

**MCA
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MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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MCA DENVER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL RIBA AWARD

Denver, June 13, 2008 – The Museum of Contemporary Art Denver will be awarded a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) International Award June 27, 2008 at the RIBA National and International Awards Dinner in London, UK, where winning designs will be showcased. The RIBA International Awards honor excellent work being done by RIBA members around the world, and replaced the RIBA Worldwide Awards in 2006. RIBA International Awards are given annually for buildings that have high architectural standards and make a substantial contribution to the local environment. The RIBA International Awards are part of RIBA's award program that includes numerous awards, prizes and fellowships. This program has been running continuously since 1966 and RIBA awards are recognized as the UK's most important and selective architectural awards.

Cydney Payton, Executive Director and Chief Curator of MCA DENVER responded to this achievement: "It's an honor for MCA DENVER to be recognized internationally in this high-level arena. Art museums offer a place for exploration and creativity in architecture, and MCA DENVER's unique galleries provide big ideas in small spaces."

This award is David Adjaye's first RIBA International Award, although he has previously received RIBA Awards for The Idea Stores and Rivington Place in London. Other winners of the 2008 RIBA International Award are: the Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH by architecture firm COOP HIMMELB (L) AU, Casa Kike, Cahuita, Costa Rica by architecture firm Gianni Botsford Architects, the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, Toronto, Canada by architecture firm Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects, and the New British High Commission, Kampala, Uganda by architecture firm Cullum & Nightingale Architects.

The RIBA jury praises MCA DENVER, saying:

"The commission – Adjaye's first in the United States – was to design a building that was a) environmentally efficient, b) 'fiscally responsible' (i.e. one that would come in within the tight \$16.3 million budget – it did; and c) and most intriguingly, one that 'supports rather than defines the museum's mission'. Here, clearly, is a client who is not star-struck, for all the international eminence of the architect. Maybe too many arts clients are just that, meaning that the resulting buildings are better billboards than galleries, better at advertising themselves than showing off the art inside.

The emphasis within the 20,000 square feet of exhibition space both indoors and out, is on temporary exhibitions. This is tough for the architect who doesn't know exactly what they are dealing with. The obvious solution is to go for neutral backgrounds and unchallenging spaces, but that is not the Adjaye way. There is a tough materiality to these white and black cubist spaces and timber soffits that can only enhance the art. And rather than adopting a one-size-fits-

all approach, rooms are tailored volumetrically for different media. But it is in the acceptance of light – strong mid-western light at that – that the gallery differs from most. As well as a large T shaped roof light, there are two large south-east facing windows.

Borrowing the practice's London work, at the top of the building is The Idea Box, where children can engage with art and discover it can be fun. Externally the building is all about translucence. The outer layer of double glass skin is grey, the inner clear. Both inner faces are sand-blasted. Inside the glazing is a layer of insulating polypropylene."

MCA DENVER marks David Adjaye's first public building in the U.S. as well as his first contemporary art museum worldwide. Adjaye, founder of Adjaye/Associates in London, was unanimously selected by a 13-person committee from a competitive field of internationally renowned architects. The selection of Adjaye/Associates was made after an extensive public interview process, which attracted nearly 5,000 respondents. Adjaye/Associates' recent projects include the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo and The Idea Store in Whitechapel, London, which was nominated for the 2006 Stirling Prize, and was awarded the RIBA Inclusive Design Award. David Adjaye is widely recognized for collaborating with artists, notably temporary pavilions with Chris Ofili and Olafur Eliasson for the Venice Biennales 2003 and 2005 retrospectively. He also collaborated with Ofili on The Upper Room, now part of the collection at Tate collection and the Asymmetric Chamber, exhibited at the Bohen Foundation, New York, NY in 2005

Currently on View

Yu Cheng Chou
February 19, 2008 – July 6, 2008
New Media Gallery

Jasper de Beijer
March 11, 2008 – August 3, 2008
Paper Works Gallery

Trevor Appleson
April 29, 2008 – August 10, 2008
Photography Gallery

Susanne Kühn
May 27, 2008 – September 21, 2008
Large Works Gallery

Jack Balas
June 3, 2008 – September 7, 2008
Project Gallery

Brad Kahlhamer
June 10, 2008 – November 16, 2008
Promenade Space

About MCA DENVER

Following the European tradition of the *kunsthalle*, MCA DENVER is a non-collecting institution acting as an incubator for art and ideas, artistic exchange and dialogue. As Denver's first institution devoted entirely to contemporary art, MCA DENVER inaugurated its new environmentally sustainable facility designed by David Adjaye on October 28, 2007. The 27,000 square foot space, located in the Lower Downtown area, is on track to receive the distinction of Gold level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The design of the building supports rather than defines the Museum's mission and demonstrates the Museum's commitment to sustainability. MCA DENVER marks David Adjaye's first public building in the U.S. as well as his first contemporary art museum worldwide.

Since opening, MCA DENVER has welcomed over 32,000 visitors to the new building to experience the Museum's exhibition program. Continuing our investment in exhibitions of artworks by local, national and international artists, MCA DENVER has five distinct galleries, three spaces for education, multiple sites for special projects/commissioned works and one live art and lecture hall as potential sites for work in all media. These galleries and spaces have been envisioned as platforms for multi-level curatorial possibilities. The exhibition areas are thus seen as a curatorial rubric for interaction between artists, works of art, curatorial practice and interpretive dialogue.

Location, Hours and Ticket Prices

MCA DENVER is located at 1485 Delgany on the corner of 15th Street and Delgany, DENVER, CO. Tel. (001) 303 298 7554. Museum hours are Tuesday through Thursday 10:00AM to 6:00PM, Friday 10:00AM to 10:00PM and Saturday and Sundays 10:00AM to 6:00PM. The Museum is closed on Mondays. General admission to the Museum is \$10.00, senior and student tickets are \$5.00. MCA DENVER offers \$1 off admission to visitors who come to the Museum via public transportation. Children under the age of 5 are admitted free.

Support

MCA DENVER receives annual support for its exhibitions and programs from members of the Director's and President's Circles, as well as from the following generous supporters at the \$5,000 and above: A.B. Hirschfeld Press, Inc., Caulkins Family Foundation, Colorado Council on the Arts, Compton Foundation, Inc., Connie Burwell White & William W. White Foundation, Continuum Partners, LLC, The Denver Foundation, Gates Corporation, Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, General Service Foundation, The Janus Foundation, KEW Realty, KeyBank, Komorebi, LLC, NSO Press, Riverfront Park Community Foundation, Room & Board, Sage Hospitality Resources, SCFD, St. Mary Land & Exploration Company, Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, Thickman Foundation, Three Tomatoes Catering, and US Bank.

For more information about programs and exhibitions please visit www.mcadenver.org or contact Daniele Robson at (001) 303 298 7554 ex.224 or danieler@mcadenver.org.