

Expanding a Philip Johnson landmark to create a center for scholars

Location: New York, New York

Area: 25,000 sf

Budget: \$3,100,000

Completed: 2002

After acquiring the 12-foot-wide Victorian brownstone adjoining its classic 1958–60 Philip Johnson headquarters (originally the Asia Society), the Russell Sage Foundation enlisted Fradkin & McAlpin to marry the modern with the Victorian and to turn its acquisition into scholars' studies with a warm, residential feel. At the same time, a single-story addition was created at the rear of the townhouse to accommodate a skylighted conference room and seminar center opening onto a small walled garden. The Johnson building's entry lobby was returned to its original modernist style, and a complementary transitional

cherrywood reception desk and book display added.

Key details

- > Devised a quietly elegant design that bridges Victorian and modern settings
- > Handled programming and space planning for 25,000 square feet
- > Managed an intricate construction schedule tied to the academic year
- > Secured approvals from multiple agencies to join the buildings and expand their footprint
- > Incorporated accessibility, modern engineering systems, and IT into a tight envelope

