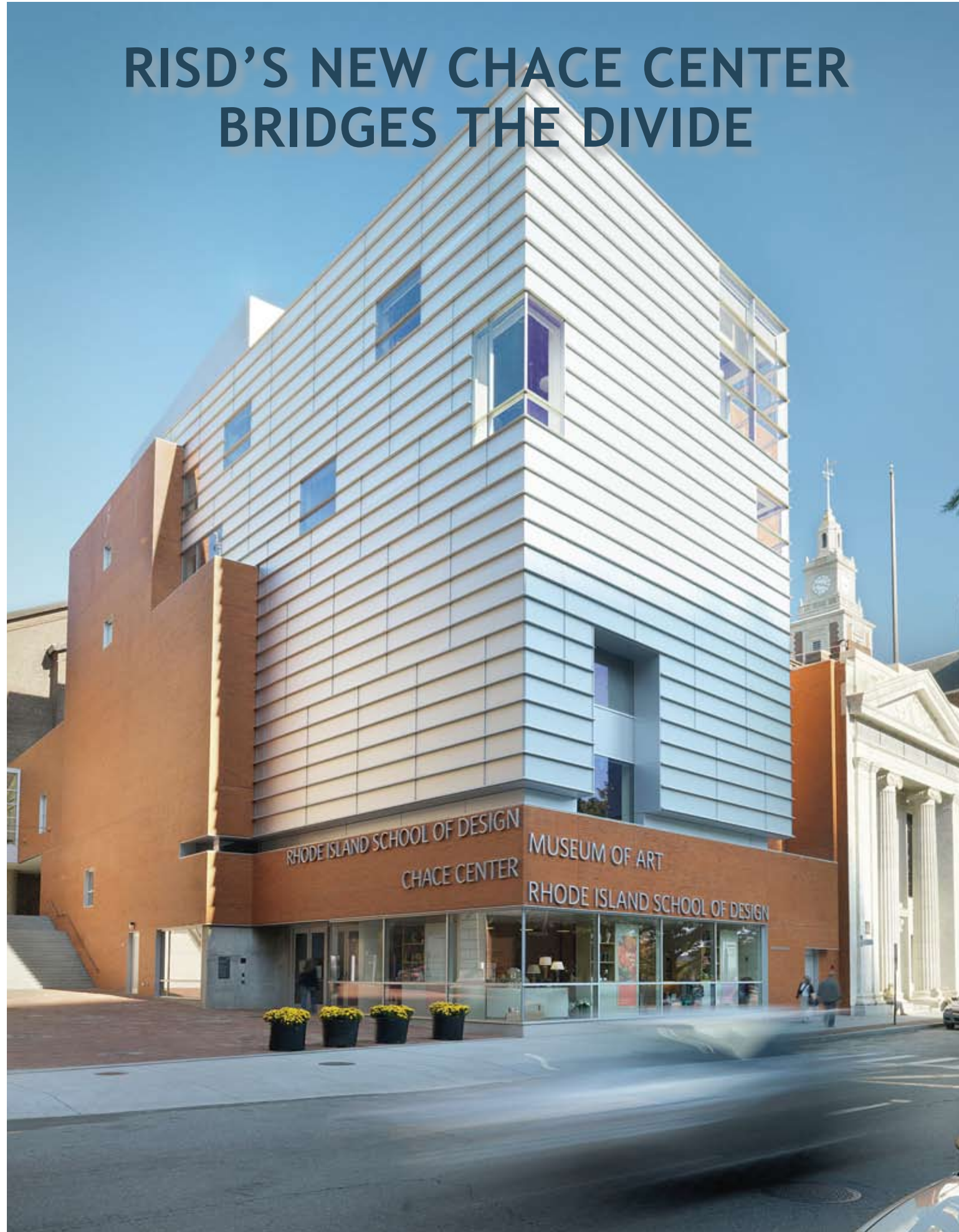


RISD'S NEW CHACE CENTER BRIDGES THE DIVIDE



The long-awaited Chace Center at the Rhode Island School of Design opened to the public on September 27, adding 43,000 square feet of sophisticated, mixed-use space to bridge key areas of RISD's eclectic campus with the public arena of Providence's Market Square.

The Chace Center
North Main Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect José Rafael Moneo, the five-story, LEED certified facility offers the entire community much-needed programming and educational space to be shared by the RISD Museum, risd|works, The Minskoff Center for Prints, Drawings and Photographs, the new Gelman Student and Dryfoos Student Media Galleries, and expanded office, studio and classroom facilities.

Serving as a new front door to the RISD Museum, the ground level houses an airy visitor reception area, adjacent to the relocated risd|works retail store, now offering café service alongside a range of consumer products designed by RISD faculty and alumni. Easily accessible during the museum's off-hours, the 210-seat Metcalf Auditorium affords crucial presentation and event space to benefit both the RISD community and greater Providence.

Offering a broader range of public programming, the second and third levels house, respectively, the new student-run Gelman and Dryfoos Student Media Galleries; and, a 6,152 square foot total expansion of the RISD Museum's special exhibition space.

Architectural underpinnings explore the community impact of opening interior space to exterior views, with low-iron, "water clear" glass windows punctuating the red brick façade at unexpected depths and locations. These windows and a glass-walled passage bridging the old and new wings of the RISD Museum offer lively vistas of the world outside, overlooking new public gathering places created where the Chace Center intersects with its surrounding architecture.

Elevating institutional accomplishments through inclusive curation, Moneo has incorporated several designs by RISD students and alumni into the facility's final detailing. Selections include a custom font used for newly branded building signage, outdoor furniture installed on Moore Terrace, and the Metcalf Auditorium's seating fabric and podium.

RISD has a reputation for offering an elite educational experience to top creative talent – and, for taking care of its own. [Case in point, the well-touted inaugural exhibition "Chihuly at RISD," highlighting the career of former RISD faculty member and alumnus Dale Chihuly in the RISD Museum's expanded exhibition space.] While this legacy clearly shows in the impressive presence of the Chace Center, a fresh opportunity for greater community connection is the true promise of this new, Providence landmark.

Meredith Cutler

Whistler House Museum of Art



Groce by Cathleen Leavitt
Pastel Pleasures at the WHMA



Spring Colors Three / Fort Hill Park by Pamela Warnala
Pastel Pleasures at the WHMA



Picking Wildflowers by Shaunna Smith
Pastel Pleasures at the WHMA

Annual Juried Members Exhibition
Nov 5 - Dec 31, 2008
Reception: Nov 15, 2-4 pm

Pastel Pleasures
Jan 14 - Feb 28, 2009
Reception: Jan 24, 2-4 pm



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