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Glenstone Museum

# Glenstone Museum Water Feature Design

Potomac, Maryland



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*A museum's central water features meet the highly modern aesthetic while using a constructed wetland to biologically filter harvested rainwater from its rooftops.*

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## **SERVICES**

Engineer & Design  
Infrastructure  
Water

**S**ince 1945, the Glenstone Estate and Museum has established a world-class collection of post-World War II artwork. The power of this art, along with the energy of Glenstone's architecture and the restorative quality of its rural, 230-acre landscape, are considered to be integral parts of the museum experience.

When Glenstone sought to expand in order to accommodate their growing collection, they turned to Thomas Phifer and Partners, who designed the addition called The Pavilions. The 240,000 square foot expansion comprises several rooms connected by a glass-enclosed passage surrounding a courtyard.

Biohabitats worked with the design team, including PWP Landscape Architecture, to create an 18,000 square foot center piece water court. The water feature, which is fed by rainwater harvested from the museum's rooftops, supports seasonally changing plant life, also provides a provocative link between the natural and built environment. The constructed wetland employs both biological and conventional filtration processes to keep the pond water clean. Planted gravel beds in the feature serve as biofilters through which the water is recirculated, while bead filters and an ozone injection system provide additional treatment in the mechanical room below. In 2024, the museum achieved LEED Gold certification.