

# Thompson Exhibition Building



## *Inspired by the Sea*

Centerbrook was commissioned to design an exhibition building for Mystic Seaport iconic of the institution's mission as the Museum of America and the Sea. Specific goals were to:

- Provide a state of the art exhibition space.
- Appeal to a public accustomed to remarkable museums.
- Position Mystic Seaport for the 21st century.
- Evoke Mystic Seaport's identity at a structural level.
- Celebrate the craft of wooden shipbuilding.
- Strengthen winter season vitality.

Centerbrook's design draws upon the Geometry of the Sea as seen in such phenomena as the form of marine animals, the crashing of waves, sails filled with wind and the structure of wooden ship hulls.



*The exposed glue-laminated timber structure evokes the hull of a wooden ship.*



*The rolling roof design is symbolic of a crashing wave.*



*Elements of the ship building process are seen in the porch's bracketed columns, reminiscent of wooden shores and poppets.*

# Centerbrook Architects & Planners

*Helping Shape Connecticut's Cultural Future*



Connecticut River Museum



Florence Griswold Museum



Garde Arts Center



Eugene O'Neill Theater Center

Established in 1975, Centerbrook Architects and Planners is located in Centerbrook, Connecticut. The firm designs buildings for clients nationwide, among them civic and arts organizations, colleges and universities, independent schools, businesses, and religious congregations. Centerbrook has designed new museums and has expanded existing ones for clients ranging from small institutions, such as the Connecticut River Museum, to the Norton Museum, the largest art museum in Florida. In addition to its work at Mystic Seaport, Centerbrook has helped shape the future of other eastern Connecticut cultural institutions, including: the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, and the Garde Arts Center in New London.

## Seaport Design Team

Chad Floyd, Partner in Charge  
Chuck Mueller, Project Manager  
Sue Wyeth  
David Petersen  
Aaron Emma  
Andrew Santaniello  
Dan Batt  
Jim Coan  
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