

GLENSTONE MUSEUM— THE PAVILIONS

12100 Glen Rd, Potomac, MD 20854

Completed: 2018

Project Size: 240,000 sq. ft. museum expansion

Project Cost: Confidential

Owner: Glenstone Foundation

Architect: Thomas Phifer and Partners

Awards: 2019 Harry H. Edwards Industry Advancement Award

INNOVATIVE DESIGN BLENDS FUNCTIONALITY AND AESTHETICS

The Glenstone Museum, a private museum of contemporary art in Potomac, Maryland, expanded in 2018 from a small gallery to a vast campus. The expansion includes eleven separate rooms, or pavilions, that sit along a hilly ridge surrounding an 18,000 square foot pool. The pavilions are made of stacked blocks of precast concrete—individually poured to measure 6 feet long, 1 foot high, and 1 foot deep—that are connected by glass-enclosed walkways made of 30-foot clear glass panels framed in stainless steel. The innovative structure is an award-winning combination of functionality and aesthetics—and precast concrete brought it all together.

01. Naturalistic design.

No color-altering pigment was used in the precast design—instead, the mixture of sand and cement was varied, and the blocks were poured during different seasons to produce slight variations in color and texture.

02. Precast perfection.

The precast panels feature an as-cast form finish, so there could be no imperfections as the panels were formed. The delicate mold faces were closely monitored throughout production and replaced before there was excessive wear.

03. Puzzling out the details.

The project included 28,782 interior and structural walls and 23,212 interlocking pieces. Because 1,400 of the pieces had unique markings, extensive coordination and attention to detail was necessary throughout production, tracking, delivery, and installation.

