



Today, the Berkowitz Contemporary Foundation revealed the design of its permanent art collection home, a 45,000-square-foot complex in Miami. Image: Azeez Bakare Studios / Courtesy of Rene Gonzalez Architects

Newsroom

# Designs Revealed for Nonprofit Berkowitz Contemporary Foundation's Permanent Home in Miami

Rene Gonzalez Architects's design focuses on creating a publicly inviting art space that allows multiple visitor experiences



By Elizabeth Fazzare

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Today, as Miami prepares for the kickoff of its [Art Week](#), the nonprofit Berkowitz Contemporary Foundation has revealed designs for its collection's permanent future home. Working with the Miami-based firm Rene Gonzalez Architects, founder and president Chloe Berkowitz sought to create a free-to-the-public place where visitors could choose their own art experience. In response to her brief, "Rene [Gonzalez] created something not only welcoming, but incredibly smart," Berkowitz tells AD PRO. Situated on the corner of Biscayne Boulevard and 26th Street, the 45,000-square-foot area was shaped by two monumental artworks it will display: Richard Serra's *A Passage of Time* and James Turrell's *Aten Reign*.



A street-facing exterior courtyard holds a monumental sculpture by Richard Serra, designed to intrigue passersby to visit the future Berkowitz Contemporary Foundation in Miami. Image: Azeez Bakare Studios / Courtesy of Rene Gonzalez Architects

"Experimental art means that our building, too, needs to be experimental," explains Gonzalez. In his design, the art complex will be composed of a three-level building and adjacent courtyard, the latter separated from the street by a glass wall through which the visible 218-foot-long Serra sculpture is hoped will intrigue street-level passersby to explore. This "street-front visibility" was important to Berkowitz and her foundation, he explains, as the intention was to create "a civic building, and to have a civic presence." The precast concrete structure itself (with panels of both polished and textured patterns) has a large tapered, cantilevered upper floor that shelters exterior public space. Entering here to the lobby is where visitors will be able to choose to visit Turrell's 80-foot-tall immersive work, the Serra courtyard, or the permanent and rotating, temporary exhibit galleries in the two levels above. A variety of proportions and daylighting in these interior spaces allows for flexible programming, and room for the collection to grow.



An interior rendering of the Foundation. The ground floor lobby will house an immersive artwork by James Turrell. Image: Azeez Bakare Studios / Courtesy of Rene Gonzalez Architects

"It's all about demystifying what it is to be a place to view art," says Berkowitz. She imagines some Miami dwellers will use the courtyard and side street pocket park to take meetings or have coffee, others may make a point to see exhibitions, and still others may visit just to experience one artwork with which they have a special relationship. All three motivations have a place in the Foundation's future home, which will open in 2023. "You have personal experiences with these works," Berkowitz explains. "I want people to share these life-changing experiences with me. It's an obligation for them to be shown to the public."

