



Distinguished Celebrations

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE SMITHSONIAN'S FREER GALLERY OF ART AND ARTHUR M. SACKLER GALLERY



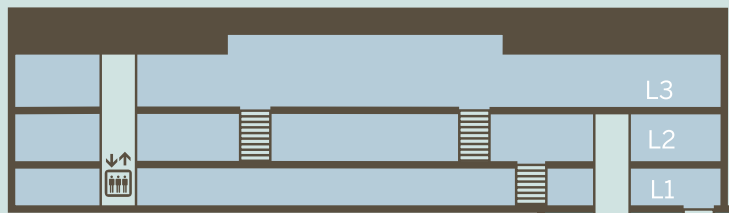
The Heart of DC

The [Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery](#), the Smithsonian's museums of Asian art, are the premier venues in the nation for showcasing Asia's rich artistic and cultural legacy. The Galleries have a long history of acclaimed exhibitions and present some of the most important holdings of Asian art in the world, making each museum a momentous backdrop for special events.

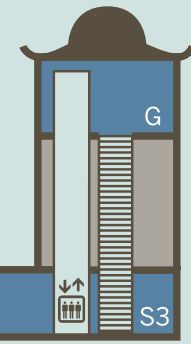
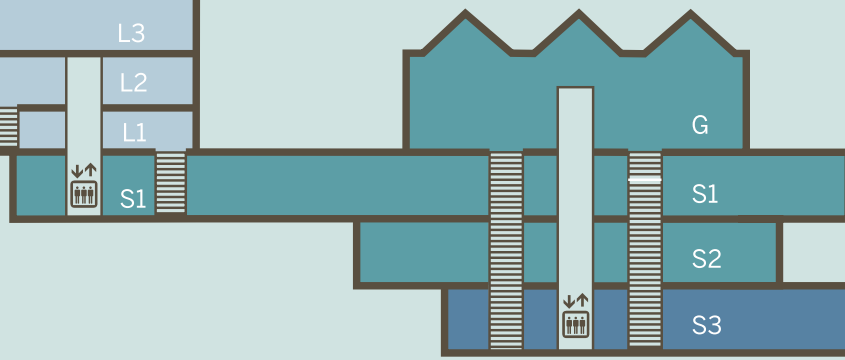
Prominently located on the National Mall in Washington, DC—just steps from the Washington Monument and Smithsonian Castle—the Freer|Sackler resides near some of the country's most iconic landmarks. Yet the secluded spaces within the Galleries seem to exist worlds away from the busy city. Hosting an event in the Freer or Sackler is an opportunity to gain exclusive access to the collections and to take an inspirational walk through a vivid timeline of world cultures.



Freer Gallery



Sackler Gallery



Ripley Center



Freer Gallery of Art

Palatial Elegance | During an event in the Freer Gallery of Art, guests can sip cocktails in the graceful central courtyard, enjoy a fine meal in the grand marble corridors, or simply admire the museum's exquisite collection. A model of classical architecture and refinement, the Freer Gallery is an Italian Renaissance palazzo with eighteen galleries linked by four soaring arched corridors. The architectural nexus is an open-air courtyard that used to house live peacocks in the museum's early days.

From the grand foyer situated directly off of the National Mall, guests encounter a refined, light-filled space, with delicate bronze filigree and charming chandeliers. As a whole, the Gallery's design reflects the belief of museum founder Charles Lang Freer that the appreciation of art could be enhanced by "lack of confusion, sympathetic surroundings, and perfect opportunity to observe or study the exhibits in a proper way."

The Freer houses a world-renowned collection of Asian art, with exceptional works from India, China, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, and the Islamic world, dating from Neolithic times to the early twentieth century. In addition, the Freer Gallery boasts the most important collection of works by nineteenth-century artist James McNeill Whistler, including his celebrated Peacock Room.



PERMANENT EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

The Peacock Room | When American expatriate artist James McNeill Whistler redecorated the Peacock Room in 1876 and 1877 as a “harmony in blue and gold,” he was inspired by the delicate patterns and vivid colors of Chinese porcelains. In this eminent room, guests can privately view Whistler’s *La Princesse du pays de la porcelaine* (*The Princess from the Land of Porcelain*), which hangs over the mantel. The Victorian beauty strikes a pose that recalls both the elongated figures depicted on Chinese blue-and-white porcelain and the graceful courtesans that appear in ukiyo-e prints.

Cranes and Clouds: The Korean Art of Ceramic Inlay | Embodying the evolution of the distinctive Korean ceramic decoration known as *sanggam*, this installation features ceramics bearing images of cranes, clouds, ducks, lotuses, and willows that appear to float within a green glaze.

Bosatsu Statues | Two majestic, 700-year-old wooden sentinels from Japan welcome guests to the Freer’s esteemed collection. This aesthetic and cultural harmony provides a stunning setting for dinners and receptions alike.

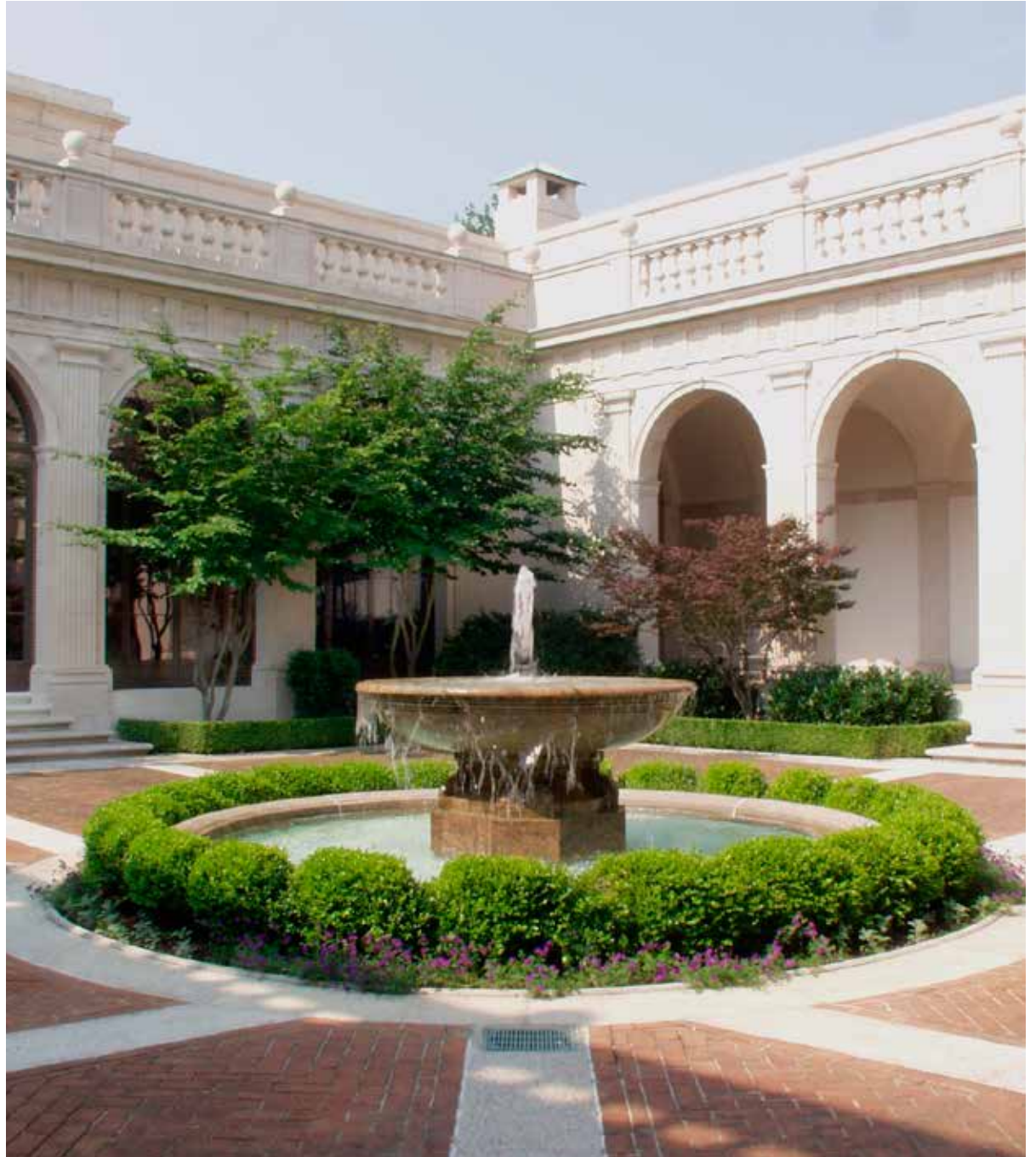
Promise of Paradise: Early Chinese Buddhist Sculpture | Representations of four different Buddhas along with divinities such as Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of Compassion, and Maitreya, the Buddha of the Future, are featured in this recently reinstalled gallery.

Ancient Chinese Jades and Bronzes | The Freer’s collection of Chinese jade carvings and vessels cast from bronze are some of the oldest and most aesthetically and technically accomplished works of art ever created. They are widely considered to be among the world’s greatest treasures of Chinese art.

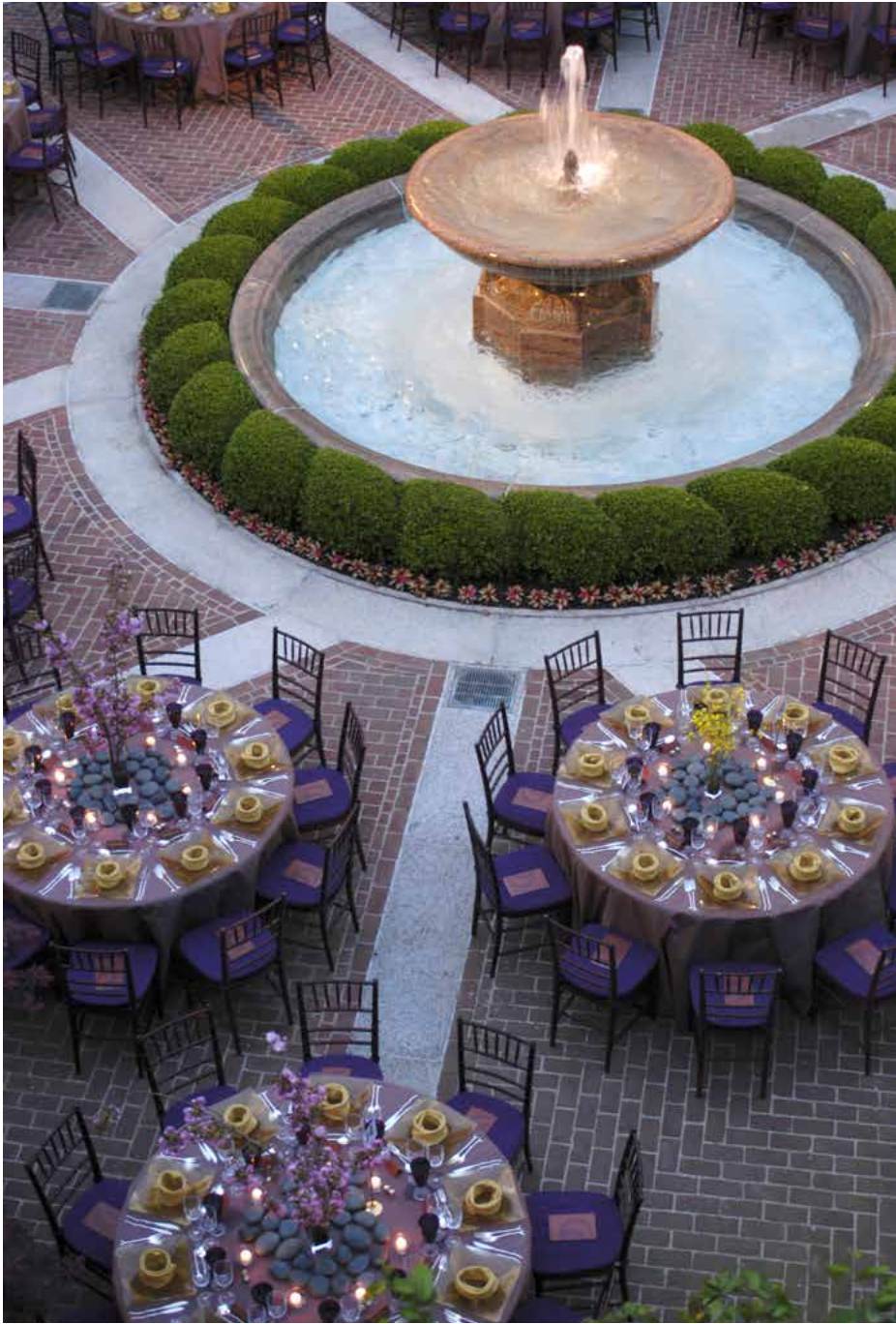
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CENTRAL COURTYARD AND LOGGIAS

- 150: Seated (central courtyard only)
- 190: Seated (using loggias)
- 200: Standing











NORTH HALL AND FOYER

- 150: Seated
- 200–250: Standing





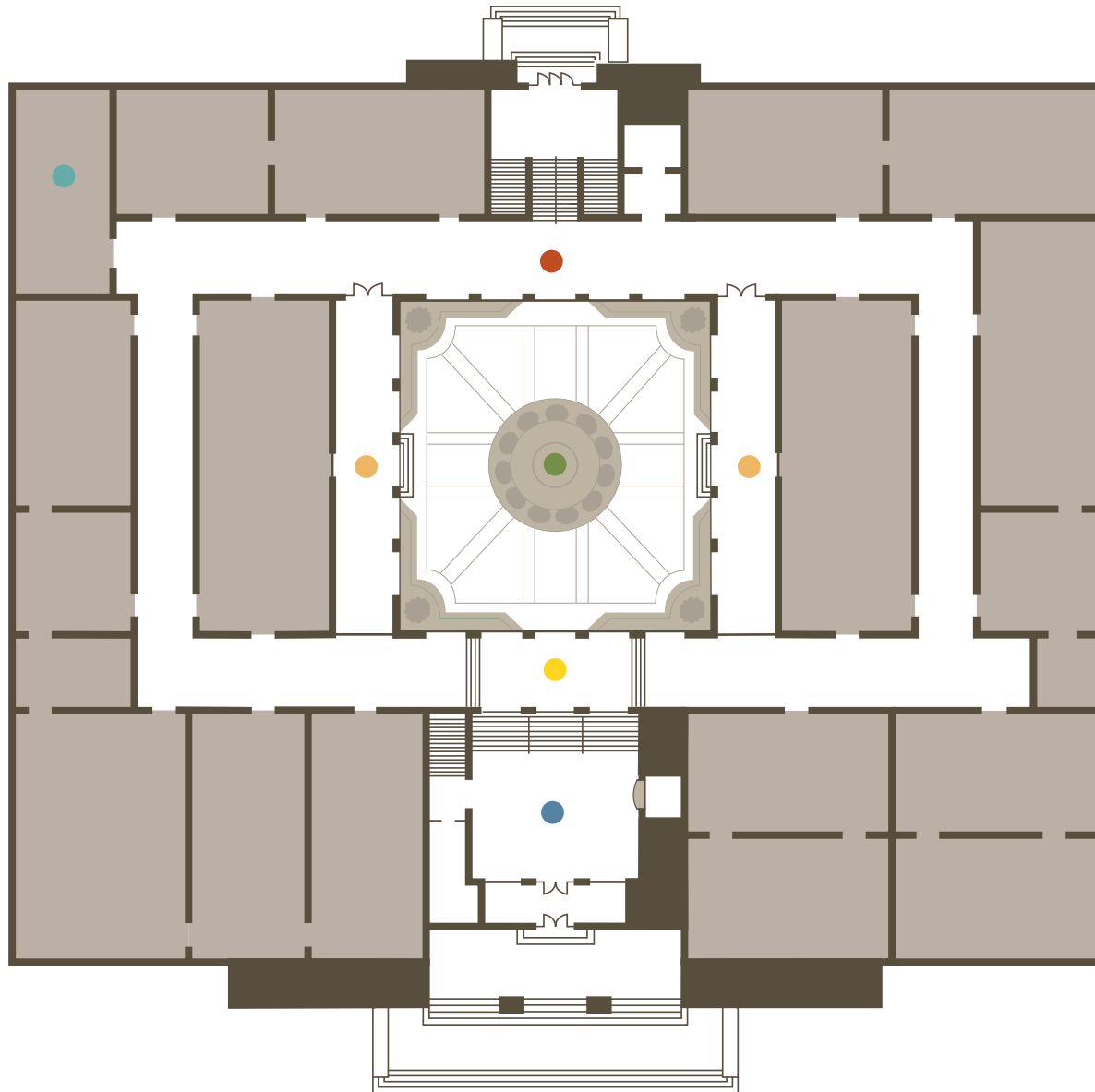
SOUTH HALL

- 170: Seated (rounds)
- 200–250: Standing





entrance from Independence Avenue



entrance from National Mall

FREER LEVEL THREE

KEY

- Peacock Room
- South hall
- Courtyard
- North hall
- Foyer
- Loggias

MEYER AUDITORIUM

- 300: Seated (fixed)
- 324: with added seating
- Located on the ground floor of the Freer Gallery of Art at the Independence Avenue entrance



FREER CONFERENCE ROOM

- 70: Standing
- 50: Seated (rounds)
- 20: Seated (conference tables)



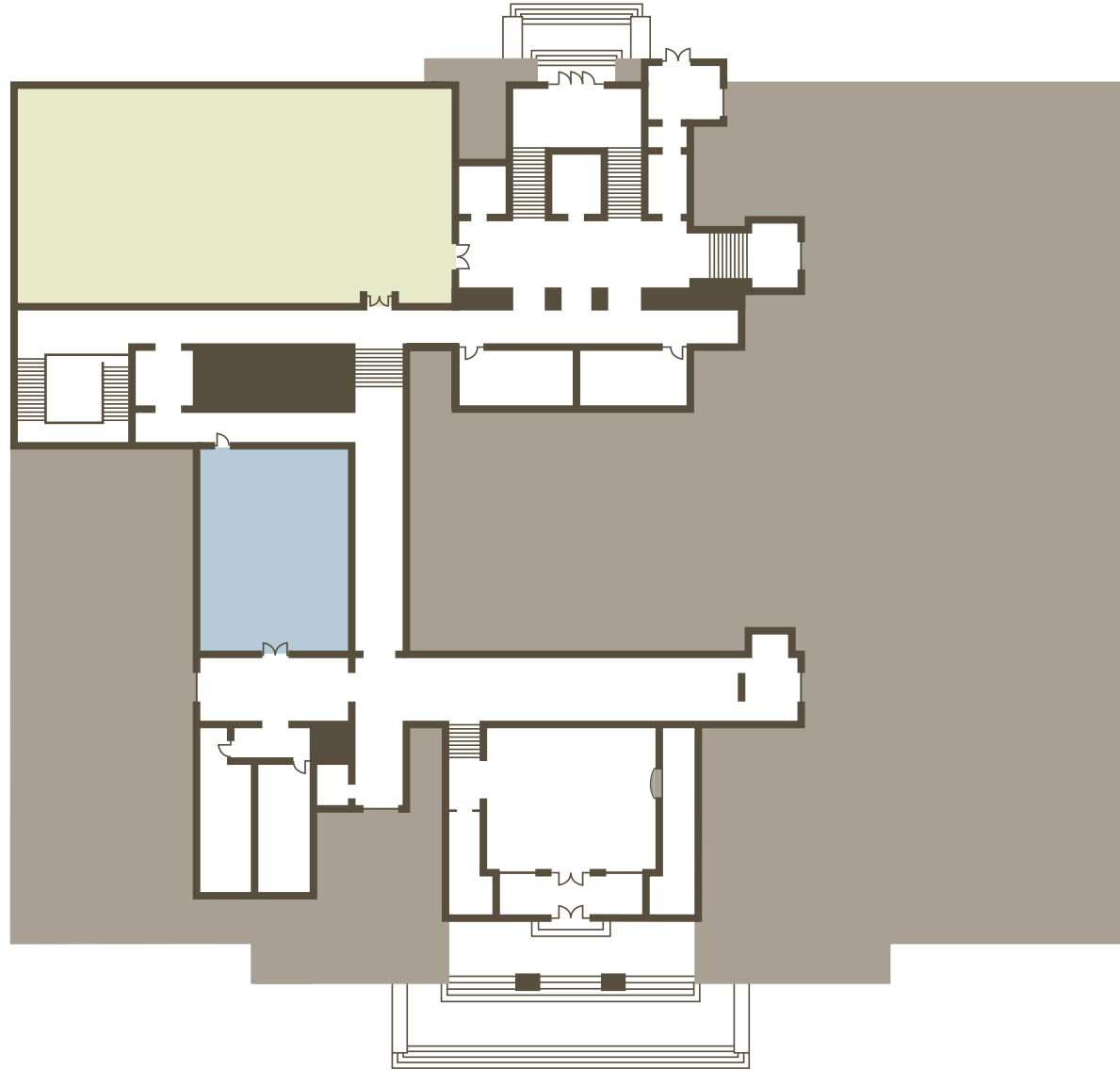
entrance from Independence Avenue

FREER LEVEL ONE

KEY

● Meyer Auditorium

● Conference room



entrance from National Mall



Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

Dynamic Modernism | Nestled in the garden of the Smithsonian Castle, the Sackler Gallery takes visitors on an underground journey. The Gallery is home to Dr. Sackler's incomparable collection of art, including some of the most important ancient Chinese jades and bronzes in the world, Indian paintings, Islamic manuscripts, Japanese prints, and contemporary Chinese ceramics, photography, and Chinese, Japanese, and Korean paintings.

A subterranean museum with a contemporary ambience and sleek architecture, the Sackler features granite walls, angular skylights, and a grand staircase, which descends to an open event space and exhibits. The Gallery welcomes exhibitions from around the globe, offering guests immersive and exclusive access to multicultural artworks. With a wide array of aesthetic offerings, serene spaces for reflection or conversation, and a crisply modern design, the Sackler provides a distinctive venue and collection of masterworks for illuminative events.



PERMANENT EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

Monkeys Grasping for the Moon | Contemporary artist Xu Bing specifically designed this suspended sculpture for the Sackler Gallery. Composed of twenty-one laminated wood pieces, each of which forms the word “monkey” in one of a dozen languages, the linked vertebrates flow from the sky-lit atrium through the Gallery’s three-floor stairwell down to the reflecting pool on the bottom level.

The Arts of China | This exhibition features a variety of objects from the Sackler Gallery’s permanent collection. Much of the exhibition is dedicated to a comprehensive group of ancient Chinese jades and bronzes that spans more than three thousand years, from the Stone Age to the dawn of China’s Imperial period.

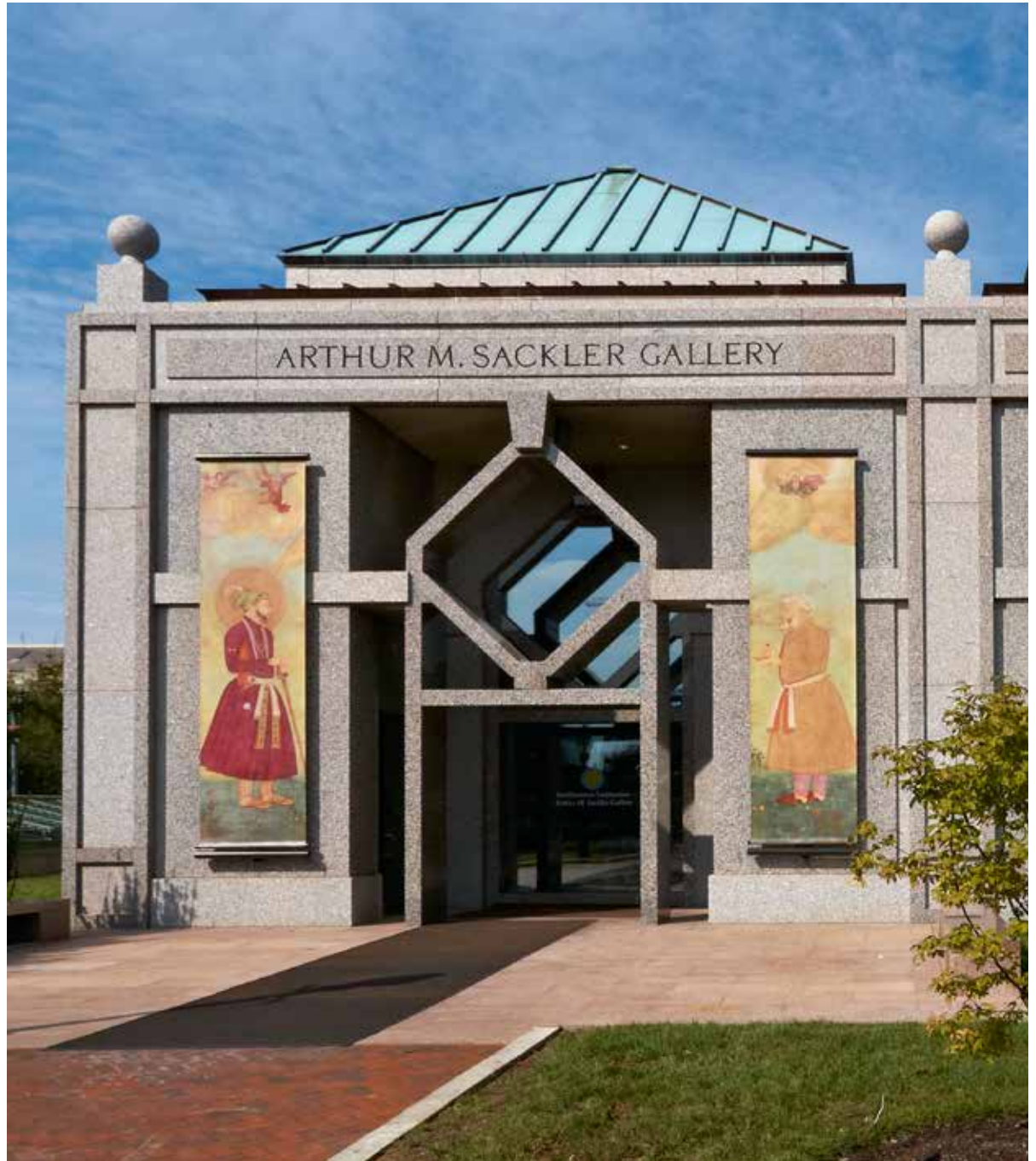
Sculpture of South Asia and the Himalayas | Dating from the tenth to the eighteenth century, sculptures of deities, enlightened beings, and teachers reveal the aesthetic connections between Hindu and Buddhist temple sculpture as well as their distinct qualities.

Feast Your Eyes: A Taste for Luxury in Ancient Iran | An extraordinary collection of luxury metalwork from ancient Iran is on view in the walkway between the two museums. Considered one of the largest and finest holdings of its kind, the collection comprises works dating from the first millennium BCE, beginning with the rule of the Achaemenid kings (550–330 BCE), to the early Islamic period.

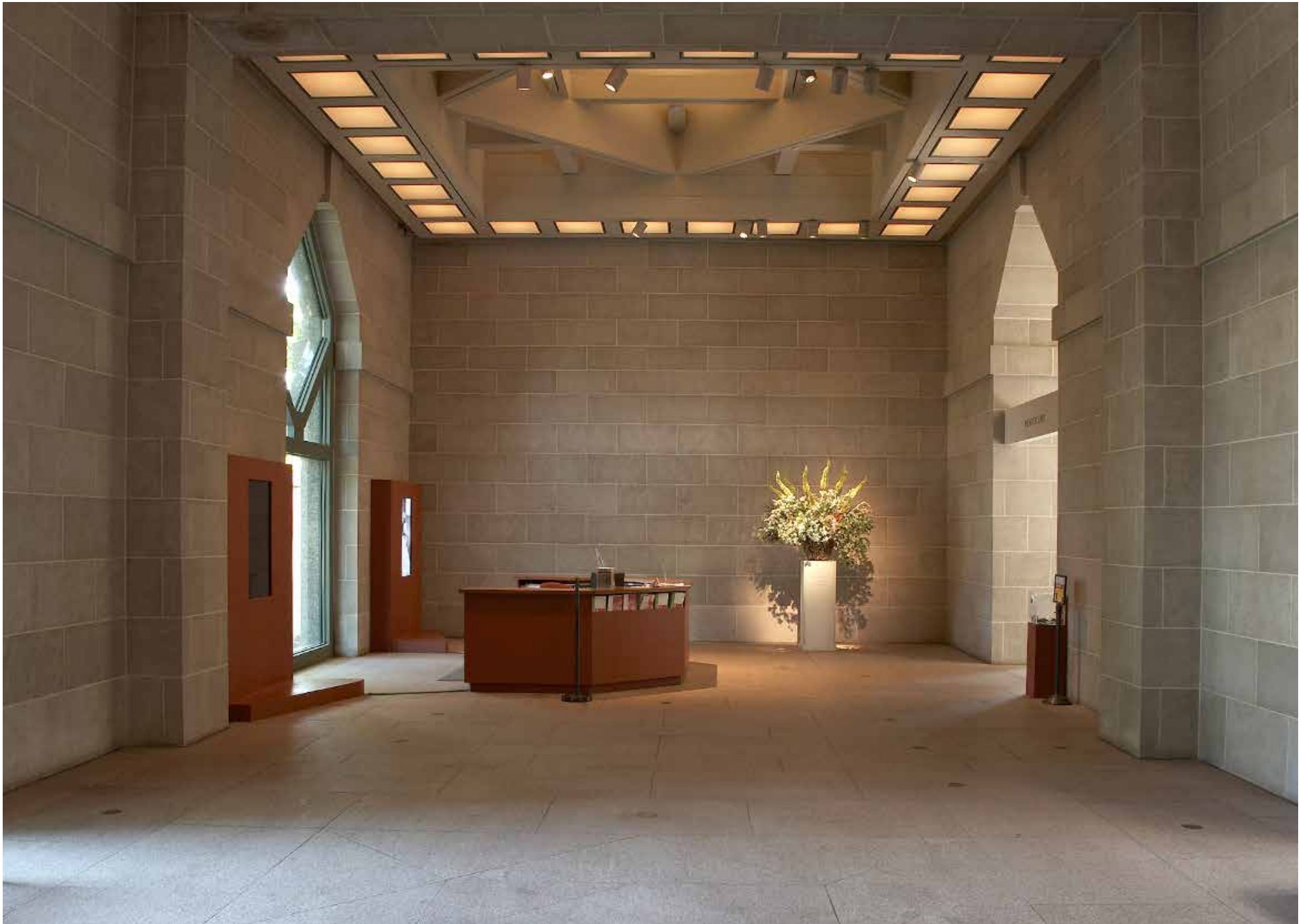
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PAVILION

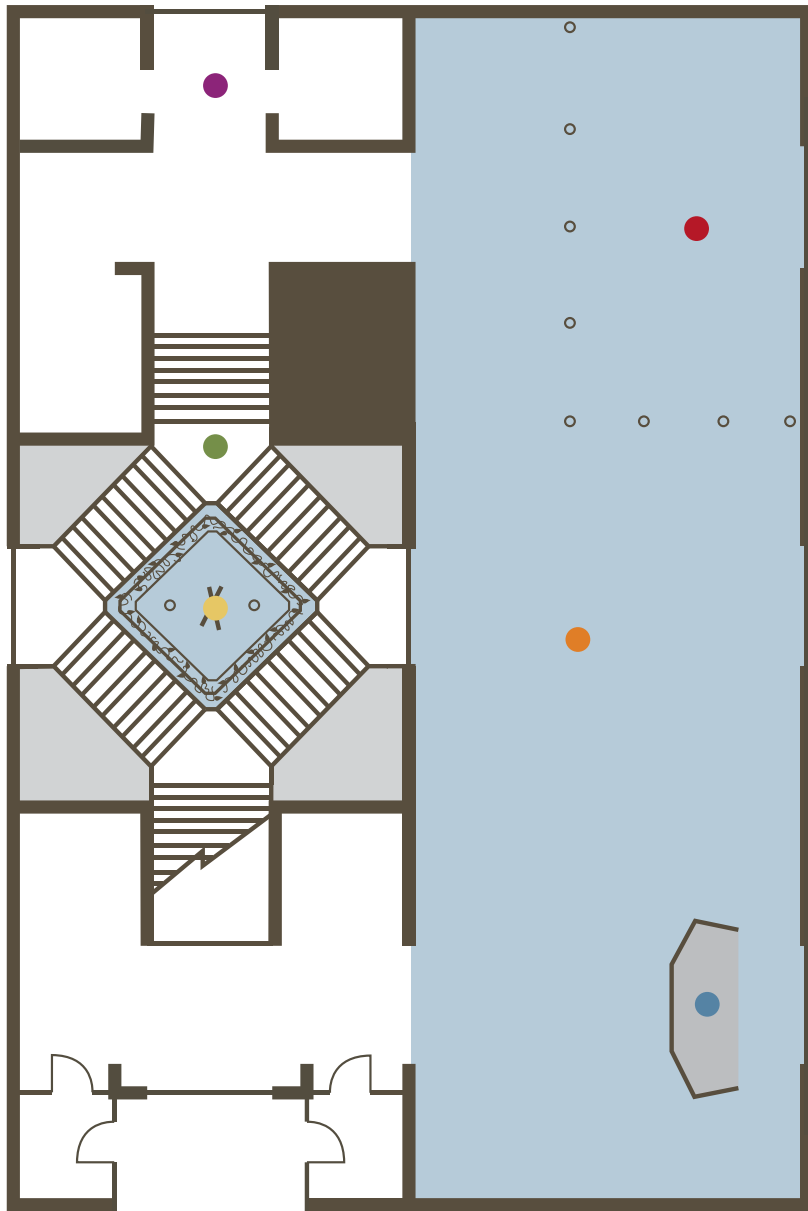
- 350: Standing (with no exhibition)
- 180: Seated (with no exhibition)











SACKLER GROUND LEVEL

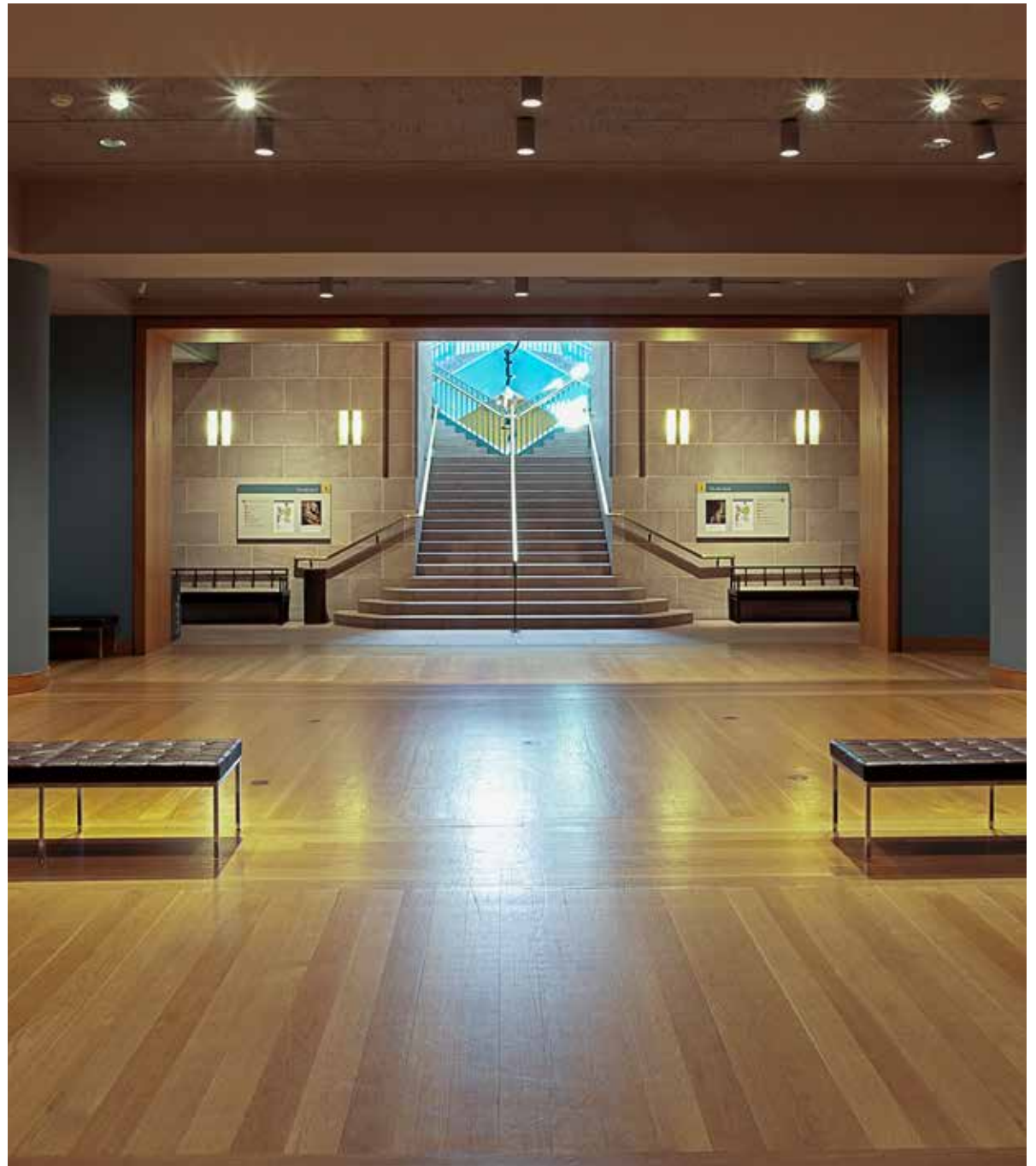
KEY

- Pavilion
- Stairs down to exhibition level
- Monkeys Grasping for the Moon sculpture
- Information desk
- Perspectives: Rina Banerjee
- Elevators

entrance from Enid A. Haupt Garden

**SUBLEVEL 1
(MAIN GALLERY LEVEL)**

- 200: Standing
- 80: Seated







Two Distinct Galleries, One Perfect Venue

	FREER GALLERY OF ART	ARTHUR M. SACKLER GALLERY
Address	Jefferson Drive at 12th Street SW	1050 Independence Avenue SW
Museum Capacity	Seated (rounds): 350 Standing: 500	Seated (rounds): 240 Standing: 500
Style	National Mall entrance Palatial elegance Classic Italian Renaissance Sunlit and moonlit Regal and refined	Pavilion Sublevel 1 lobby Sleek and modern Dramatic three-story stairwell Skylights and reflecting pool
Featured Art	The world's largest number of works by James McNeill Whistler, including the Peacock Room Bosatsu statues Ancient Chinese jades and bronzes	<i>Monkeys Grasping for the Moon</i> , Xu Bing <i>Feast Your Eyes</i> Special exhibitions <i>Perspectives</i> series of contemporary exhibitions
Size	39,039 square feet	40,905 square feet
Objects in Collection	24,057 from China, Japan, Korea, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Central Asia, and Egypt 1,708 from the United States	8,818 from China, Japan, Korea, India, Iran, and South and Southeast Asia

FREER GALLERY OF ART

Public Opening

May 9, 1923

Architectural Details

Two-level Italian Renaissance palazzo
Meyer Auditorium on ground floor
Eighteen galleries linked by four arched corridors
Central courtyard open to the sky, with walls of unpolished Tennessee white marble
Carnelian granite fountain
Bronze filigree on the doors and chandeliers
Exterior of pink granite quarried in Milford, Massachusetts
Interior walls of Indiana limestone
Floors of polished Tennessee marble

ARTHUR M. SACKLER GALLERY

September 28, 1987

Three-level subterranean gallery extending 57 feet below ground
4,130-square-foot granite pavilion
Grand staircase and atrium
Angular skylights
Reflecting pool on bottom level
Granite walls
Underground exhibition space connecting to the Freer Gallery of Art

Enhance your Experience

Docents, volunteer gallery interpreters trained by the Freer|Sackler, enrich events by providing dynamic, engaging, and meaningful learning experiences for guests. As a complimentary amenity, we can arrange for docents to provide gallery conversations and/or a tour during your event. Gallery conversations are best for groups of sixty or more. Docents are stationed in a gallery to engage guests in conversation about art on view, creating opportunities for informative dialogue, answering questions, and explaining exhibition concepts. Tours are great for events with fewer than sixty guests. This more structured option allows you to tailor the experience, choosing to focus on collection highlights, a specific topic, or a special exhibition.

Support Us

The Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery provide visitors inspiring encounters with Asian art and culture free of charge, 364 days a year. Less than one-third of our funding comes from the federal government. More importantly, all of our exhibitions and public programs are fully dependent on private support. By hosting your event with us, you make possible our mission to share Asian art and culture with the nation and around the world.

Contact and General Information

For more information about hosting events at the Freer Gallery of Art or Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, please contact the museums' special events coordinator:

PHONE | 202.633.0522

EMAIL | FSEVENTS@SI.EDU

Please Note:

- Organizations that offer a tax-deductible, unrestricted donation to the Freer|Sackler are invited to celebrate their gift by cosponsoring a special event on the premises. All special events in Smithsonian facilities are cohosted by the museum and the donor/organization. The director of the museum, or designee, acts as cohost at the special event.
- The Freer|Sackler does not allow events of a political, religious, promotional, or personal nature (e.g., weddings). In addition, no commercial, ticketed events are permitted.
- No food or drink may be consumed in the Freer|Sackler exhibition spaces.
- The Freer|Sackler subscribes to a "Blonde Bar Policy." No red wine, red cranberry juice, grape juice, or other dark red beverages that could stain the granite and marble flooring will be allowed during receptions.
- Any tables, chairs, bars, or other accessories used during an event must be at least 4 feet from any objects or cases.
- All documents utilizing the Freer|Sackler or Smithsonian Institution logo and distributed in any capacity regarding the event must be approved by the special events coordinator in advance.

*The story of the beautiful is already complete — Hewn in the marbles
of the Parthenon — And broidered, with the birds, upon the fan of Hokusai.*

—James McNeill Whistler
Ten O’Clock Lecture, 1885



FREER | SACKLER

THE SMITHSONIAN'S MUSEUMS OF ASIAN ART