

Designed for Space

Museum of Contemporary Art
Cleveland, Ohio

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Utilizing space at Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland

Designed by Iranian-born architect Farshid Moussavi of London, England, the cutting-edge museum provides, for artists and visitors, a spacious environment that fosters creativity and interest in programs and exhibitions.

The Challenge

The 34,000-square-foot museum is visually stunning, utilitarian, and inventive, rising 60 feet from a hexagonal base to a square top, where the primary exhibition space is located. Because the entire space was designed for environmental and fiscal sustainability, even the restrooms had to be designed with these factors in mind. All four floors contain areas for either exhibitions or public programs and have four restrooms collectively. 65,000 people per year visit the museum for various functions; naturally, every element of the plumbing system had to be tough, reliable, and water-efficient.

A flexible floor plan for art exhibits was not the only space requirement: space for accessibility in the restrooms was another key challenge. Standard, exposed flush valves not only occupy needed space in the restroom; they can also create an obstacle or even a hazard for visitors with special needs. And, of course, any restroom must be comfortable and accessible for the widest possible range of people. Designing the museum for space and neglecting space needs in the restroom would be counterproductive.

Adding a final layer of complexity, MOCA was built under strict budget rules and designed to meet LEED® standards in reducing environmental impact. This meant using construction methods that produced a healthy and stable indoor environment and plumbing that reduced the use of potable water by 30 percent.



The Solution

The Geberit in-wall toilet system was the answer not only to space savings and contemporary design; it also addressed environmental design criteria such as LEED® requirements. Concealing the flush valve inside the wall removes it as an obstacle and “opens up” the restroom for a designer look. The flexible, adjustable Geberit system allows the toilet to be mounted at just the right height, meeting accessibility and comfort requirements for a broad range of different visitors.

“The concealed tank,” according to Jim Roddy Jr., Project Manager for Northern Ohio Plumbing and installer of the Geberit system, “is a one-piece, integrated gravity flush tank made of high-density polyethylene. Each tank is individually leak-tested for reliability and reinforced to prevent collapse. We look at details like this, not only as a point of differentiation for our customers, but to know that the designs stand up to use.”

To save additional costs the in-wall system had to be easy to install. According to Roddy, the Geberit system easily fit this requirement. “We installed thirteen Geberit in-wall systems into MOCA. After a brief learning curve, the installation went smoothly. Once you do a couple it’s easy, even the rough-in takes no more time than a traditional install,” explains Roddy.

For a designer, the real beauty of an in-wall system is the clean, simple look. Once it’s installed, the only visible element of the in-wall system is the stylish flush plate.

The flush plate is the “window” into the Geberit system, providing access to all working parts should simple maintenance ever be needed.

Geberit’s in-wall systems helped MOCA obtain the LEED® silver certification. Geberit’s own program “Care in the Square” creates sustainable quality of life with innovative water management, comprehensive know-how, and a strong focus on sustainability across all Geberit products, sectors, and processes. The dual-flush in-wall system maximizes water efficiency with aesthetically pleasing detail. By providing a small flush of 0.8 gpf (3 lpf) for liquids and a full flush of 1.6 gpf (6 lpf), the Geberit system allows facilities like MOCA to achieve a 33% water savings compared to 1.6 gpf flushing only. Many Geberit toilet system and wall-hung toilet combinations are WaterSense® listed, indicating they have been certified to be at least 20% more efficient without sacrificing performance.

Designing for human diversity makes things easier for all people to use. Because they accommodate the widest range of human abilities, in-wall toilet systems are a clearly superior choice when it comes to accessibility in toilet compartments.

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