

Storage

FOR MUSEUMS

MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM IMPROVES EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY WITH MOBILE SYSTEMS

When the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin set out to design a new building addition, a principal goal was to create a new artistic identity for the museum. The result is the architectural wonder known as the Santiago Calatrava-designed Quadracci Pavilion, a new Milwaukee icon that has attracted a half million visitors since opening in 2001.

The expanded Milwaukee Art Museum features expansive galleries for traveling exhibits, an invitingly attractive museum store and restaurant and other open spaces designed to create an impressive ambiance.

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MAM Conservator

As the Quadracci Pavilion was constructed, the Milwaukee Art Museum also expanded and renovated its existing permanent galleries and reorganized its permanent collection. MAM conservator Jim DeYoung said Spacesaver's mobile storage systems played a key role in the museum's construction process and significantly enhances the institution's ability to add to its collections.

"We've worked with Spacesaver since the 1980s for our storage needs for our print and sculpture collections," DeYoung said. "However, since the Quadracci Pavilion expansion project began, major gifts of collections in 19th and 20th century prints, photography, folk art, and paintings ranging from Renoir to O'Keeffe have placed a greater demand on existing storage spaces. We are meeting these demands with additional high-density storage systems."

During construction, a new print study room was created, utilizing an older Spacesaver mechanical assist mobile system and a new system of flat files and shelving to house the growing collections of lithographs, silk screen prints and etchings. Another mobile system was carefully placed under a



The MAM expansion project provided the museum an opportunity to improve storage methods using Spacesaver mobile storage systems.



Solved



staircase to house large decorative objects, while another system was added to store small objects.

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"We were able to consolidate a number of smaller storage spaces," DeYoung added. "The high-density system helped us improve the overall organization and safety of our storage."

DeYoung said he particularly likes the broad-based experience of Spacesaver staff. "The sales people also have architectural training, so they offer a planning perspective with all the details and that helps us utilize all possible space."

In addition to space utilization, DeYoung notes that the mobile storage systems also provide museum-standard protection and security,

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High-density systems helped to improve collection organization and safety.