

THE LIST



New Speed Museum's invisible art

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There's a special exhibit opening soon at the newly renovated Speed Art Museum, but no one will ever see it.

That was kind of the point, said Thomas Yellina, chief electrical engineer at Kerr-Greulich Engineers Inc.

His firm did mechanical, electrical and plumbing work for the expanded and renovated museum on the University of Louisville Belknap Campus, which reopens to

the public March 12.

Construction started in 2012 on the \$56 million project.

There's an art to working in a museum: "You want to showcase the art, not the wiring," Yellina said.

The team designed the museum's 30 thermostats to be "as invisible as possible," and made the grills and registers frameless so they blend into the wall, he said.

The finished project is "very clean-looking," said Kerr-Greulich senior mechanical engineer Leah Roy.

Kerr-Greulich and architects - Los

Angeles-based wHY Architecture Inc. and K. Norman Berry Associates, Architects PLLC - also took steps to help protect the historic and valuable art the museum houses, she said.

The smoke detectors are extra-sensitive, and the sprinklers are on a delay. The window panes help protect the art from damaging light.

Indianapolis-based F.A. Wilhelm Construction Co. Inc. is the contractor for the project. See the column at right for some other numbers behind the long-awaited new Speed Art Museum. ▮

79,600

Square footage of existing structure that was renovated

75,000

Square footage of new structure that was added

400

Number of glass panels on the facade

4,183

The number of cubic yards of concrete used in the expansion

542

Tons of steel used in the building

50

Number of trees selected for the new Elizabeth P. and Frederick K. Cressman Art Park and public piazza from River Farm Nursery

8,000

The number of feet of recessed track for lighting

3,000

Square footage of the separate building housing the air-conditioning and heating

SOURCE: KERR-GREULICH