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For Immediate Release

Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor wins prestigious building award

The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design 2016 GOOD DESIGN™ Award

(Staten Island, NY – January 23, 2017) The Staten Island Museum, a century long leader in environmental preservation that continues to find innovative ways of connecting communities to art, history, and natural science has been awarded a **2016 GOOD DESIGN™ Award** from the The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design and The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies for the Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor.

Founded in Chicago in 1950, GOOD DESIGN™ remains the oldest, prestigious, and most recognized program for design excellence worldwide. For 2016, the Chicago Athenaeum received submissions from several thousand of the world's leading manufacturers and industrial and graphic design firms from over 55 countries representing the most important and critical mass of influential corporations worldwide in the design industry from over 55 countries.

The Staten Island Museum also received an **Honorable Mention in the 2016 CMAA NY/NJ Project of the Year** and **won the 2016 Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award** in Historical Restoration from The New York Landmarks Conservancy, and **TD Banks Best in Green Award** from the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.

“The Staten Island Museum is honored to have won the 2016 Good Design Award from the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design. It is a testament to the dedication to excellence in design shown by Ralph Appelbaum Associates and Gluckman Tang Architects, as well as the Museum’s Board and Staff. Good design is critical to the success of any institution; because of the design, Museum visitors and staff have an exceptional experience every day,” said David Businelli, Staten Island Museum

The Staten Island Museum was founded in 1881, and is the Staten Island’s oldest cultural institution and the only remaining general interest museum in New York City. The new Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor is located in Building A, one of five 19th-century Greek Revival buildings on the 83-acre campus that has been designated a National Historic Landmark District.

In collaboration with the Staten Island Museum’s staff and curators, designers Ralph Appelbaum Associates master-planned four exhibition spaces, designed the Biodiversity and Treasure Box Galleries, and created the Museum’s wayfinding and exterior signage.

From the design perspective, what made this project unique was that the renovation inserted a 21st-century museum within the walls of a 19th-century building, while keeping intact many original features (windows, staircases, flooring, and decorative details).

The design challenge was to respect the building by providing design interventions that were minimalistic and elegantly organic. The design cues were taken from the building itself, which had been sensitively renovated by Gluckman Tang Architects. Originally a dormitory for retired merchant seamen, the rooms are domestically scaled. Seeking to preserve that intimacy, walls and cases were positioned to allow natural light into the galleries while providing visitors with multiple park views from the building’s many windows.

The [Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor](#) is located on the grounds of Snug Harbor Cultural Center, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Building A, Staten Island, NY 10301.



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About the Staten Island Museum

Founded in 1881 and celebrating its 135th year, the Staten Island Museum, New York City's only general interest museum, engages visitors with interdisciplinary exhibitions and educational programs that explore the dynamic connections between natural science, art, and history based on its diverse collections. The Museum serves over 219,000 adults and school children at the Museum and in the community. Now with two locations on the North Shore of Staten Island – in St. George, two blocks from the Ferry Terminal, visitors can embark on a voyage through time in the Staten Island Ferry exhibit; see rocks glow in the dark in the Hall of Natural Sciences; and experience the lives of Staten Island's first inhabitants. In Building A on the Snug Harbor Campus, visitors can explore the latest exhibitions of World Art, land and seascapes spanning 400 years of Staten Island scenery, a life-sized mastodon emerging through the wall, and how our Island went from farm to city. Staten Island Museum is owned by the City of New York and benefits from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. For current exhibits, visit StatenIslandMuseum.org.