



FORT WORTH MUSEUM SCIENCE AND HISTORY

Fort Worth Museum of Science and History
Public Affairs/Marketing
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Release: IMMEDIATE

FORT WORTH MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY COMMEMORATES FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NEW BUILDING

Fort Worth, TX – November 2009 marked the completion of an architectural masterpiece in the city’s Cultural District. Five years ago, the new Fort Worth Museum of Science and History building was designed by the father and son team of Ricardo and Victor Legorreta of Mexico City. The resulting campus represents a commingling of the architectural styles of Texas and Mexico in a city that takes enormous pride in its Hispanic and Western roots.

The 166,000 square-foot contemporary and colorful building, complete with state-of-the-art technological exhibit innovations, became the latest example of Legorreta + Legorreta’s exemplary blend of space, light, color and water with the use of strong, basic geometric forms.

The building is anchored by an iconic signature attraction: a 76-foot-tall glass and stone tower – the Urban Lantern – which functions as the Museum’s main entrance. The lantern now holds an artifact from the World Trade Center’s North Tower that was attacked on September 11, 2001.

The Legorreta + Legorreta architectural style worked toward pureness in form with clean lines and squares. Legorreta-specific design elements within the Museum building include: strong interaction between interior and exterior spaces by creating a series of courtyards or “patios” between the exhibit spaces that help both the energy efficiency of the building by using natural light and the friendly atmosphere as one interacts with the outside; barrel vaulting, which adds a unique visual design and height to the atrium space; and the main courtyard design that incorporates bright jacaranda blue walls and an existing live oak tree with an immense 40-foot canopy with a minimalist water fountain and reflecting pool.

The Fort Worth-based firm Bennett Benner Partners served as the project’s Architect of Record. Other members of the design, construction, and exhibit design team included: Chick Russell Communications,

Design Island Associates, Emerald Palms Design Group, Linbeck Group LLC, The Projects Group, Robert Reid Studios, and ROTO Studios.

The current Museum's environment of learning comprises state-of-the-art interactive exhibitions and components including: Energy Blast; the Fort Worth Children's Museum; the Cattle Raisers Museum; the Noble Planetarium; Omni IMAX® Theater; DinoLabs/DinoDig® -- featuring the State Dinosaur of Texas, *Paluxysaurus jonesi*; Innovation Studios/Innovation Gallery; and Museum School.

Exhibits such as *Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit*, *Grossology!*, and *Indiana Jones and the Adventure of Archeology* have all made their way through the Museum doors over the last five years.

About the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

Established in 1941, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, anchored by its rich collections, is an institution dedicated to lifelong learning. The Museum engages children and adult guests through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. The new \$80-million campus opened in November 2009 marking the culmination of an extensive multiyear fundraising campaign. The Museum is open daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. For more information about the Museum, visit www.fortworthmuseum.org or call [817-255-9300](tel:817-255-9300).