

STEVEN HOLL ARCHITECTS

Firm Profile

*The site of a building is more than a mere ingredient of its conception. It is its physical and metaphysical foundation. Building transcends physical and functional requirements by fusing with a place, by gathering the meaning of a situation. Architecture does not so much intrude on the landscape as it serves to explain it. Architecture and site should have an experiential connection, a metaphysical link, a poetic link. (Steven Holl, *Anchoring*, 1988)*

Founded in New York in 1976, Steven Holl Architects has offices in New York and Beijing with a staff of 49. SHA is an internationally-recognized design firm honored with architecture's most prestigious awards, publications and exhibitions for excellence in design. With each project Steven Holl Architects explores new ways to integrate an organizing idea with the programmatic and functional essence of a building. Rather than imposing a style upon different sites and climate, or pursued irrespective of program, the unique character of a program and a site becomes the starting point for an architectural idea.

While anchoring each work in its specific site and circumstance, we endeavor to obtain a deeper beginning in the experience of time, space, light and materials. The phenomena of the space of a room, the sunlight entering through a window, and the color and reflection of materials on a wall and floor all have integral relationships. The materials of architecture communicate through resonance and dissonance, just as instruments in musical composition. Architectural transformations of natural materials, such as glass, stone or wood, produce thought and sense-provoking qualities in the experience of a place.

Following this approach Steven Holl Architects is recognized for the ability to shape space and light with great contextual sensitivity and to utilize the unique qualities of each project to create a concept-driven design. The firm has realized architectural works nationally and overseas, with extensive experience in the arts (including museum, gallery, and exhibition design), campus and educational facilities, and residential work. Other projects include retail design, office design, public utilities, and master planning.

Steven Holl Architects specialize in seamlessly integrating new projects into contexts with particular cultural and historic importance. Several of the projects involve renovation and expansion of historically important structures, including the Cranbrook Institute of Science (Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, USA), the Sarphatistraat Offices (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art addition and renovation (Kansas City, Missouri, USA) and the Sail Hybrid mixed-use project (Knokke-Heist, Belgium).

In September 2006 Steven Holl Architects opened the new School of Art and Art History at the University of Iowa in Iowa City and The New Residence at the Swiss Embassy in Washington, D.C.. Currently under construction are the Linked Hybrid mixed-use complex (Beijing, China), the Nanjing Museum of Art and Architecture (Nanjing, China) and the NYU Department of Philosophy (New York City). In 2005, Steven Holl Architects completed Higgins Hall Center at Pratt Institute (Brooklyn, New York), the Loisium Wine Visitor Center, Hotel and Spa (Langenlois, Austria), the Lake Whitney Water Purification Plant (Hamden, Connecticut) and two private residences. In June 2007 the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Bloch Building in Kansas City, Missouri will open to the public. Recently the office has won a number of international design competitions including Herning Center of the Arts (Herning, Denmark), Cité du Surf et de l'Océan (Biarritz, France), Sail Hybrid (Knokke-Heist, Belgium), Meander (Helsinki, Finland) and Vanke Center (Shenzhen, China).

Steven Holl Architects emphasizes sustainable building and site development as fundamental to innovative and imaginative design. Incorporating green roofs, double walls and advanced mechanical systems SHA constructed the Swiss Embassy Residence according to Swiss "Minergie Standards," a higher level than the US Council for Green Building's LEED standards for minimal energy consumption. The Lake Whitney Water Purification Plant features the largest Green Roof in Connecticut (30,000 sf), zero off-site storm water discharge, expanded wetlands for biodiversity, and geothermal heating and cooling. In Beijing, the 200,000 sq

meter Linked Hybrid complex is heated and cooled by a 660-well geothermal energy system, the largest residential geothermal system in the world, and employs green roofs and a separate grey water system. The PBS sustainability documentary *Design e2* recently featured the project to exemplify China's advanced application of green technology. Our design for the Vanke Center (Shenzhen, China) is a vision of tropical sustainability for the 21st century, employing renewable energy such as solar power and geothermal cooling.

Steven Holl is a tenured faculty member at Columbia University where he has taught since 1981. In July 2001 *Time Magazine* named Steven Holl as America's Best Architect, for 'buildings that satisfy the spirit as well as the eye.' Awards include Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (2003), the Smithsonian Institute's Cooper Hewitt National Design Award in Architecture (2002), the French Grande Medaill d'Or (2001), the prestigious Alvar Aalto Medal (1998), the Arnold W. Brunner Prize in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the New York American Institute of Architects Medal of Honor (1997). Most recently Steven Holl Architects received the AIA 2007 Institute Honor Award for the School of Art & Art History (University of Iowa, Iowa City). Steven Holl leads the office with partners Chris McVoy (New York) and Li Hu (Beijing).