

New Mexico Museum of Art

NEWS

Museums in the 21st Century: Concepts, Projects, Buildings

Santa Fe, NM (November 19, 2009)—Frank Gehry, Renzo Piano, Daniel Libeskind, Tadao Ando, Spacelab's (Peter Cook/Colin Fournier), Rafael Viñoly, and Yoshio Taniguchi are members of a pantheon of architects regarded for their original, innovative, and groundbreaking designs. In common, they were all commissioned between 2000 and 2010 to design museums – some realized, others in progress, and a few indefinitely on hold.

The first ten years of the 21st century witnessed the apex internationally for the commissioning of museum buildings by star architects, such as these. The many new museum buildings, renovations, and/or expansions taking place all over the world interested the director of the Art Centre Basel, Suzanne Greub, who then developed the exhibition *Museums of the 21st Century*, **opening at the [New Mexico Museum of Art](#) on Friday, January 29, 2010.**

The installation of the *Museums in the 21st Century: Concepts, Projects, Buildings* at the New Mexico Museum of Art will conclude the exhibition's successful national and international tour. Museum curator Merry Scully has selected more than a dozen museum building projects from the original exhibition for inclusion in the installation in Santa Fe.

Among the architectural projects featured in *Museums in the 21st Century* are Frank Gehry's unrealized design for the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Renzo Piano's lyrical Zentrum Paul Klee in Bern, Switzerland; Daniel Libeskind's controversial extension of the Denver Art Museum; Tadao Ando's dramatic design for the partially recessed Chichi Art Museum, Naoshima, Japan; Spacelab's (Peter Cook/Colin Fournier) "friendly alien" the Kunsthaus Graz, Austria; Rafael Viñoly's design of The

Nasher Museum, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina; and Yoshio Taniguchi's expansion and renovation of the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Greub considered the new architecture in terms of the look and function of the structures and how the new architecture would interplay with each particular museum's history, geography, holdings, and programming. Art Centre Basel and the represented architects collaborated on the design of each project with fully realized architectural models, selected sketches, computer renderings, and animations of the various museum projects.

Art Centre Basel has produced a catalog in several languages with images of the represented projects and critical essays by acclaimed experts. The catalog is available for sale in the New Mexico Museum of Art shop.

Museums in the 21st Century: Concepts, Projects, Buildings is an Art Centre Basel exhibition (www.artcentralbasel.com). Idea and concept Suzanne Greub and Thierry Greub, Art Center Basel; Realization: Christine Gisi, Art Centre Basel.

The exhibition opens on Friday, January 29, 2010 5:30 – 7:30 with a reception hosted by the Women's Board of the Museum of New Mexico and will run through April 18, 2010.

This exhibition has been made possible in part through the generous support of The Burnett Foundation and Thornburg Investment Management.

High resolution exhibition images may be downloaded from the Media Center at <http://media.museumofnewmexico.org/>.

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*The **New Mexico Museum of Art** was founded in 1917 as the Art Gallery of the Museum of New Mexico. Housed in a spectacular Pueblo Revival building designed by I. H. and William M. Rapp, it was based on their New Mexico building at the Panama-California Exposition (1915). The museum's architecture inaugurated what has come to be known as "Santa Fe Style." For nearly 100 years, the Museum has celebrated the diversity of the visual arts and the legacy of New Mexico as a cultural crossroads by collecting and exhibiting work by leading artists from New Mexico and elsewhere. This tradition continues today with a wide-array of exhibitions with work from the world's leading artists. The New Mexico Museum of Art brings the art of New Mexico to the world and the art of the world to New Mexico.*

The New Mexico Museum of Art is a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

Information for the Public

Location: Santa Fe's Plaza at 107 West Palace Avenue.

Information: 505-476-5072 or www.nmartmuseum.org

Days/Times: Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Open Free on Fridays, 5:00-8:00 P.M., with the exception of major exhibition openings.

Admission:

Sundays: New Mexico residents with ID are admitted FREE.
Students with ID receive a one-dollar discount.

Wednesdays: New Mexico resident seniors (60+) with ID are free.

Adult single-museum admission is \$6 for New Mexico residents, \$9 for nonresidents; OR \$15 for one-day pass to two museums of your choice (Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Museum of International Folk Art, New Mexico Museum of Art, and Palace of the Governors/New Mexico History Museum) OR \$20 four-day pass to five museums (includes all 4 listed above and the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art) **Youth 16 and under, Foundation Members, and New Mexico Veterans with 50% or more disability always free.**

Field Trips There is no charge for educational groups attending the museum with their instructor and/or adult chaperones. Contact the Tours office by phone at (505) 476-1140 or (505) 476-1211 to arrange class/group visits to the Museum.

Direct flights between Santa Fe and Dallas/Fort Worth are now available on American Eagle.