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The Museum for African Art is the first new museum to be constructed in nearly fifty years on the Museum Mile of Fifth Avenue. This permanent home in Upper Manhattan serves as a gateway to the arts and cultures of Africa and the African Diaspora while linking the diverse communities of Harlem with the most prominent of arts corridors. The 75,000 square foot program in a four story structure at the base of a new 19 story residential tower is organised around a 50 foot high wood lined lobby area facing Central Park. From this 5,000 square foot lobby which also serves as an informal exhibition space, visitors access ticketing and information services, a multi-media education centre, a 245 seat theatre, a restaurant and a museum store. A sculptural stair rises to the second floor consisting of 15,000 square feet of galleries and the third floor event space and administrative area. In addition to our role as architect-of-record in the Robert A.M. Stern designed museum, we have been responsible for the design of a home for the Nelson Mandela Foundation and its Mandela Center for Memory and Dialogue within the museum. This institute, devoted to programs exploring social justice and humanitarian issues, gives added cultural and historical significance to the project.

