



The Ozark Bathhouse

The Ozark was completed in 1922 and designed by George Mann and Eugene Stern of Little Rock. The Spanish Colonial Revival building is constructed of brick and concrete masonry finished with stucco. The building is trapezoidal in plan, although the front elevation is symmetrical. The Ozark contains 14,043 square feet, including 8,525 square feet on the first floor, 2,375 square feet on the second floor, and 3,143 square feet in the basement. The building closed for use as a bathhouse in 1977. After extensive renovation, it was re-opened in 2009 as the Museum of Contemporary Art of Hot Springs and closed November 1, 2013.

The impressive front elevation has twin towers with three-tier setbacks from the main entrance that they flank. The main entrance is through an open sun porch, a later addition set between two pavilions that form the visual bases of the towers above them. The windows of the pavilions have decorative cartouches above them, as well as a series of rectangular setbacks. Additional wings of the building continue to the north and south of the towers. The sloped roofs over the porch and part of the second story and the hipped roofs of the towers are covered with red clay tile. The tower roofs are topped with finials. The remainder of the roof is flat and finished with built-up roofing material.

On the interior, the central lobby has a marble counter with hallways to the men's and women's facilities on either side. Mirrors cover the walls in the lobby. The floor of the sun porch is covered with quarry tile, and most of the remaining floors in the building are finished with acrylic tile. Ceilings are concrete and painted plaster. Interior walls are brick and hollow tile finished with plaster.

In 1928 concrete cooling tanks were added to the rear of the building. Massage rooms were expanded in 1941. The cooling towers were removed in 1953. The interior of the second story was renovated in 1956.