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New Fort Worth Museum of Science and History Features “Urban Lantern,” An Iconic Legorreta + Legorreta Element

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – The new Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (FWMSH), which opens to the public Friday Nov. 20, 2009, features a stunning “Urban Lantern,” an element common to structures designed by architects Legorreta + Legorreta of Mexico City. As a beacon of learning, and as the anchor of the new Museum campus, the Lantern serves as the main entrance to the 166,000-square-foot building.

“The idea of creating an urban lantern came from the notion of orientation within the city,” said acclaimed architect Ricardo Legorreta. “In the same way that lighthouses guide ships at sea, we wanted to guide people in the city to the museum.

“At the same time, we were able to play with two elements that are always present in our architecture and we think symbolize a lot of what this museum is about – light and color,” Legorreta added. “In our interpretation, light symbolizes knowledge, creativity, imagination, and spirituality. Color, on the other hand, for us means passion for life, humanism and happiness. After working in the museum we have found that all these values have always been an integral part of its philosophy.”

The Urban Lantern measures 76 feet tall, including glass panels, steel, and stone base. It comprises 97 yellow-fretted glass panels measuring 5’-7” x 5’-7” and weighing 500 lbs. each.

“This Legorreta element is especially important to our building,” said Museum of Science and History President Van A. Romans. “It serves not only as a landmark beacon in our city, but also as a welcoming beacon, lighting the way for our visitors into an environment of learning.”

more

New Fort Worth Museum of Science and History – Urban Lantern
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The Lantern is illuminated using LED (light-emitting diode) and compact fluorescent lights. Interior lighting is via compact fluorescent sconces around the lantern. Each LED fixture is 50W if powered with all LEDs at maximum power (brightest white). With a yellow/golden color, output is less than half – 20-25W per fixture.

The Lantern has 32 fixtures, all of which are full color changing and fully dimmable, and can be set to various colors and apparent brightness levels. The Lantern is illuminated automatically via the astronomical time clock. The on-time changes with the seasons. The off-time is set by the Museum.

About The Museum

Chartered with the State of Texas in 1941 as the “Fort Worth Children’s Museum,” the new \$80 million FWMSH campus marks the culmination of an extensive multi-year fund-raising campaign following a comprehensive planning effort. Dedicated to life-long learning and anchored by its rich collections, the Museum engages school children and adult visitors through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. For more than six decades, the FWMSH has provided learning opportunities for tens of thousands of area children annually among its million visitors each year, making it one of the most popular cultural attractions in North Texas.

The new Museum building, created by internationally acclaimed architects Legorreta + Legorreta with Gideon Toal, is located in the heart of Fort Worth’s Cultural District. The world-class, 166,000 square-foot facility features a collection of new, interactive exhibits and programs developed by the Museum’s staff and a team of nationally recognized designers in support of the Museum’s dedication to informal, discovery-based learning for all.

The new 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 the 60-year-old Museum School.