



AIA KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITIES
2011 KNOWLEDGE LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA | AUGUST 10-12, 2011

AIA KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITIES
 **10 MUST SEE PHILADELPHIA** Architectural Sites

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE **AIA** COMMITTEE ON DESIGN



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WELCOME TO PHILADELPHIA

The best way to truly know great architecture is to experience it firsthand. When the AIA Committee on Design travels we make sure to visit the best architecture our destinations have to offer – and we hope our little guide can help you slip a few tours into your visit.

Although not meant to be an exhaustive guide, the following pages represent 10 top projects in Philadelphia we recommend you experience while you are in the city. We have also listed a few historic sites for your touring pleasure.

Enjoy!

1

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY (2010)

55 North 5th Street, Philadelphia
215.923.3811 | www.nmajh.org
Ennead Architects

Two interdependent volumes define the exterior envelope of this building. The more prominent - a diaphanous glass prism on 5th Street facing Independence Mall - is intended to express the museum's accessibility and generosity. The translucency is a metaphor for the open door that greeted those finding a sanctuary in America, but the glass also represents the fragility of the democracy that guarantees the freedoms that have made this country so desirable a destination. In contrast to the translucent form facing the Mall is a terra cotta-clad volume: a repository for the Museum's collections and principal exhibition spaces, its solidity is an analogue for the liberties that protect all Americans. An eighty-five foot high light-filled atrium spatially connects the entry level to the education center and auditorium below and to the exhibition floors above which organize the interior space.



©Michael Moran

2

SKIRKANICH HALL (2006)

2210 S 33rd Street, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
215.573.6604 | www.seas.upenn.edu/about-seas/buildings.php
Tod Williams/Billie Tsien

The Bioengineering Department is located in an infill building that functions as a connector by creating a new public quadrangle and entry for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Movement and interaction is emphasized with generous circulation spaces that offer places to sit and gather.

The building is cantilevered over the street and descends twenty feet below grade to minimize vertical impact. An open atrium, from the ground through five floors, is enhanced by a vibrant yellow tile with a changing pattern. Laboratories are placed on either side of the core space.

A mossy green, new colored brick changes with the light of the day. Giant glass shingles contrast the density of the surrounding masonry and bring filtered light into the laboratories.



©Michael Moran

3

MELVINE J AND CLAIRE LEVINE HALL (2003)

3330 Walnut Street, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
215.573.6604 | www.seas.upenn.edu/about-seas/buildings.php
Kieran Timberlake

The computer science research facility houses laboratories for robotics and computer science, faculty and departmental offices, conference rooms, an auditorium and a cyber café. The building forms a quadrangle, new front door and central gathering place for the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

While establishing a forward-looking character for the School of Engineering, the footprint and massing respond to adjacent buildings, with particular attention to scale and fenestration. Levine Hall is articulated as a glazed pavilion, presenting luminous, transparent facades that are constructed using ventilated curtain wall technology - the first active wall of its type in North America.



©Nic Lehoux

4

LIBERTY BELL CENTER (2003)

6th and Market Streets in Center City, Philadelphia
1.877.444.6777 | www.nps.gov/inde/liberty-bell-center.htm
Bohlen Cywinski Jackson

The Liberty Bell Center is the home of the Liberty Bell, America's national treasure and internationally recognized symbol of freedom. The light-filled, 14,000 square foot building is an exciting and authentic visitor experience that gives form to the client's mission to bring the story of the bell and its importance in U.S. history.

The exterior comprises a delicately detailed scrim of louvers that shelters the bell chamber's glass vitrine enclosure. Robust brick piers and paired steel columns support the extended roof plane, which shields the bell from its southern exposure.

Visitors are led through the exhibit area—guided by an undulating wall of Chelmsford granite, flecked with mica—before entering the bell chamber. Cupped walls of Carrara marble frame the bell like protective hands, creating an intimate, human scaled environment in which to view the bell and reflect on its meaning.



©Jeffrey Totaro

5

ANNENBERG PUBLIC POLICY CENTER (APPC) (2009)

202 South 36th Street, Philadelphia
215.898.9400 | www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org
Maki and Associates and Ballinger

The APPC at the University of Pennsylvania conducts and disseminates research, hosts lectures, and convenes roundtable discussions highlighting questions about the intersection of media, communication, and public policy. Its material palette of layered glass and wood complements nearby buildings, while still presenting a modern and open image - a warm transparency. The aluminum and glass curtain wall combined with a second layer of operable wooden screens and fixed single glazing creates a continuous double-skin around the building perimeter, which maintains the transparent nature of the building while enhancing the building's energy performance. A three-story atrium links all the spaces of the building and is crowned with a faceted metal and glass roof, tying the rectangular massing of the building to its surrounding context of sharply peaked roofs.



©Bill Timmerman

6

ANNE D'HARNONCOURT SCULPTURE GARDEN AND PARKING FACILITY (2007)

26th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia
Museum of Art, Philadelphia
215.763.8100 | www.philamuseum.org
Atkin Olshin Schade Architects and Olin Landscape Architects

A new 442-car parking garage and sculpture garden for the Philadelphia Museum of Art is located on a hillside in Fairmount Park. The garage is almost entirely underground with the remainder concealed by landscaped boulder walls constructed to match the original, historic landscape. An elegant glass pavilion marks the pedestrian entry to the garage and sculpture garden. Winding paths provide varied views of the sculptures and landscape and views of the Philadelphia Waterworks and Schuylkill River.

Among the green features are the inclusion of extensive green roofs, the use of areaways to bring air and light deep into the garage, the incorporation of the majority of the boulders excavated from the site into the landscape and the absence of mechanical ventilation.



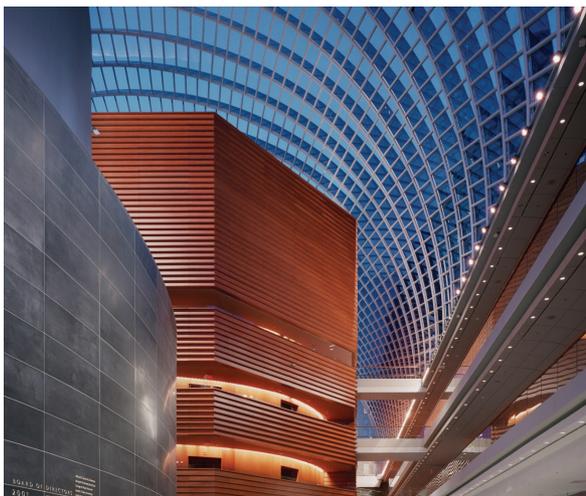
©Peter Aaron/Esto for Robert A.M. Stern

7

COMCAST CENTER (2008)

1701 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Philadelphia
www.libertyproperty.com/comcast.asp
Robert A.M. Stern Architects

This 1.25 million square foot headquarters for the Comcast Corporation rises 58 stories, with typical floor plates ranging between 23,000 and 28,000 gsf. A 975-foot-high faceted obelisk, the tower is clad in silvery high-performance glazing with ultra-clear, low-iron glass at the building's corners and crown. Comcast Center and its south-facing, half-acre plaza straddles the underground tracks and concourse of Suburban Station, Philadelphia's primary commuter rail gateway. A 120-foot-high light-flooded public winter garden connects the concourse with its shops and food hall to the tower and plaza above. The winter garden features a double-skin glass curtain wall with sunscreens and louvers which optimize daylight and views while moderating daily and seasonal thermal performance.



©Jeff Goldberg

8 KIMMEL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (1997-2001)

260 South Broad Street, Philadelphia
215.790.5800 | www.kimmelcenter.org/building
Rafael Viñoly Architects

Rafael Viñoly Architects won the design for this project in a competition, after developing thirteen alternative schemes that explored variations in the placement of halls, lobbies, and event spaces. The firm was tasked with providing a state-of-the-art home for the Philadelphia Orchestra, a flexible theater for multiple types of performances, and a major new public space for the city of Philadelphia. Sited along the Avenue of the Arts cultural corridor on Broad Street, the Kimmel Center also furthers the revitalization of this primary north-south axis in the downtown area. The design treats the main program components as freestanding buildings on vast indoor Commonwealth Plaza, enclosed by a brick, steel, and concrete perimeter building and topped by a large steel-and-glass barrel vault roof that fills the interior with natural light.



©Todd Mason / Halkin

9 SPLIT LEVEL HOUSE (2009)

Northern Liberties Section, Philadelphia
QB3

This newly constructed house stitches itself into the neighborhood by responding to local cues. Curved brick corners negotiate the irregular street grid, while the cadence of typical rowhouses and a palette of brick volumes and stone bases are translated into a new vocabulary. An interior palette of bleached and blackened oak, polished concrete and patinaed steel contrast the rich wood, hammered concrete and brick of the exterior.

The split-level section adapts these traditional elements to a modern language of continuous spaces and vast glazed openings. The split adds definition without the use of physical walls, and activates vertical movement between the floors.

The three-story brick skin wraps the glass-lined interior, forming intimate exterior spaces where the two diverge. A private roof garden, sheltered by the brick skin parapet, extends views from the bedroom to the city skyline beyond.



©Jeff Goldberg / Esto Photography

10 SWARTHMORE COLLEGE SCIENCE CENTER (2004)

500 College Avenue, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania
610.328.8000 | www.swarthmore.edu
Einhorn Yaffee Prescott and Tinmouth Chang Architects

The project transformed isolated departments into a social and intellectual gathering place for the entire campus. The individual science buildings and library are interconnected, creating a series of laboratory blocks, lecture halls, study areas and courtyards. Located at the center of the complex is a commons, its “butterfly” shaped roof inviting everyone from all parts of the campus.

The science center emphasizes the relationship between the built and natural environments and incorporates many sustainable design features including recycled gray water irrigation and special glazing to reduce heat gain and bird impacts.



HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA

A

PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL (1871-1901)
Broad and Market Streets, Center Square, Philadelphia
215.686.2840 | www.phila.gov/virtualch/index.html
John McArthur, Jr

B

MERCER MUSEUM (1915)
East Court Street & Route 313, Doylestown, Pennsylvania
215.348.9461 | www.mercermuseum.org
Henry Mercer

C

FISHER FINE ARTS LIBRARY (1891)
220 South 34th Street, Philadelphia
215.898.8325 | www.library.upenn.edu/finearts
Frank Furness



©David Williams

MODERN CLASSICS

D

BETH SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE (1959)
8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
215.887.1342 | www.bethsholompreservation.org
Frank Lloyd Wright

E

WHARTON ESHERICK HOUSE (1961)
204 Sunrise Lane, Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania
Louis I Kahn

F

RICHARDS MEDICAL CENTER (1960)
H3700-3710 Hamilton Walk, University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia
Louis I Kahn



IN ADDITION

G

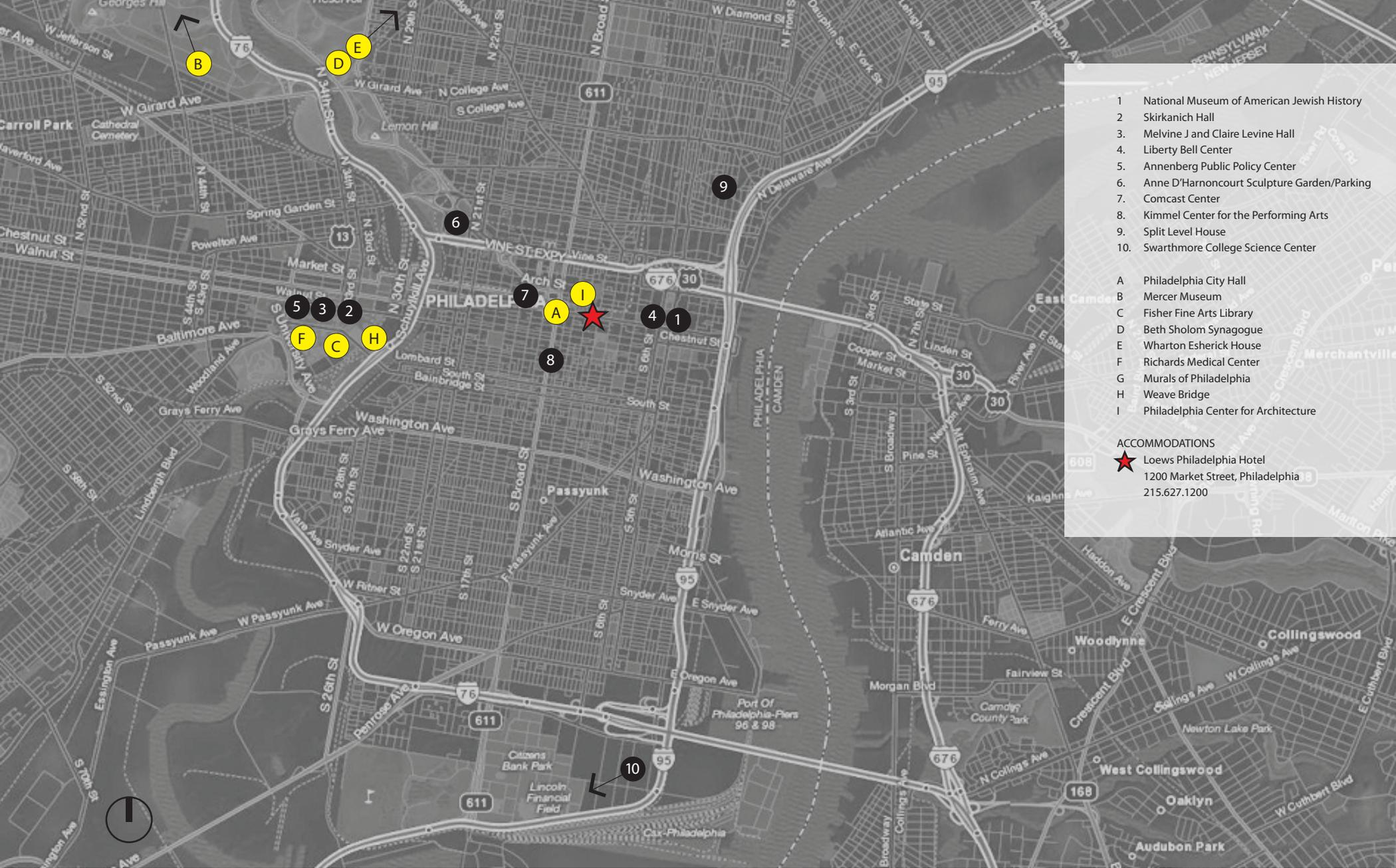
MURALS OF PHILADELPHIA
Philadelphia
215.685.0750 | www.muralarts.org

H

WEAVE BRIDGE (2009)
Over Amtrak rail lines to Hollenback Center, University of
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Cecil Balmond

I

PHILADELPHIA CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE
1218 Arch Street, Philadelphia
215.569.3186 | www.philadelphiacfa.org



- 1 National Museum of American Jewish History
- 2 Skirkanich Hall
3. Melvine J and Claire Levine Hall
4. Liberty Bell Center
5. Annenberg Public Policy Center
6. Anne D'Harnoncourt Sculpture Garden/Parking
7. Comcast Center
8. Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
9. Split Level House
10. Swarthmore College Science Center

- A Philadelphia City Hall
- B Mercer Museum
- C Fisher Fine Arts Library
- D Beth Shalom Synagogue
- E Wharton Esherick House
- F Richards Medical Center
- G Murals of Philadelphia
- H Weave Bridge
- I Philadelphia Center for Architecture

ACCOMMODATIONS
★ Loews Philadelphia Hotel
1200 Market Street, Philadelphia 19107
215.627.1200

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