

# MoMA to Demolish American Folk Art Museum

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*The American Folk Art Museum* by [Tod Williams Billie Tsien and Associates](#) projects a bronze glow onto West 53rd Street in Manhattan.

## MoMA's Act of Vandalism

by Martin Filler, New York Review of Books

<http://www.nybooks.com/blogs/nyrblog/2013/04/moma-act-vandalism/>

*"When in 2011 the American Folk Art Museum was compelled to sell the decade-old building to its next-door neighbor—because the worldwide economic crash had caused it to default on \$32 million in bonds used to finance the \$18.4-million structure—some commentators sanctimoniously portrayed the debacle as the comeuppance of a quirky little institution's overweening ambition.*

*"Yet at that panicky moment [MoMA](#) itself came closer to economic disaster—with much greater sums in play—than has ever been publicly acknowledged. Its own financial foundering, precipitated by a considerably larger [expansion extravaganza](#) designed by [Yoshio Taniguchi](#) between 1997 and 2004, was allegedly averted only because some of its more deep-pocketed supporters resorted to emergency measures. One venerable trustee is said to have prematurely anted up what he had expected would be a posthumous bequest.*

*"Williams and Tsien's physically small (a mere forty feet wide and eighty-five feet high) but architecturally significant incursion into MoMA's presumed turf has long been known to be a thorn in the side of Glenn D. Lowry, the Modern's director since 1995, and it has seemed something of a grudge match from the outset. ..."*

ArchitectureWeek's original cover story on the unique, bronze-clad folk art museum:

### **Folk Art Museum**

by Michael J. Crosbie

<http://www.architectureweek.com/2002/0424/index.html>

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Source: Architecture Week People & Places Blog