[This is the start of the opening essay in a book about creation of a new museum. I’ve redacted the name of the museum and the architect.]

**A Collaborative Concept in the Creation of a Space for Contemporary Art**

XXXis a new museum, and its design and construction raise a series of questions at the very heart of the debate about museum space for contemporary art—both how it should be created and how it should be managed. This venture can best be considered not by centering the architect as protagonist, but through the lens of collaborative architecture. (Other issues include the role of project manager and whether a single individual can be architect and project manager at the same time.) There are questions specific to a project like XXX that is managed collaboratively and one where the client plays a leading role. Even in a collaborative scenario, the role of the architect is key. Rather than handing down a design from on high, architect XXX served as a vehicle for this process, moving it forward toward its end goal and providing passage to the many others involved. Finally, XXX allows for a different understanding of the museum itself. This is not a showpiece of a museum, but instead a museum that—while beautiful and beautifully constructed—is completely in the service of the collection it showcases.