



Architect Steven Holl's rendering of the School of Art and Art History Building, viewed from the south

THE CASE FOR SUPPORT OF A NEW BUILDING FOR THE UI SCHOOL OF ART AND ART HISTORY



"Ars longa vita brevis est"
(art is long, life is short);
original entry to existing art
building, to be restored.

The University of Iowa School of Art and Art History in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has had a significant impact on the role of the arts in higher education. Early UI administrators saw the arts as essential to education—in fact, Iowa was one of the first universities to appoint faculty based primarily on artistic portfolios, and one of the first to confer graduate degrees in the studio arts. That legacy has been preserved through the decades, and universities nationwide have looked to the UI as a model for incorporating the arts into an academic setting.

The University's commitment to including the fine arts in a liberal arts academic environment sparked a particularly key innovation—the integration of the study of art history, the teaching of studio arts, and training in art education. While often considered disparate disciplines, the UI saw early on that they are best viewed and taught as complementary and interrelated. Today the School of Art and Art History is one of the few art schools in the nation to maintain such a comprehensive philosophy.

“Our one-room metals studio is very cramped for our large number of student-artists, and it is very noisy. Our students’ creativity and production levels will be greatly enhanced by having a first-rate facility.”

Chunghi Choo
Professor
Metalsmithing and Jewelry



“Innovation is a tradition in the visual arts at The University of Iowa. With better facilities, we can ensure that all our students—whether in studio arts, art history, or art education—have the tools they need to take full advantage of our comprehensive programs.”

Dorothy Johnson
Professor and Director
UI School of Art and Art History

Committed and visionary leaders of the school, college, and University have built a remarkable reputation for a school that is far from the traditional arts centers of the nation. In March 2000, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the UI printmaking program first in the nation, and the fine arts program overall sixth in the nation.

With its innovatively inclusive approach, expert leadership, and outstanding scholarly and creative output, **the School of Art and Art History is a renowned force in the art world.** This is a singularly distinctive achievement for the UI. And as reflected in its high levels of support from friends and alumni, UI administrators, and the Iowa Legislature, the school is a key element of the UI’s mission.

BURSTING AT THE SEAMS

For a school with such a distinguished tradition, which has had a profound effect on the state of the arts in academia and beyond, **the condition of the UI’s fine arts facilities falls far short of the excellence of its programs and reputation.**

The UI Art Building was built in the 1930s, with the latest addition coming more than three decades ago, in the 1960s. It is a beautiful building with a storied history, but with students flocking to the school because of its reputation and its faculty—more than 850 undergraduate and 225 graduate students are presently enrolled in its programs—the building is simply incapable of adequately serving its users’ needs. Consider these surprising and compelling facts:

- Narrow hallways are being used as studio and exhibition space, and closets are being used as offices.
- Damage from the 1993 floods was so extensive that the basement was never subsequently restored—yet it is still being used as classroom, office, and lecture space.
- The library is crammed into what was originally intended as gallery space. Much of its collection—one of the nation’s most impressive—is in storage, and there is no space to actually work in the library. The rare books section is housed across the river in the Main Library, and the slide collection is housed in a classroom, with space for only a few light tables.
- Due to lack of space, faculty meetings must be held across the river, in the Iowa Memorial Union.
- Two of the school’s most renowned programs, metalsmithing/jewelry and printmaking, are operating in woefully cramped and difficult-to-use spaces.



“The plans for this new building show that the University respects the role of the visual arts in the UI community. We’ll finally have a facility to match the school’s excellent reputation. It will be a wonderful educational space and will have a great impact on recruiting students.”

Kurt Rahmlow
Graduate student in art history



Architect's rendering of main entryway

Clearly, the present facilities are inadequate for the school’s exciting and vital work. The students and faculty who make the school their home—and upon whom the school’s continued stature depends—are working in substandard conditions.

A NEW—AND NEWLY RENOVATED—HOME FOR THE SCHOOL

With help from generous supporters like you and in partnership with the state of Iowa, the UI School of Art and Art History will soon be moving into more appropriate facilities for a school of its importance and renown. **New York architect Steven Holl has been retained to create a new building for the school, as well as to oversee a renovation and reinvigoration of the existing historic Art Building.** In 2001, Holl was named the top American architect by *Time* magazine, and he won the 2002 National Design Award for architecture from the Smithsonian Institution’s Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum.

The approximately 67,000-square-foot building will sit across Riverside Drive from the historic Art Building and the UI Museum of Art, near the rest of the UI arts campus, alongside a small lagoon and a stretch of limestone bluff. Total cost of the project will be \$21.5 million, more than \$5 million of which must come from private contributors as part of the UI’s comprehensive campaign. Construction began in late 2002, with completion anticipated in 2005.



Architect's projection of student-artists at work in the new building

These are some of the key benefits of the project—including both the new building and the renovation of the historic one—to students, faculty, and the community:

- **Students and faculty will have top-quality studios, classrooms, and meeting spaces for doing their best work.** The new core facilities—such as classrooms and studios for art history studies, graphic design, three-dimensional design, painting and drawing, and digital arts, as well as a large auditorium for general-education use—will be well equipped for making the most of today’s technology. The present metalsmithing/jewelry and printmaking areas will be greatly expanded, and the ceramics/sculpture area will be renovated.
- **The Art Library and Office of Visual Materials will be user-friendly, and their collections will be accessible.** With the new library, most of the school’s collection of materials will be available for student and faculty use for the first time in decades. There will be study carrels and computer ports, and the school’s Rare Books section will be reunited with the rest of the collection. The school’s more than 300,000 slides in the Office of Visual Materials will be far easier to access and study.
- **New technologies can be more easily incorporated into students’ work.** The building will include a “media theatre”—an interdisciplinary facility in which digital, performance, electronic, and intermedia studio spaces will open onto the stage of the main auditorium. This new integrated space will enable collaboration among artists from the School of Art and Art History and the UI’s Division of Performing Arts, using varied new media. A state-of-the-art technological infrastructure will make existing and emerging technologies easily accessible.
- **The common areas will provide spaces for interaction.** In the school’s current cramped facilities, people are often isolated from one another, divided by major and medium. Faculty and students have few opportunities for meaningful interaction outside formal settings. With an inviting café and inspiring open spaces, flooded with natural light and featuring new and ongoing works on display, the school’s community can be reunited and reintegrated.
- **There will be beautiful, adaptable exhibition spaces.** The greater UI and Iowa City/Coralville community will be drawn in to the life of the school. The open, inviting spaces—including two galleries for the display of student works—will allow the school to offer opportunities for community involvement in exhibitions, lectures, and socializing.
- **The historic Art Building will be restored to its original vision.** The renovation of the historic facility is integral to the second phase of this project. The original entrance, two-story gallery, classrooms, and other spaces will come back to life. The new building’s design will be “in dialogue” with the restored existing Art Building, with similarities in materials and design philosophies.



Architect's rendering of the new building's library overlooking lagoon and limestone bluff

THE TIME IS NOW—AND YOU CAN HELP

With new and renovated spaces, the school's students and faculty can realize their full potential, and the school can continue to live up to its reputation, ensuring the value of a UI arts education. In addition, the campus and the community will gain a visually stunning building that—with its airy openness, unique lines, and cantilevered wing extending over the pond along the bluff—will draw nationwide attention to the school, the UI, and the role of the arts in our lives.

But to make it happen, the school must rely on support from generous friends and alumni like you. While the state of Iowa is providing a significant portion of the \$21.5 million needed to complete the project, the school needs to secure **more than \$5 million from private gifts as part of the UI's comprehensive campaign.** With your help, the UI can make a bold statement: *The arts matter!*

RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

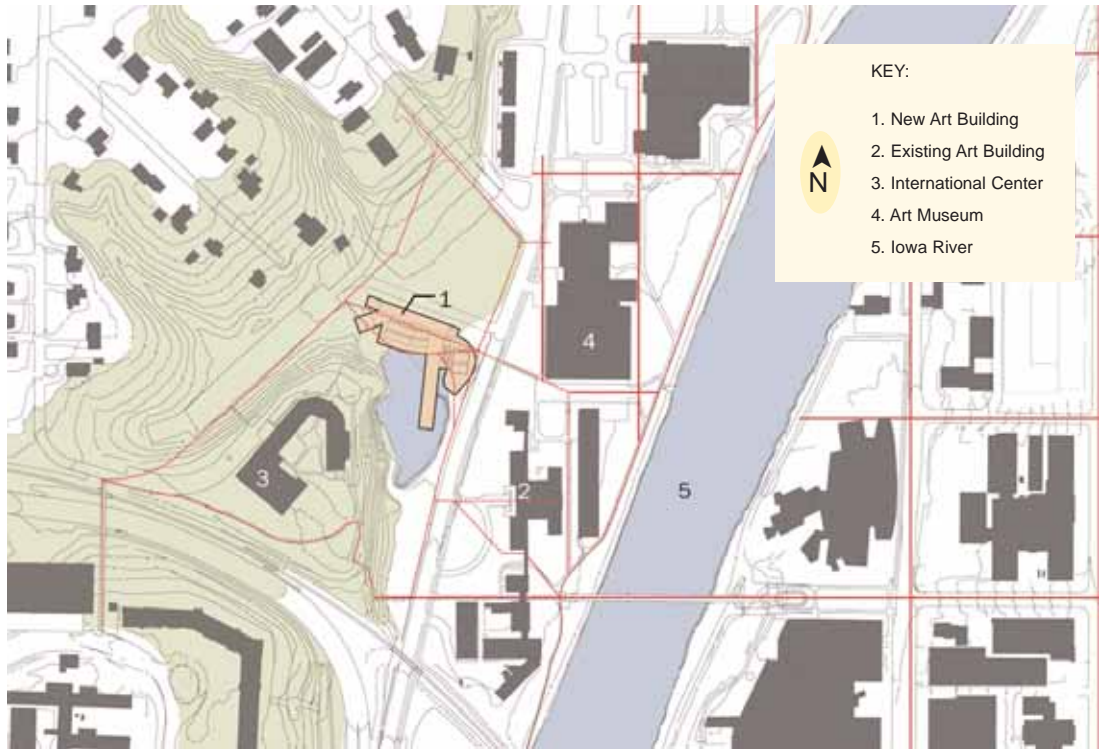
Gifts of all sizes will help us make the new School of Art and Art History building a reality. A plaque exhibiting the names of contributors of \$5,000 or more will be prominently and permanently displayed in the new building.

For those who are able to lend their support at especially generous leadership levels, the school has identified naming opportunities, enabling contributors or someone special to them to have their name forever linked with excellence in the arts at The University of Iowa. For more information, please contact the UI Foundation representative listed on the back of this brochure.

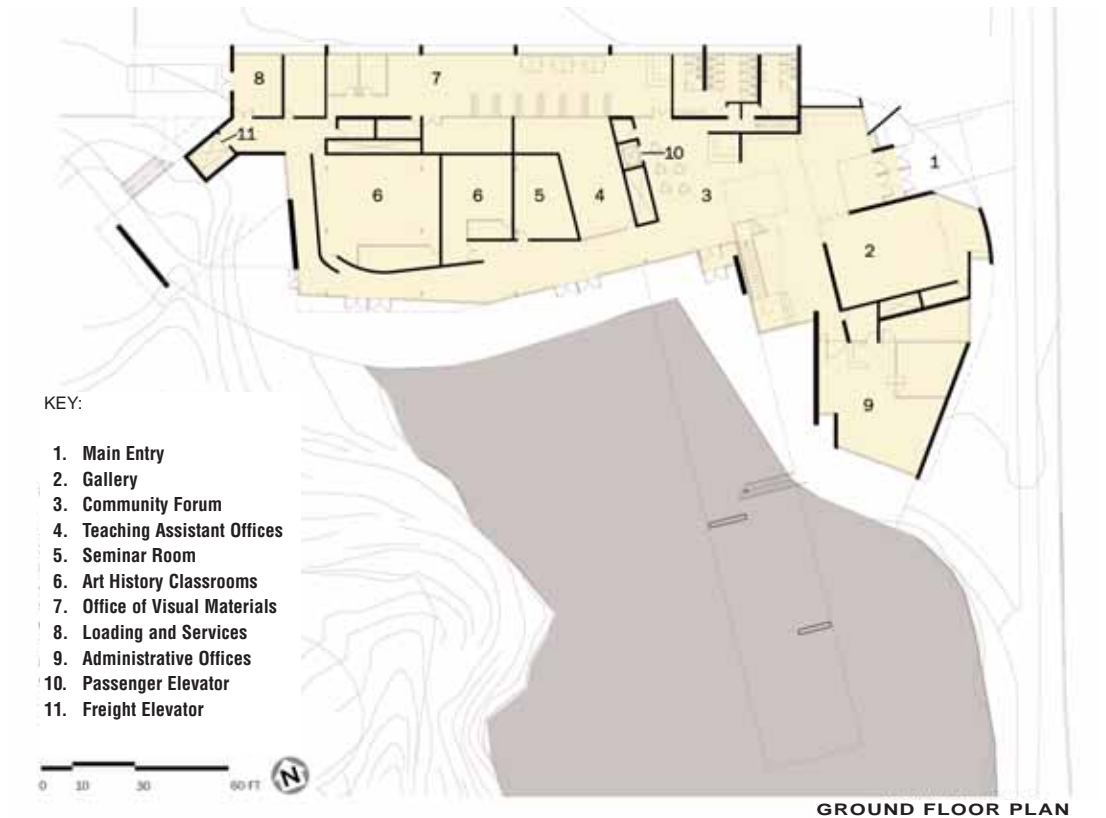
“Early UI presidents took great care to establish the arts as a pillar of the University’s mission. That visionary legacy has benefited our University, community, and state for generations. To preserve the essential role of the arts in the UI, we need support from people who understand and appreciate the role of the arts in today’s society at large.”

Maso Tomasini
Professor and Director Emeritus
UI School of Art and Art History

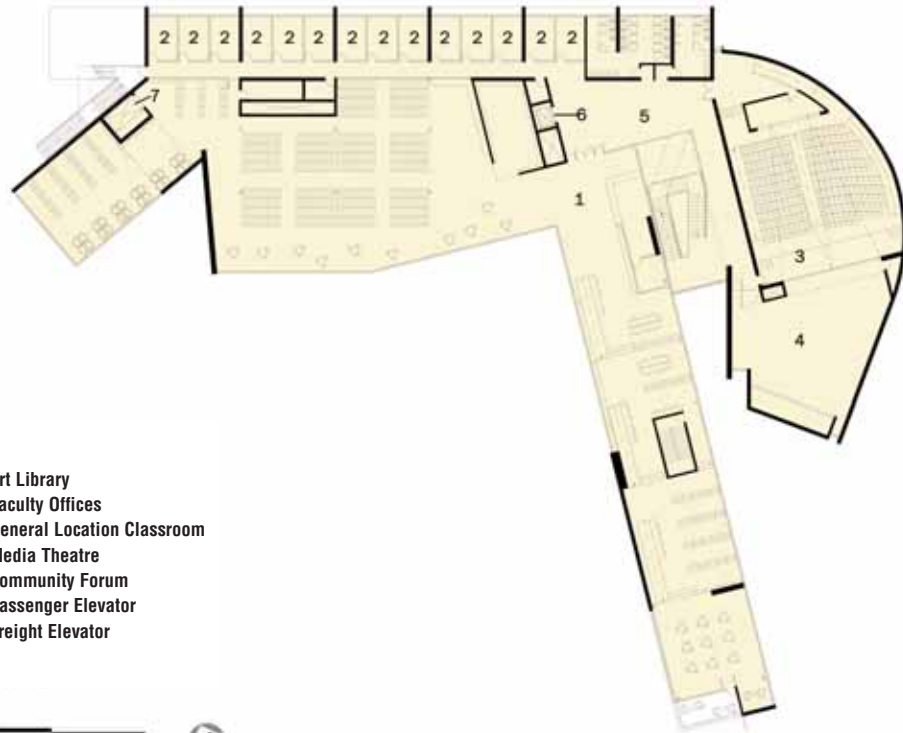
BUILDING LOCATION



FLOOR PLANS (Plans subject to alteration as construction proceeds)



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



KEY:

- 1. Art Library
- 2. Faculty Offices
- 3. General Location Classroom
- 4. Media Theatre
- 5. Community Forum
- 6. Passenger Elevator
- 7. Freight Elevator



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



KEY:

- 1. Graduate Design Studio
- 2. Painting 1 + 2 and Intermediate
- 3. Design Classroom
- 4. Advanced Painting Studio
- 5. Digital Photography
- 6. Digital World
- 7. Studio Offices
- 8. Community Forum
- 9. Passenger Elevator
- 10. Freight Elevator



THIRD FLOOR PLAN



Watercolor image by architect Steven Holl of the School of Art and Art History Building



If you would like to learn more about how you can help give the School of Art and Art History the home it deserves, please contact:

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