

# Städel Museum with walk-on roof

Interior Acoustics

**Project.** Founded in 1815 and named after its benefactor, the Städel Museum today houses over 2900 paintings, 600 sculptures, 500 photographs, and around 100,000 drawings and graphic reproductions. These date from the Middle Ages to the present day and give an overview of European art history. Among the many highlights here are works by Cranach and Dürer, as well as Monet, Picasso, and Richter. Now the time has come for contemporary art to have a framework of its own.

**Concept/Design.** The framework needed was one consideration and the functioning of a modern museum the other. In this way, the 3000 m<sup>2</sup> extension came into being. This consists of a rectangular "steel and concrete box" buried in the ground with free-formed "tops" breaking through the surface. The new exhibition hall of the museum lies beneath the garden where the Städel is situated, and the green roof area ensures there is a garden attached to

the museum complex. What is particularly stunning about the extension is the soft, gentle light which falls onto the light floor of the 55 x 47.6 m exhibition hall through the 195 circular skylights.

**Construction.** A shade system with solar protection blinds and two pieces of light-diffusing and acoustically active PVDF fabric in each skylight make it possible to control the direct rays of light. The shell of the ceiling is vaulted in the center by means of twelve dome-shaped inner supports. The exhibition area is illuminated naturally through glass apertures between 1.5 and 2.5 meters in diameter. At night, the walk-on skylights create a magical carpet of lights. Since this spectacular museum extension opened to the public in February 2012, visitors have had access to works by major contemporary artists; among them leading lights from the German art world such as Kiefer, Baselitz, Lüpertz, and Richter.

**Project/Location:** Städel Museum Frankfurt am Main, Germany,  
[www.staedelmuseum.de](http://www.staedelmuseum.de)  
[www.das-neue-staedel.de](http://www.das-neue-staedel.de)

**Architect:** Schneider+Schumacher, Frankfurt, Germany, [www.schneider-schumacher.de](http://www.schneider-schumacher.de)

**Engineering:** B+G Ingenieure/Bollinger and Grohmann GmbH, Frankfurt, Germany, [www.bollinger-grohmann.de](http://www.bollinger-grohmann.de)

**Assembly/Implementation:** Typico Megaprints GmbH & Co. KG, Lochau, Austria, [www.typico.com](http://www.typico.com)

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Architecture  
**Interior / Exterior**

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