

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## Delta Flight Museum

Landing the Right Design Helps Protect Historic Items

### CHALLENGE

First opened in 1995, the Delta Flight Museum has transformed the original 1940s-era Delta hangars into an astounding museum space. At over 68,000 square feet, it boasts all sorts of memorabilia representing all of the 40 airlines currently under the Delta umbrella.

The museum's archive space accounts for only six percent of the institution's total footprint. Despite that, it is the location where the majority of the museum's smaller items are kept when not on display. With new items being

accessioned every day, the collection was growing at a rate that was outpacing the allotted storage space. Issues of item awareness was becoming as much of an issue as was storage and organization.

*"We had a lot of items, including boxes upon boxes of things," said Archives Associate Tina Seetoo. "We had some older wide-span shelving that needed to be replaced, along with wardrobe cabinets that were not equal to the task at hand. To a certain extent, we weren't even sure of exactly what we had."*

### SOLUTION

Patterson Pope Sales Representative Gene Reilley is indebted to his father for passing on his love of history. That passion was a welcome asset on this particular project. Preserving, organizing and celebrating the story of one of America's oldest airlines was a welcome treat.

*"Once we got a better understanding of what they had and how they wanted to preserve those items, we designed a solution that worked for their space," he said. "It's only about 4,000 square feet, but now, it really works."*

The core answer was an 11-range mechanical assist high-density storage system. Seven

42' ranges were dedicated to boxes items, and another four accommodate historic airline clothing, including uniforms, hats, purses and shoes. Here, 88" doors were added to further protect the fabrics, and an additional 32" of height is served by additional open shelving.

In addition to the high-density unit, the archive space also received four art racks, Rousseau drawers (thin) for insignia and China (deep), textile racks for banners and flags, and cantilever shelving to accommodate the museum's sizable book collection.



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P2 Talks Museum Storage

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Tina Seetoo  
Archives Associate  
Delta Flight Museum

## ACHIEVEMENT

*"When we get items in now, we know exactly where they're going to go and how they're going to help our collection grow," said Seetoo. "That exactness, fostered by organization, has been huge. Before, we were just putting things in the stacks wherever we had space. Now, we not only have extra space, but we have that organization. The combination has been a real bonus."*

For Reilley, the opportunity to help preserve these items was an added bonus.

*"There's so much history there," he said. "Initially, I don't think they even knew the extent of all the great stuff they had. We helped bring some things into the light."*

For Seetoo, who works with donors and handles accessioning for the museum, the new archives storage solution has helped add peace of mind as well as organizational structure. She thanks Patterson Pope for helping make the space even more functional and fun.

*"Working with Patterson Pope was great," added Seetoo. "They were very flexible. They adhered to their schedules and were very accurate. They were responsive to any and all questions we had and were responsive to any adjustments that needed to be made. That sort of quality control was appreciated and it made a real difference in the outcome here. We love it."*

