

## Grid Is a Grid Is a Grid Is a Grid Is a Grid

The MCA has recently hired Los Angeles-based architecture firm Johnston Marklee, founded by Sharon Johnston and Mark Lee, to create a master plan for the museum. Their approach to this project, which relocates the restaurant and rethinks the other public spaces, demonstrates a deep respect and understanding of the original 1996 Josef Paul Kleihues building.

To coincide with the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial, Johnston Marklee have designed an intervention here in the museum's current café space that refers to the building's predominant grid-based logic and hints at some ideas being considered for the renovations to come. Johnston Marklee's immersive installation further emphasizes the proportions of this grid system by applying a repeating square graphic on the café walls, as well as creating a gridded ceiling plane that cuts the double height space in half, making for a more intimate scale. This dropped ceiling plane alludes to one idea Johnston Marklee are considering in their redesign of the space, in which a mezzanine floor may be inserted to create rooms for art making and meetings above and a social space below.