

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Landmark art museum selects preservation specialists for architecture project.

Baltimore, MD, October 9, 2008 - In 1921, the Phillips House opened its doors as America's first modern art museum. Home to works as well-known as Henri-Auguste Renoir's *Luncheon of the Boating Party* (you'll know it the minute you see it!), as well as pieces by Edgar Degas, Paul Klee, Piet Mondrian, and Pablo Picasso, to name only a few, The Phillips Collection, as the museum came to be known, was housed in Duncan Phillips' 1897 Georgian Revival home in Washington, DC. The collection and the advance it made for the American arts movement may in its own right be seen as an American landmark. For historic architects, however, the building itself may be the landmark; in 1973, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Through the last century, the museum has undergone changes and growth, which included building additions onto the Phillips House. The original house was not neglected, of course, but over the years, its façade has begun to show signs of problems.

The Trustees of The Phillips Collection recently selected KANN Partners, a Baltimore architecture firm, to provide much needed façade restoration planning and work for The Phillips House. Preserving the graceful architecture of the original structure for The Phillips Collection is one driving force behind KANN Partners desire to take on this project. Says project manager and Director of Historic Preservation for KANN Partners, Mimi Giguere, "The solution for a 100-year-old building is unique from a 10-year-old building with the same problems. You simply cannot compare the materials - mortar, masonry, roofing, all have different constitutions and lives. Finding the long-term solution, rather than creating a patch, is a mix of detective work and science. For us, it's endlessly intriguing."

Historic preservation has been a focus of KANN Partners since its inception nearly 35 years ago. KANN's experiences with complex historic preservation projects have provided it with insights and concepts that are integrated into its mixed-use/multi-family, senior living, and retail/commercial projects. One such important perspective and organizational value is respect for what exists in a building and in a location. Historic preservation is less about standing out as an individual architect and more about focusing on the whole and respecting the environment and the original architect's intent.

It is with this viewpoint, and the understanding of the project's value to the region's architectural patrimony, that KANN Partners is proud to begin The Phillips House project in November.

For more information about KANN Partners, please visit their website, www.kannpartners.com. For more information about The Phillips House and The Phillips Collection, visit www.phillipscollection.org.

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