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**THE GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY BREAKS GROUND FOR ITS NEW
EDUCATION AND WELCOME CENTER
DESIGNED BY ARCHITECTURE RESEARCH OFFICE**

Nestled around the restored Victorian Weir Greenhouse, the new L-shaped building design integrates the past and present to create a new front door for the National Historic Landmark, with a commitment to a more sustainable future.



Brooklyn, NY – Yesterday, at a ceremony attended by former Mayor Bill de Blasio; Richard Moylan, President of The Green-Wood Cemetery; Antonio Reynoso, Brooklyn Borough President; Alexa Avilés, Member of New York City Council; Laurie Cumbo, Commissioner of Cultural Affairs for New York City; and Mara Manus, Executive Director of the New York State Council on the Arts; The Green-Wood Cemetery, the New York City landmark, broke ground on its new Education and Welcome Center. This event marks the next phase of development for this transformational design, by Architecture Research Office (ARO), that will allow the expansion of the historic cemetery’s cultural and educational programming.

Founded in 1838, Green-Wood is one of the largest and most varied of the early American rural cemeteries, carefully sited with dramatic views of the city and the harbor beyond. Within its grounds are hills, valleys, glacial ponds, and paths leading to one of the largest outdoor collections of 19th- and 20th-century statuary and mausoleums. Right across from the Main Entrance is the only surviving Victorian greenhouse in New York City, the iconic Weir Greenhouse, built in 1880 and enlarged in 1895, which has been a New York City Landmark since 1982 and was acquired by Green-Wood in 2012.

The new building that ARO has designed to surround the Weir Greenhouse, gracefully complements, supports, and transforms the site into a visitor-friendly front door to the Cemetery. The Center will also allow Green-Wood to extend its cultural and educational programming to a year-round schedule. One side of the new L-shaped construction is a large two-story volume set away from the existing greenhouse, creating an entry courtyard, while the other side is a one-story volume that aligns with the height of the greenhouse eaves.

The winding landscape of the entry courtyard is designed by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. It surrounds the restored greenhouse and recalls the distinctive winding pathways within the cemetery.

ARO's design presents the new building as a unified composition that reinforces Green-Wood's role as a neighborhood hub— with access to exhibition galleries, a classroom for Green-Wood's K-12 education programs and community use, and the Cemetery's archival records, as well as a catering kitchen and staff offices. It also activates the historic greenhouse as a flexible multipurpose space for events and art installations. Throughout the project, strong visual connections define the architectural and landscape design of the site. The large windows in the exhibition galleries and on the second floor offer expansive views of the greenhouse and the grand Gothic Arch designed by Richard Upjohn & Son that marks the Main Entrance to the Cemetery. Targeting LEED Gold, the building's sculpted green roof sits atop the new construction to connect it to the Cemetery landscape. Glazed terra cotta was selected for the facade for energy efficiency as well as its ability to complement the celebrated greenhouse and Green-Wood's historic structures. The building and landscape also provide efficiency in water use, a high-performing thermal envelope, low-energy lighting, bicycle infrastructure, and habitats for local pollinators. The new building balances Green-Wood's commitment to historic preservation and aims for a future with an inspiring sustainable design.

Reflecting the character and historic integrity of the Cemetery, the Center's façade is composed of a curtain wall and custom glazed terra cotta. This traditional material applied to the new construction creates a dynamic facade. The play of natural light and shadow animates the angled terra-cotta baguettes, giving the facade a jewel-like element. The *brise soleil* shields the building's floor-to-ceiling windows and acts as a passive climate control element that reduces the building's heat gain. The terra cotta's burgundy color references the brownstone of the Upjohn Arches and complements the greenhouse's copper roof as it gains a patina.

Since its founding, The Green-Wood Cemetery has thrived on its core assets of art, history, and nature, and has served as an important connection to its surrounding neighborhoods, including Sunset Park, Park Slope, and Kensington, as well as New York City as a whole. The Cemetery's effort to expand the scope of its activities has created an impressive addition to the cultural life of New York City. Through the design of multi-use spaces that can evolve with the institution over time, the Education and Welcome Center will allow ample flexibility for gathering, exhibition, educational, and staff work environments.

About ARO

Architecture Research Office (ARO) is the New York City firm led by Stephen Cassell, Kim Yao, and Adam Yarinsky. ARO is a diverse collective united by their collaborative process, commitment to accountable action, and social and environmental responsibility. Research gives their work purpose and intention. Their architecture unites beauty and form with strategy and intelligence. Their office designs spaces that inspire people, further institutional missions, and advance equity and resilience. This philosophy has earned the firm over one hundred design

awards including the 2020 AIA Architecture Firm Award, the AIA New York State Firm of the Year Award, and the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Architecture. For more information on Architecture Research Office, please visit www.aro.net.

About The Green-Wood Cemetery

Established in 1838, The Green-Wood Cemetery, a National Historic Landmark, is recognized as one of the world's most beautiful cemeteries. As the permanent residence of over 570,000 individuals, Green-Wood's magnificent grounds, grand architecture, and world-class statuary have made it a destination for half a million visitors annually, including national and international tourists, New Yorkers, and Brooklynites. At the same time, Green-Wood is also an outdoor museum, an arboretum, and a repository of history. Throughout the year, it offers innovative programs in arts and culture, nature and the environment, education, workforce development, restoration, and research. For more information, please visit www.green-wood.com.

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