



A Site of the
**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**

For Immediate Release

The Restoration of the Glass House Sculpture Gallery 2015 – 2016



Photos of Sculpture Gallery circa 1970 by Horst Hahn

Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope® continues their ongoing commitment to architecture and the arts with their support of the restoration of the Sculpture Gallery, one of 14 structures of The Glass House, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This project marks the largest and most complex preservation project at The Glass House to date and is the latest in a long-standing partnership between Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope® and The Glass House. “As a company that has played an important role in some of North America’s most prominent architectural projects, we are delighted to support this restoration project, which furthers our mission to support cultural institutions and projects with imagination, ingenuity, and vision, creating environments conducive to innovation and thought leadership. The Glass House is a shining example of this.” —Ted Hathaway, Chief Executive Officer of Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope®

Completed in 1970, Philip Johnson designed the Sculpture Gallery to house his growing sculpture collection. Inspired, in part, by the Greek islands and their many villages marked by stairways.



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Johnson remarked that in these villages, “every street is a staircase to somewhere.” The building’s plan comprises a series of squares set at 45-degree angles to each other. Staircases spiral down past a series of bays, which contain sculptures in the following visual sequence: Michael Heizer, Robert Rauschenberg, George Segal, John Chamberlain, Frank Stella, Bruce Nauman, Robert Morris, and Andrew Lord.

A tubular steel skeleton from which a cold cathode lighting system is suspended supports the building’s aluminum and glass skylight. Sunny conditions reveal an extremely complex pattern of light and shadow in the building’s interior five levels. The structure so pleased Johnson that he seriously considered moving his residence from the Glass House to the Sculpture Gallery. However, he did not, stating, “Where would I have put the sculpture?”

The complete restoration of the Sculpture Gallery began on May 6 and will take approximately ten months to complete. The project architect is Philip Johnson Alan Ritchie Architects and the prime contractor is Nicholson & Galloway, Inc.

The scope of the project includes the removal and replacement of a complete skylight roof system of glass set in anodized aluminum extrusions; the preparation and painting of structural steel; the replacement of a cold-cathode lighting system and refurbishment of electric heat units. An optional scope includes sub-grade waterproofing, and inspection and museum-quality painting of interior and exterior walls of the brick structure.

About Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope®:

Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope® is the leading supplier of products specified to close the building envelopes, including custom-engineered curtain wall and window wall, architectural windows, storefront systems, doors, and skylights. Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope® is a subsidiary of CRH plc, one of the world’s top five international building products companies.

About The Glass House:

The Glass House, built between 1949 and 1995 by architect Philip Johnson, is a National Trust Historic Site located in New Canaan, CT. The pastoral 49-acre landscape comprises fourteen structures, including the Glass House (1949), and features a permanent collection of 20th-century painting and sculpture, along with temporary exhibitions. The campus serves as a catalyst for the preservation and interpretation of modern architecture, landscape, and art; and a canvas for inspiration and experimentation, honoring the legacy of Philip Johnson (1906 –2005) and his partner, David Whitney (1939 –2005). The tour season runs from May to November and advance reservations are required.



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The National Trust for Historic Preservation (www.PreservationNation.org) is a privately funded nonprofit organization that works to save America's historic places to enrich our future, reimagining historic sites for the 21st century. The guiding principle of this initiative is that historic sites must be dynamic, relevant, and evolving in order to foster an understanding of history and culture that is critical, sensory, and layered.

Visitor Information:

The Glass House Visitor Center and Design Store
199 Elm Street, New Canaan, CT 06840

Open Thursday – Monday, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$30, including tour of the site.

For general information, please call 203.594.9884 or visit the Glass House online:

www.theglasshouse.org

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