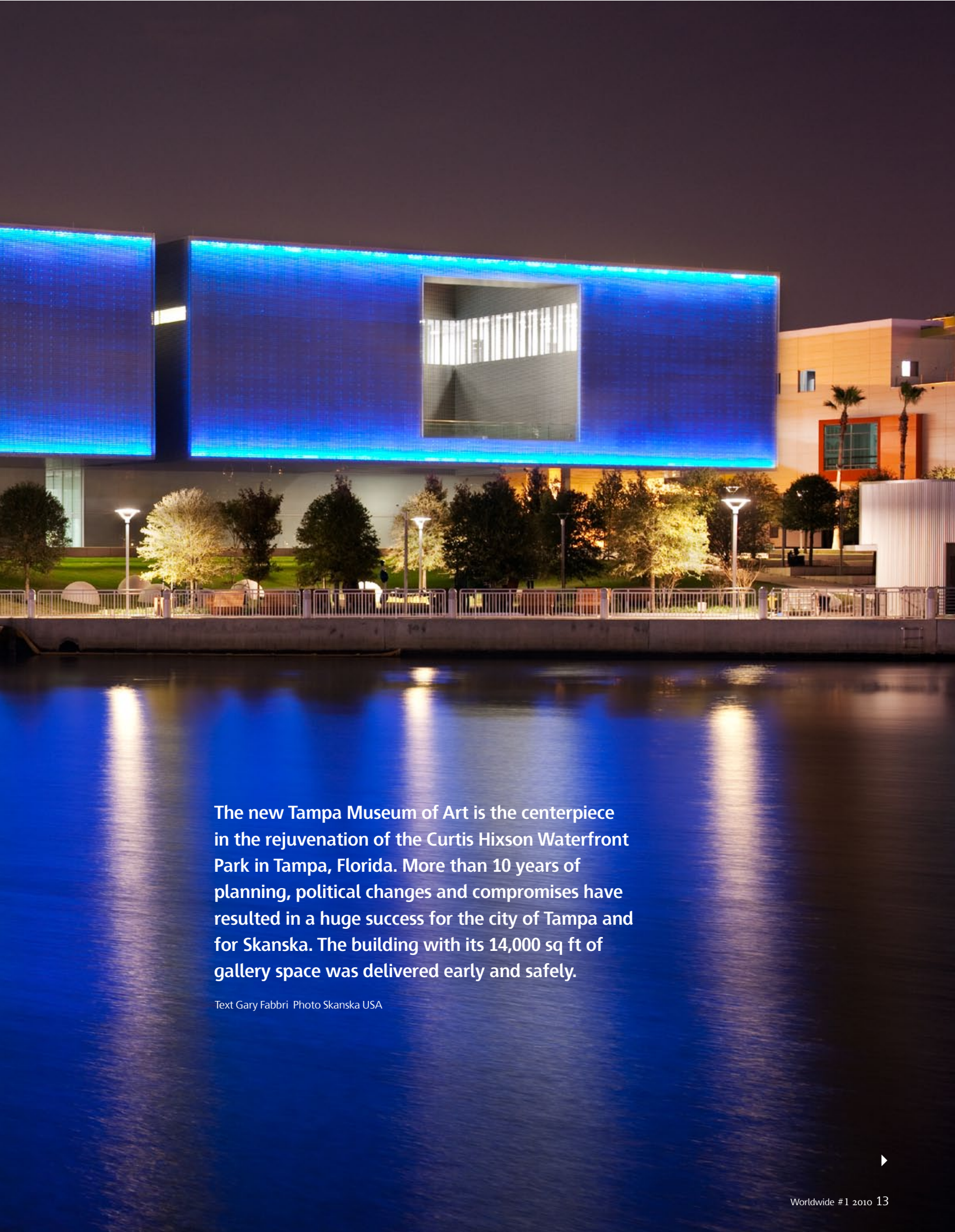




The new crown jewels of Tampa



The new Tampa Museum of Art is the centerpiece in the rejuvenation of the Curtis Hixson Waterfront Park in Tampa, Florida. More than 10 years of planning, political changes and compromises have resulted in a huge success for the city of Tampa and for Skanska. The building with its 14,000 sq ft of gallery space was delivered early and safely.

Text Gary Fabbri Photo Skanska USA





► “These projects are the new crown jewels of Tampa,” says Mayor **Pam Iorio**. “And I’m repeatedly impressed by the quality that Skanska and their subcontractor partners have delivered.”

Construction was performed in a highly visible downtown environment, and the project received more than 200 positive mentions in the press before opening.

Architect **Stanley Saitowitz** describes the museum: “It is like a hyphen between the ground and the sky, a scaffold to be completed by its contents. It is really thought of as a jewel box or treasure chest, whose sole purpose is to present the art within it.”

“This is a very high profile project for the city, and everyone wanted to be a part of it,” says Mayor Iorio. “So it was especially important to the city of Tampa that Skanska assembled a team of 95-percent local subcontractors.”

“Union and non-union workers worked side-by-side on the project,” says **Chuck Jablon**, Operations Vice President. “And the spirit of teamwork extended beyond the construction site. Our Skanska team has worked hard to develop long-term business relationships with the city of Tampa, the 53rd largest U.S. city.”

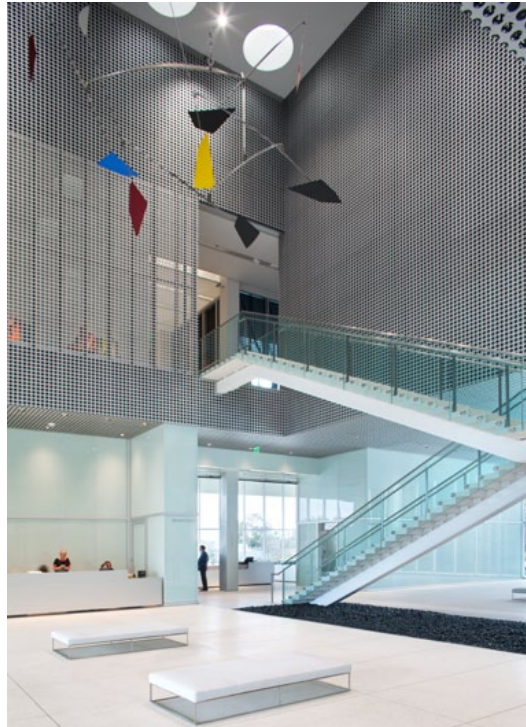
In fact, the original contract increased in value 35 percent (from USD 39 million, to USD 53 million), because the whole community got behind what was happening in Tampa.

What began as a contract to build the Tampa Museum of Art and Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park grew to include demolition of the existing Tampa Museum of Art, refurbishment of Kiley Gardens, the Hillsborough River Seawall Repairs, TMA Chiller Plant and Gasparilla Street/Poe Garage Improvements.

“A total team effort made the project a success. We came in on time and under budget,” says Jablon. “A combination of cost-efficient strategies, trust and respect helped us fit everything into the schedule. We were able to increase our productivity due to the atmosphere of teamwork.”

In fact, the team worked 300,000 staff-hours without a single lost-time incident and they handed over the project without problems.

“It’s important to be persistent and determined for these types of worthwhile projects for the people, and spend your money on the right things, especially during challenging economic times like these,” Mayor Iorio concludes. “Skanska’s determination shows us that they were the right partner for the City of Tampa.” ●



“The success of a project is often measured by the amount of challenges overcome by the team.”

