



VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING

The Veterans Memorial Building in Cedar Rapids was severely damaged in a catastrophic thousand-year flood that struck the city in 2008. Located on May's Island, in the middle of the Cedar River, the 110,000 square foot, civic building suffered damage to nearly 70% of its structure and interior. Alt Architecture was hired by the Cedar Rapids Veterans Commission to restore the building and reprogram the interior. The project converted what had been—by turns—the city hall, government offices, chamber of commerce, and an auditorium that had been abandoned for seven years prior to the flood into a thriving building focused on providing healing spaces (as well as economic generators) for Veterans, and public spaces available for community use.

The building's entry features a stunning stained glass memorial window by Grant Wood, measuring 20'x24'. The only stained glass window by Wood, the window is dominated by a woman (described by some as the allegory for the Republic, Peace and Victory, or Mourning), in the center, and under her, fields of corn and soldiers from the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the American Civil War, and World War 1 (of which Wood was himself a Veteran).

The new building houses a military museum, a fully restored auditorium with seats for 2,000, a conference center with spaces specifically designed for Veteran peer mentoring and therapeutic workshops, offices for behavioral and physical therapy for Veterans, a food pantry for homeless Veterans, a ballroom, a restaurant, a serving kitchen that can cater to 500 guests, and offices. The building's mechanical, electric, and plumbing systems were all replaced as well—some replacing original elements from the 1930s.



Building during 2008 flood



ADA ramp to parkade



Parkade lawn



Aerial view of building site



New generator building



View toward city hall from parkade lawn



ALT ARCHITECTURE + RESEARCH ASSOCIATES LLC

213 W. INSTITUTE PLACE, SUITE 512 CHICAGO, IL 60610
P: 312.265.0166 F: 312.929.2576 aaplusr.com

Veteran's Memorial Building | Cedar Rapids, IA | Completed April 2014



Memorial room/ Grant Wood window during opening ceremony



Auditorium: before



Auditorium: after



Renovated auditorium during first public event



Auditorium: before



Auditorium: after



Renovated armory during first public event



Armory corridor: before



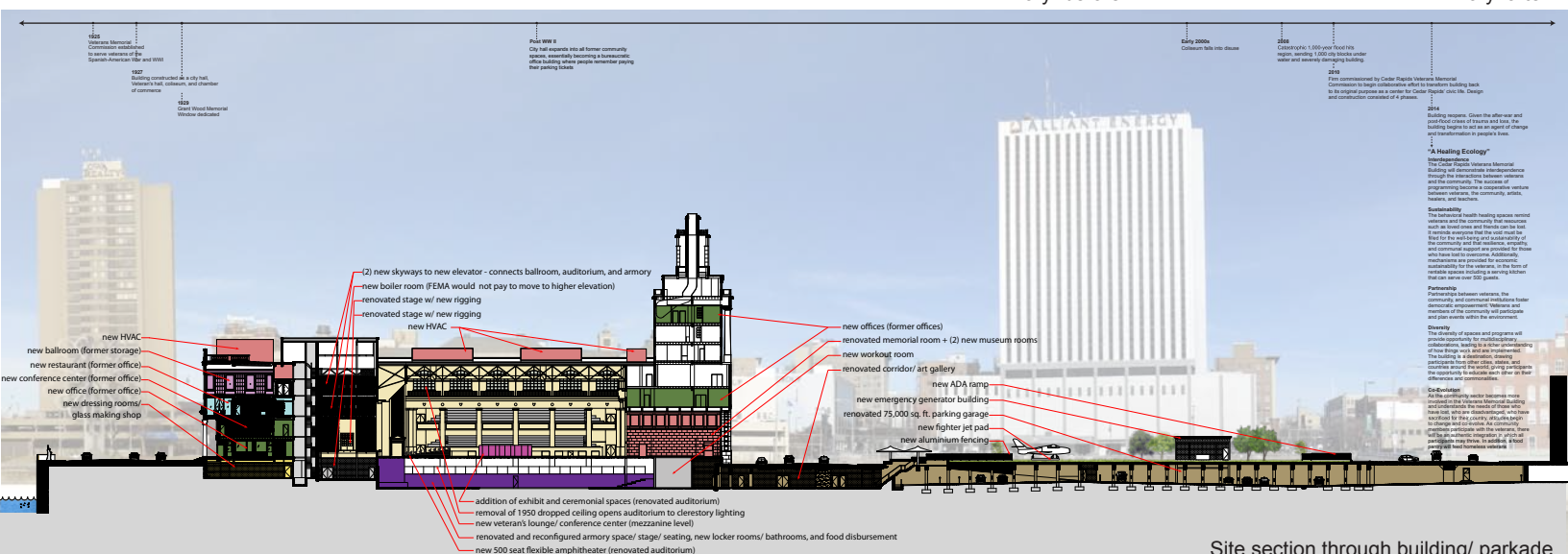
Armory corridor: after



Armory: before



Armory: after





Restaurant/ cafe bar



Ballroom (storage): before



Ballroom: after



North tower lobby: before



North tower lobby: after



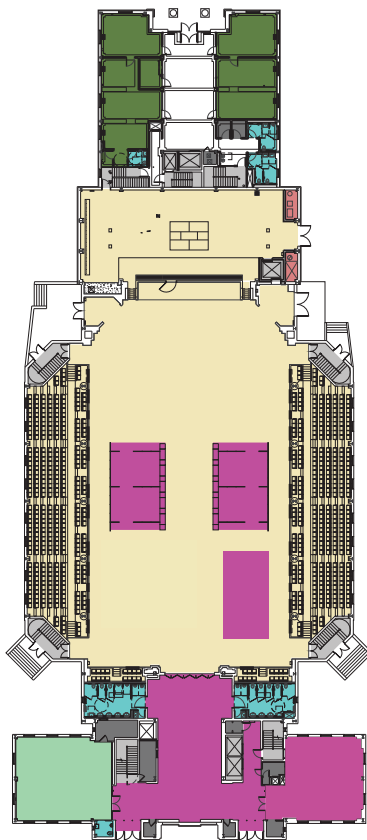
Restaurant VIP dining area



Conference rooms (mezzanine level): before



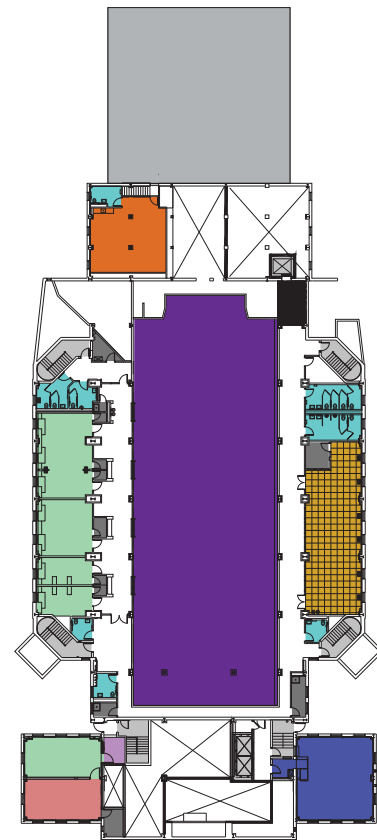
Conference rooms: after



Level 1 floor plan

Key	
New Ballroom	New Dressing Rooms
Renovated Armory	New Veterans Lounge
New Conference & Behavioral Therapy Rooms	New Staff Break Room
New Offices	New Toilet Rooms
Memorial Hall/ -Exhibit Spaces	New and Renovated Circulation
Renovated Auditorium and Stage	Storage & Janitorial
Renovated Parkade	New Mechanical/ Electrical Spaces
New Restaurant	New Veterans Physical Therapy

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Basement/ mezzanine level floor plan



Memorial room during opening ceremony



Auditorium stage with American flag



Restaurant/ cafe bar space



Conference/ behavioral therapy space



Conference/ behavioral therapy space



Memorial room/ Grant Wood window during opening ceremony



Grant Wood window during opening ceremony



Rennovated armyory during first public event



Rennovated auditorium during first public event

