

## MCA DENVER POSITION STATEMENT

Cydney Payton, September 05, 2007

The new MCA DENVER is an activator, content provider and immediate research vehicle of culture in the making—a Museum without a front door—a place for public engagement.

Taking a radical departure from recent trends in architecture for museums, MCA DENVER focused the process and design intent for our new building directly on our purpose—to present art of our time. After an extensive and public review of candidates, David Adjaye of Adjaye Associates, UK was selected to design a museum for MCA DENVER to support, rather than define our mission. The entire project is artistically and environmentally innovative.

In the evolution of the American kunsthalle *the building* has largely been envisioned as a flexible space. MCA DENVER turns this vision inside out by suggesting that the building be a series of modular intimate spaces. The galleries are designed for accord between artist and viewer through an architectural program that brings light and mindfulness to the fore. MCA DENVER's Conceptual Brief outlines a program of desired relational aesthetics: Art/Experience; Architecture/Space; Humanity/Knowledge; Landscape/Transition; and Light/Spirit.

The educational philosophy, which MCA DENVER calls *MI 5*, utilizes five of Howard Gardner's (Professor of Cognition and Education at Harvard University) eight intelligences to create dynamic points of entry into the ideas within contemporary art. MCA DENVER's program for the building insures that art, space and perception intertwine to accommodate these varied learning styles and methodologies.

Continuing our investment in exhibitions of artworks by Colorado, national and international artists, MCA DENVER has five distinct galleries, three spaces for education, multiple sites for special projects/commissioned works and one live art and lecture hall as potential sites for work in all media. These galleries and spaces have been envisioned as platforms for multi-level curatorial possibilities. The exhibition areas are thus seen as a curatorial rubric for interaction between artists, works of art, curatorial practice and interpretive dialogue.

The new MCA DENVER galleries perform in a rotation sequence that allows the Museum to always remain in an active state thus offering something new to be seen upon each return visit. The hope is that the new MCA DENVER will excite artists and visitors alike to enter into creative conversations that extend beyond our walls.