

Property History

Founded in 1842 by Daniel Wadsworth, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is one of the oldest public art museums in the United States. Construction began in 1842 on the site of the family home of Daniel Wadsworth in downtown Hartford, Connecticut. The museum houses nearly 50,000 works of art from the spanning from around the world from the last 5,000 years.

Project Description

Grand Light restored eight original luminaires from the Wadsworth Atheneum. The restoration of these historic fixtures included cleaning all dust and surface corrosion, lightly burnishing the existing finish and blend to existing patina, and the application of museum grade wax. There was a crystal chandelier that required the fabrication of a custom replica arm to replace one with several fractures, as well as the fabrication of custom shades to match an original photograph.

The historic fixtures included (2) E.F. Caldwell custom bronze and marble torchiers. Each torchiere was completely disassembled, hand cleaned, and where original patination was damaged, it was replicated and repaired. Each component received multiple layers of a museum grade bronze metal wax.

Additionally, there are (2) E.F. Caldwell custom bronze torchieres originally commissioned for the J.P Morgan Library, New York, NY (1905) and gifted to the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum in 1910. The existing finish of each torchiere was cleaned, touched up, and blended with gilded gold bronze finish by Grand Light artisans to guarantee a uniformed look and finish. An application of a protective top coat was applied to the surfaces of both fixtures.

All fixtures were rewired with UL listed components and HIPOT tested in accordance with UL standard 1598.

Grand Light also fabricated replications of a historic wall sconce based on a 1910 photograph. The replication process included the fabrication of custom molds for each component and an application of patina to closely match original luminaire finish.

Client

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Client Project Managers

Cecil Adams, Director of Museum Services, Wadsworth Atheneum
George Sexton III, I.E.S., I.A.L.D., George Sexton Associates

Date Awarded

2014

Completion Date

2015

Project Webpage

<https://grandlight.com/portfolio/wadsworth-atheneum-restoration/>

Awards

Connecticut Preservation Merit Award 2016
Hartford Preservation Alliance Preservation Award 2016

