

YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART OVERVIEW

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CONSERVATION PLAN

Louis I. Kahn and the Yale Center for British Art: A Conservation Plan

Peter Inskip and Stephen Gee, in association with Constance Clement

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The Center's landmark building, designed by architect Louis I. Kahn (1901–1974), is the museum's largest work of art and is widely regarded as a masterpiece of modern architecture. In 2005 the Center received the prestigious Twenty-five Year Award from the American Institute of Architects. Each year this award recognizes a single building of architectural significance that has withstood the test of time.



In 2002 the Center formed a Building Conservation Committee to assess how the building has evolved since it opened to the public in 1977 and to help guide design and maintenance decisions into the future. Over the past nine years, the committee has worked to develop a comprehensive conservation plan with advice from London-based architects Peter Inskip and Stephen Gee of Peter Inskip + Peter Jenkins Architects. The firm has extensive experience with important historic sites as well as modern buildings of cultural significance. The results are being published this fall in *Louis I. Kahn and the Yale Center for British Art: A Conservation Plan* (November 2011; Yale University Press), which recounts the history of the building's design and construction, and outlines policies for its future maintenance.



In this important and innovative volume, Inskip and Gee offer a thorough analysis of the Yale Center for British Art, tracing the evolution of the building over the last four decades. They examine its design, construction, and subsequent renovations; identify key features of the building that characterize its cultural significance; and analyze the materials that comprise it (steel, concrete, glass, white oak, and travertine). Through a series of policies the authors identify significant features that should be protected and others that could be allowed to change. In addition, they outline the means to care properly for the materials from which the building is constructed.

The Center's Building Conservation Committee is chaired by deputy director Constance Clement and includes Jules Prown, the Center's first director and Paul Mellon Professor Emeritus of the History of Art at Yale, museum staff, architects and architectural historians from the Yale School of Architecture, members of Yale University's Facilities Office, and architects Peter Inskip and Stephen Gee.

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