

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Michael C. Carlos Museum

Museum Storage Solutions on Exhibit at Emory University

CHALLENGE

Emory University's Michael C. Carlos Museum submitted a budget request to the university's administration to upgrade storage capacity at its off-site location in order to better house its growing collection. Several years passed before the budget was awarded, during which time rising costs threatened to limit the plan's full implementation.

"Volume-wise, this facility represents about half to two-thirds of the total collection," said Todd Lamkin, the museum's director of collections services and chief registrar. *"There*

are pieces here from every single one of our collection areas, except the prints and drawings collection, which all live at the main facility."

Knowing full well that collection donations can sometimes number as many as 500 items at a time, setting up the full complement of new shelving would be paramount in the quest to "be ready" – not only to house current pieces, but future acquisitions, as well. The plan was sound, but it looked as though concessions would need to be made.

SOLUTION

At about the same time, across campus, Emory's Woodruff Library was undergoing a renovation of its own. Following the way of so many modern university libraries, Woodruff was culling its physical number of 4-post shelving units in an effort to open up space for collaboration and study. Bound for the recycler, the older shelving caught the attention of Patterson Pope Account Representative Dick Beery.

"I knew about Emory's commitment to green initiatives and recognized the opportunity to re-purpose a lot of that shelving," he said. *"The dimensions were about the same as what Todd was looking for, and I suspected that by using them, Todd would be able to get everything he wanted from his initial plan."*

The new high-density system has a footprint that is approximately 900 square feet, which includes four 32' Mechanical Assist moveable carriages and two stationary ranges with the

option of adding two more moveable carriages in the future. Another goal reached was adding eight 96" x 36" sections of RaptorRAC Wide-Span Shelving to be used for a wide variety of purposes – such as taking in new collections and temporally storing large objects. The re-purposed shelving was then added and used to house smaller items from across the collections. Using older – but still dependable – Spacesaver products saved money for Lamkin and the Michael C. Carlos Museum and made eminent sense.

"It really became a much more feasible option," said Lamkin. *"In so doing, we were able to preserve the overall footprint and design that we had hoped to install in the first place – and we did it within our same budget. It was a real win."*

“We’ve been very happy with Patterson Pope as a partner. Relationships are important to them as a company, and that kind of thing shows. It’s appreciated, definitely.”

Todd Lamkin

Director of Collections Services and Chief Registrar

Michael C. Carlos Museum

ACHIEVEMENT

Todd Lamkin admits that museum storage presents a number of unique challenges. Among them is that it’s a space in which it is a little more difficult to maximize cubic feet. Curators each want to be able to make some decisions about the arrangement of their collections. For example, “these five pieces have to go with these five pieces,” etc. Being able to install the wide-span shelving according to the original plan (about 1,300 cubic feet) was a big win. The mix of high-density re-purposed shelving and

new Spacesaver wide-span shelving provides the Michael C. Carlos Museum with plenty of room to house collections as diverse as they are beautiful.

“We’ve been very happy with Patterson Pope as a partner. Relationships are important to them as a company, and that kind of thing shows. It’s appreciated, definitely,” added Lamkin.

We’re happy to put our work on exhibit.

