now a professor of architecture, planning and urban design at MIT.



Photographs by Jackson Betz

## New Construction (continued)

### Clinical Research Building (Denise Scott Brown)

Designed in 1989 by legendary Philadelphia architects, the husband-and-wife team Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, this building located on the Perelman School of Medicine campus combines well-lit laboratory space with a loft for machinery. The building has an ornately decorated exterior, including a 28-foot-tall Penn shield. She is a former Penn faculty member.



### Roy and Diana Vagelos Laboratories (Denise Scott Brown)

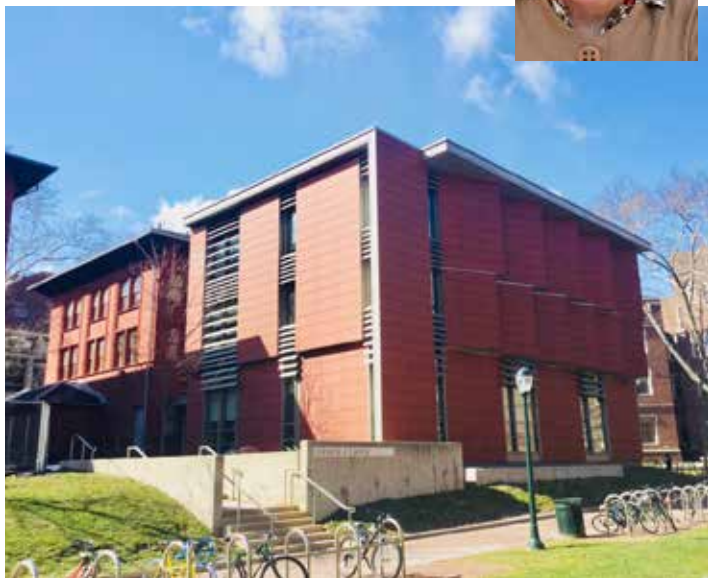
Constructed between 1991 and 1997 (and updated in 2007) by Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, the Vagelos Laboratories combine chemistry, bioengineering and chemical engineering laboratory space. When completed, this building represented some of the most up-to-date technological design then in existence at Penn. It also contains a variety of study and office spaces.



## Renovations and Additions

### Lerner Center (Ann Beha)

Penn's Lerner Center houses SAS' music department and occupies a building originally constructed by Cope and Stewardson in 1892 as a dormitory for a nearby girls' orphanage. In 2010, Ann Beha Architects (led by the MIT-educated Ms. Beha) restored the original building and expanded it to twice its original size, adding a spacious lobby, offices and several classrooms and practice rooms.



### Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics (Shirley Blumberg)

Constructed in 1925 by Davis, Dunlap, and Barney as the West Philadelphia Title and Trust Company, this Art-Deco mini-skyscraper is currently being renovated by KPMB Architects of Toronto, led by founding partner Shirley Blumberg. The street façades of the historic building are being preserved and a substantial new addition is being constructed along 36th Street; it is scheduled to be completed later this spring.



**Renovations and Additions (continued)**

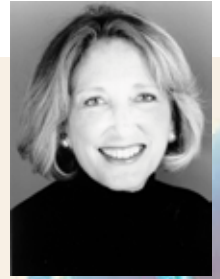
**Locust House (Daniela Holt Voith)**

This prominent structure stands at the corner of Locust Walk and 37th Street Walk. Originally constructed in 1920, the building was renovated in 1984 by Voith and Mactavish Architects, co-led by principal architect Daniela Holt Voith, a Yale alumna. The building now houses the offices of the Penn Women's Center and the African American Resource Center (AARC). Ms. Voith has also designed several interior spaces for Penn Law.



**Claire Fagin Hall (Susan Maxman)**

Penn Nursing's flagship building, Claire Fagin Hall, was constructed in 1970 and named after Dr. Fagin, a visionary dean emerita of Penn Nursing and an interim president of Penn. In 2004, Susan Maxman, a Penn graduate and a student of Louis I. Kahn, oversaw a carefully planned multi-year series of comprehensive and transformative renovations to this building, along with her firm, Susan Maxman Partners (now SMP Architects). These renovations included innovative collaborative classrooms and study spaces (*Almanac* November 16, 2004). In 1992, Ms. Maxman had made history as the first woman president of the American Institute of Architects.



**Larry Robbins House (Wendy Joseph)**

The Larry Robbins House, a renovation of and addition to the existing building housing the Jerome Fisher Program in Management and Technology, was designed by well-known architect Wendy Joseph and her firm, Studio Joseph. Ms. Joseph incorporated the early-20th century Gothic façade and associated southern end of the historic building at 3537 Locust Walk, and completely reconstructed the rest of the building, which had become structurally compromised. The final product includes innovative use of interior space and a sleek and distinctive and textured brick north façade.



Photographs by Jackson Betz

**Golkin Hall (Sheila Kennedy)**

Penn Law expanded and renovated its existing buildings in 2012, adding a courtyard, state-of-the-art classrooms and an innovative wall flanking the front door composed of stacked marble tiles. The husband-and-wife team of Kennedy & Violich Architecture designed the additions, led by principal architect Sheila Kennedy.



## Renovations and Additions (continued)

### Fisher Fine Arts Building (Denise Scott Brown)

Originally designed by prominent Victorian architect Frank Furness in 1888 and completed in 1891, this distinctive centerpiece of Penn's campus was restored to its original glory in 1991 by Denise Scott Brown and Robert Venturi, who restored the building's red terra-cotta tiles, recreated its original copper trim and installed modern sprinkler and environmental-control technology.



### Charles Addams Fine Arts Hall (Maria Romaniach)

Constructed in 1957 by Hatfield, Martin and White, this building (originally named Skinner Hall) contains fine arts classrooms, labs and studios. In 2001, Maria C. Romaniach Architects, led by Vincent Kling & Associates alumna Ms. Romaniach, who got her BA at Penn, modified the building, giving it the distinctive floor-to-ceiling fenestration it sports today.



### Perelman Quadrangle (Denise Scott Brown)

In 2000, Denise Scott Brown and Robert Venturi completed a \$67 million renovation of Penn's historic Perelman Quadrangle, which includes Irvine Auditorium, Claudia Cohen (formerly Logan) Hall and Houston Hall. This renovation added new auditorium, study and café space inside all three buildings; restored and acoustically upgraded the spectacular Irvine Auditorium; and created a distinctive outdoor space with a highly-visible oversized Penn logo.



Photographs by Jackson Betz

## Landscape Architecture

### 37th Street Walkway (Karen Skafte)

For its 45th reunion in 2007, the Class of 1962 funded a renovation of 37th Street Walk to include several of Benjamin Franklin's famous axioms. The project, designed by Karen Skafte, Principal of what was then Lager Raabe Skafte Landscape Architects, added granite tiles engraved with such sayings as "well done is better than well said." Completed in 2009, this prominent project also included new granite curbs and street lighting (*Almanac* October 13, 2009). Now a Principal of Ground Reconsidered Landscape, Ms. Skafte has continued to design many of Penn's exterior walkways and open spaces.



### Kane Park (Kim Matthews)

In 2012, New York firm Matthews Nielsen Landscape Architects transformed a former parking lot at the oddly-shaped intersection of 33rd, 34th, Spruce and South streets into a half-acre green plaza (*Almanac* July 16, 2013). Led by principal landscape architect Kim Matthews, this project provides for innovative methods of rainwater drainage, and provides a welcome and peaceful green oasis at a major gateway to the University and UPHS, while addressing pedestrian safety and innovative storm water management.



### Class of 1962 Markers (Julie Beckman)

As punctuation marks on its distinctive 37th Street Walk, the Class of 1962 also funded two obelisks, located at 37th Street's intersections with Spruce and Walnut streets. These markers, installed in spring 2012 for the Class of '62's 50th reunion, include dates and relevant information about Franklin's life. They were designed by KBAS, a practice comprising husband-and-wife team Julie Beckman, who taught landscape architecture at Penn's School of Design from 2005-2013 and served as the department's associate chair and director of student services, and Keith Kaseman. They are also well known as the designers of the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial.

