



VIRGINIA CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE

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Virginia Center for Architecture Receives \$90,000 Challenge Grant to Restore Historic Windows

RICHMOND, VA JULY 1, 2010 — The Virginia Center for Architecture announced today that it has received a \$90,000 challenge grant by the Robert G. Cabell III and Maude Morgan Cabell Foundation to restore the leaded-glass windows in its largest gallery, the Great Hall. Age has caused the windows' lead frames, which hold the characteristic rectangular- and diamond-shaped panes in place, to buckle. In some cases, the panes have cracked or come away from the frames. Without restoration, the gallery will become unusable.

"The foundation is pleased to support the Virginia Center for Architecture," says Jill McCormick, executive director of the Cabell Foundation. "Our objective is to create permanent cultural assets and to help non-profits leverage support from within the community."

The Center's home, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is a Tudor-Revival mansion designed by John Russell Pope, FAIA. Pope, a renowned architect, also designed the Jefferson Memorial and the National Gallery of Art, both in Washington, D.C., as well as Richmond's Broad Street Station, now the Science Museum of Virginia. The house was completed in 1919 for Virginia's prominent Branch Family.

The funded repairs, which include a two-story bay window and several smaller windows, are just one element of a much larger restoration project. Restoring the historic windows will cost an estimated \$500,000 and the Center is working with stained- and leaded-glass conservator Scott Taylor, who recently restored a Tiffany window for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, to bring its windows back to their original condition.

"This is really a restoration and conservation project," says Taylor. "We'll remove the windows, and return them to my studio. The steel frames will be completely restored and we'll perform a total re-leading of the windows. All the original glass will be retained — even broken pieces are conserved." After the work has been completed in Taylor's studio, the windows will be returned to the Center and installed. "It means so much more to me to put life back into these beautiful old windows, than to fabricate new ones," Taylor said.

"We're thrilled by the Cabell Foundation's support," says Ginger Bower, the Center's president and executive director. "A challenge grant like this matches, dollar-for-dollar, every gift up to \$90,000. Work like this can take six months or more," she continues. "Repairs to the windows in the Great Hall are critical. We're hoping to meet the match over the summer, so work can begin this fall."

The **Virginia Center for Architecture** is located at 2501 Monument Avenue in Richmond, Virginia's historic Fan District. The Center is dedicated to developing the understanding of the power and importance of architecture through programs, exhibitions, and its stewardship of an historic landmark. The Center is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Learn more at www.virginiaarchitecture.org.

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