



**PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHIES OF PROJECT PRINCIPALS
NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART EXPANSION INITIATIVE**

LAWRENCE J. WHEELER, Ph. D.

Director, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh NC

Dr. Lawrence J. Wheeler was named director of the North Carolina Museum of Art in October 1994. In the years since, the Museum has become one of the most popular and dynamic centers for the visual and performing arts in the southeastern United States.

During his tenure, Wheeler has presided over the expansion of the landmark Museum park – now the nation's largest, with 164 acres – and has greatly enhanced the Museum's collection of contemporary art while continuing to build on what is considered one of the finest collections of European old master paintings in the Southeast. In 1999 and 2000, Wheeler ushered in an era of the landmark exhibitions at the Museum with the attendance record-breaking surveys *Monet to Moore: The Millennium Gift of Sara Lee Corporation* and *Rodin: Sculpture from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection*. The Rodin exhibition, which attracted over 300,000 people to the Museum, was the cornerstone of Festival Rodin, a Wheeler initiative that became the largest marketing effort for the arts in the history of North Carolina. From October 2004–January 2005, the Museum continued its success with *Matisse, Picasso and the School of Paris*.

Wheeler has guided the Museum in a capital campaign to raise money from public and private sources, including funds for a major building renovation and expansion, and money for art and educational endowments. In 1999, Wheeler helped the Museum to exceed its \$20 million private sector goal a full year ahead of schedule. In 2000, he laid the preliminary plans for the Museum's future, shifting goals from a renovation of the existing Edward Durrell Stone building to construction of a new, path-breaking facility designed exclusively to house and present the institution's permanent collections. In 2005 Wheeler obtained initial commitments of \$15 million from the City of Raleigh and Wake County and \$10 million from the State of North Carolina for this expansion initiative, and in 2006 worked with the State Legislature to obtain an additional \$40 million for the project. This ambitious NCMA expansion initiative is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2006.

In 2005, Wheeler secured a major gift of more than two-dozen Rodin sculptures from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. The works will arrive at the Museum in 2008.

In December 2000, Wheeler was named Tar Heel of the Year (equivalent to North Carolinian of the year) by the *Raleigh News and Observer*, which dubbed him “the godfather of the Triangle’s cultural boom” and cited his skill at melding “arts, politics and commerce into a powerful new cultural force.” In 2001 Wheeler received the prestigious Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters from the French government. He received the City of Raleigh Medal of Arts for 2002.

Prior to joining the NCMA, Wheeler was assistant director and director of development at The Cleveland Museum of Art from 1985-94. Before that, he was deputy secretary of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources from 1977–85, serving as a liaison for building and staffing the new North Carolina Museum of Art. From 1970–74, Wheeler was an assistant professor of European history at Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer, North Carolina.

Wheeler grew up in Lakeland Florida. He holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in History and French from Pfeiffer College, and both a masters of arts and a doctoral degree in European history from the University of Georgia.

THOMAS PHIFER

Principal, Thomas Phifer and Partners, New York NY
Design Architect for the NCMA Expansion Initiative

Founding principal of the New York City-based firm of Thomas Phifer and Partners, New York, architect Thomas Phifer is widely admired for buildings that relate poetically to both the natural and human ecologies of their sites; employ advanced technologies and modes of construction to dictate the appropriate architectural forms, spaces, and effects; and transform their communities by suggesting the sublime.

Born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, in 1953, Phifer has demonstrated his deft abilities with deceptive simplicity in a variety of building types, ranging from corporate headquarters and university buildings, to residences and buildings for art. His firm is now engaged in commissions for notable public and private buildings across the United States. Among these are an ambitious new building and 164-acre campus for the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh; restoration and revitalization of historic Castle Clinton at the Battery, a Lower Manhattan Federal Monument for which Phifer has created a radical new addition for performing arts presentations; the United States Federal Courthouse in Salt Lake City, Utah, which brings challenging new architecture to the city’s historic district; Workstage 001, an environmentally advanced corporate office building for Steelcase, Inc. in Grand Rapids, Michigan; the Arizona State University Gateway Project, a campus-within-a-campus for study and presentation of visual and performing arts; and a number of private residential commissions, including the Taghkanic House in New York, recipient of a PA Award. In 2005, Thomas Phifer and Partners was chosen by the Mayor’s Office of New York City to redesign the streetlights of the city.

Prior to launching his eponymous firm in 1997, Phifer was design partner with the firm of Richard Meier & Partners, New York, where he was responsible for the design of 27 major projects. Among these were the acclaimed Canal Plus Headquarters in Paris and two United States Federal Courthouses—one in Islip, New York, and another in Phoenix, Arizona. He was also designer of the Rachofsky House in Dallas, Texas, now a public trust and private house museum affiliated with the Dallas Museum of Art. Earlier in his career, Phifer was a senior design associate for Gwathmey Siegel and Associated, New York, and practiced with Wolf Associate Architects in North Carolina. He was educated at Clemson University, where he received both BA and MA degrees in architecture.

In 1995, Phifer was recipient of the prestigious Rome Prize in Architecture from the American Academy in Rome, honored with a 1996 residency at the Academy's renowned campus on the Janiculum Hill. During that period, Phifer explored ways to draw the lessons of antiquity—enduring concepts for architecture that are ecologically enlightened, relevant to time and place, animated and dignified—into a 21st-century building language that now characterizes his practice. The influence of this investigation is present in his current work, including the new North Carolina Museum of Art building and reconfigured campus, where landscape and architecture will intermingle to create a place of relevance and purpose.

PETER WALKER

Principal, Peter Walker and Partners, Berkeley CA

Design Landscape Architect for the NCMA Expansion Initiative

Peter Walker grew up in California and attended the University of California at Berkeley, where he received his BS in Landscape Architecture in 1955 before moving on to the University of Illinois to study with celebrated designer Stanley White. Walker attended Harvard University Graduate School of Design, where he received his masters in Landscape Architecture in 1957 and won the school's Weidenman Prize.

At Harvard, Walker was deeply influenced by his professor, Hideo Sasaki, a prominent landscape architect admired for many important projects internationally. Upon finishing his formal education, Walker worked for Sasaki and ultimately formed a partnership – Sasaki and Walker Associates.

Walker formed Peter Walker and Partners in Berkeley, California in 1983 and has developed an acclaimed interdisciplinary firm. Walker co-authored *Invisible Gardens*, an exploration of the modernist movement in America and a comparative study of American landscapes to those in Europe. Peter Walker has received the International Federation of Landscape Architects' Geoffrey Jellicoe Medal, his profession's highest honor.

Exploring the relationship between art and culture, Walker's firm challenges traditional concepts of landscape design, drawing upon knowledge of history, sympathy with contemporary needs, understanding of both conceptual and material processes, mastery of construction, and attention to detail. The office has joined with renowned

architects to create significant projects around the globe. Among these are the Clark Center for Biomedical Engineering and Sciences and the Center for Clinical Science Research (Palo Alto, California) with Norman Foster and Partners; Nishi Harima Science Garden City (Japan) with Arata Isozaki and Associates; the IBM Solana Campus (Westlake/Southlake, Texas) with Mitchell/Giurgola Architects and Ricardo Legorreta Architectos; Toyota Municipal Museum of Art (Japan) with Yoshio Taniguchi and Associates; and the Nasher Foundation Sculpture Center (Dallas, Texas) with Renzo Piano Building Workshop.

Over the years the firm has received many honors and awards and won numerous design competitions, including the World Trade Center Memorial in New York, New York (with Michael Arad); the Novartis St. Johann Campus in Basel, Switzerland; the United States Embassy in Beijing with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; the McConnell Foundation in Redding, California; the Sony Center in Berlin, the Principal Group Corporate Expansion in Des Moines, Iowa, and the Hotel Kempinski in Munich, Germany, all with Murphy/Jahn, Inc.; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Promenade in San Diego; and the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, North Carolina, working in collaboration with Thomas Phifer and Partners.

PEARCE BRINKLEY CEASE + LEE, Raleigh NC
Executive Architect for the NCMA Expansion Initiative

Founded in 1945, the Raleigh-based architecture and interiors firm of Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee is executive architect for the North Carolina Museum of Art expansion. The firm serves a diverse array of public and private clients across the state with a range of services that includes strategic planning, space planning, and programming; urban, architectural, and interior design; project management; and construction administration. Since 1993, a major component of the firm's practice has been the design of college and university facilities, with more than 30 academic projects completed over the past six years. Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee has received recognition in particular for its commitment to advancing the practice of architecture through sustainable design excellence in the southeastern United States. The firm is an active member of the United States Green Building Council and has 19 LEED accredited architects on its professional staff. Among some of the office's key projects are the Raleigh Durham Airport Authority Center; Fayetteville Festival Park Performance Pavilion in North Carolina; Lilly Library Renovation at Duke University; the BTI Performing Arts Center in Raleigh; and the Livermore Library at the University of North Carolina, Pembroke. Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee has received numerous awards and honors, including eight from AIA North Carolina.

LAPPAS + HAVENER, PA, Durham NC
Executive Landscape Architect for the NCMA Expansion Initiative

Lappas + Havener, PA, executive landscape architecture firm for the North Carolina Museum of Art expansion, is a 14-person landscape architecture firm based in Durham,

NC. The firm specializes in the design of public places and is known for its excellence in master planning and site design for museums, universities, corporations, healthcare facilities and civic spaces. Founded in 1993 by Bob Lappas and Walt Havener, Lappas + Havener, PA has developed a record of successful projects throughout North Carolina and the southeastern United States, through commitment to craft, service, and quality. With the belief that design can be both functional and uniquely meaningful, Lappas + Havener, PA tailors each project to the client's vision. A primary focus of the design work at the firm is creation and enhancement of the academic environment. Among clients in this realm are the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; University of North Carolina Greensboro; Duke University; North Carolina School of the Arts; and North Carolina State University. The firm has also received recognition for its accomplishments in developing and perfecting the conditions and atmosphere of the sites for museums, centers for the visual and performing arts, and civic spaces, including the Charlotte Afro-American Cultural Arts Center, the Durham Performing Arts Center and the BTL Performing Arts Center. Recent and current projects include the Ericsson Research Facility and Study Garden at the Ericsson Sony campus in Research Triangle Park; the West Village urban revitalization in Durham; North Carolina Psychiatric Hospital; Duke University Perkins Library in Durham; and the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville.

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