



CASE STUDY

Institute for Contemporary Arts at VCU
Richmond, VA



Images courtesy of Iwan Baan.

Dedicated: 2018

Owner: Virginia Commonwealth University

Concrete Supplier: S.B. Cox Ready Mix

Concrete: Cleveland Cement Contractors

Architect: Steven Holl Architects

Structural Engineer: Robert Silman Associates

General Contractor: Gilbane Building Company

The new Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University is itself a work of art. The 41,000 SF facility features three floors of exhibition and programming. The first floor houses a 4,000 SF gallery and concept shop as well as a 240-seat auditorium for film-screenings and performances. Two more galleries can be found on the second floor along with an adaptable 'learning lab'. A final gallery can be found on the third floor and showcases soaring 33-foot high walls. The space was designed to "encourage new ways to display and present art that will capitalize on the ingenuity and creativity apparent throughout the VCU campus". The dramatic, complex slopes that can be seen from outside the Institute were created by using 4500 CYs of 6,000 PSI concrete along with approximately 1000 CY of 110 pcf lightweight mix. Concrete was also used in the foundation, retaining walls and surrounding planters.