



FORT WORTH MUSEUM
SCIENCE AND HISTORY
Learning through Innovation

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**New Fort Worth Museum of Science and History Enhances
Architectural Importance Of Fort Worth’s Cultural District**

***Architects Legorreta + Legorreta Impart Their Mexican Heritage
To Stunning New Building Scheduled To Open Friday, November 20, 2009***

FORT WORTH, TEXAS -- The opening of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History’s (FWMSH) new building Friday Nov. 20, 2009, marks the completion of the latest architectural masterpiece in the city’s Cultural District. Designed by the father and son team of Ricardo and Victor Legorreta of Mexico City, the 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, replete with state-of-the-art technological exhibit innovations, is the latest example of a Legorreta + Legorreta’s exemplary blend of space, light, color, and water with the use of strong, basic geometric forms.

Built adjacent to a natural plaza, the pedestrian-friendly museum is anchored by the building’s iconic signature attraction: a 76-foot-tall glass and stone tower – the Urban Lantern – which functions as the Museum’s main entrance. This elegant entry, marked by clean lines, invites natural light into the building during the day and softly illuminates the surrounding area in the evening.

“The idea of creating an urban lantern came from the notion of orientation within the city,” said Ricardo Legorreta, founder of the firm that bears his name. “In the same way that lighthouses guide ships at sea, we wanted to guide people in the city to the Museum.”

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The tower was designed as a point of orientation within the city and will guide the more than one million annual guests to the museum campus. It is destined to become a vibrant new Fort Worth landmark.

In addition, the new FWMSH serves as a capstone to Fort Worth's Cultural District, which over the past five decades, has developed into an international destination for the architecture of its museum facilities. Ranked as the nation's third largest cultural district, it already showcases masterpieces by Tadeo Ando, Buckminster Fuller, Philip Johnson, and Louis Kahn.

"I have been eager to build in Fort Worth for many years", said Ricardo Legorreta. "For us, the goal was not only to create a building that reflects the family-friendly character of the Museum of Science and History, but also to make a building that attracts people to come inside.

"One bears a huge responsibility when one is dedicated to the creation of a structure: the fact that the work stays," he added. "I am profoundly enthused and happy that this work will stay."

Museum President Van A. Romans is equally excited and proud that the nearly 70-year-old museum, the oldest in the Cultural District, now has an innovative world-class building to tell its history and science stories for the 21st century.

"In so many ways, the architectural genius of Legorreta + Legorreta creates the 'envelope' for our mission of life-long learning and discovery in a wonderful new environment for the community," Romans said. "One example is the Urban Lantern, which not only acts as a landmark beacon in our Cultural District, but also as a welcoming beacon, lighting the way for our guests into an always present environment of learning."

The Legorreta + Legorreta architectural style works 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

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“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 Gideon Toal serves as the project’s Architect of Record. Other members of the design, construction, and exhibit design team include: Chick Russell Communications, Design Island Associates, Emerald Palms Design Group, Linbeck Group LLC, The Projects Group, Robert Reid Studios, and ROTO Studios.

Recognized for its innovative, imaginative work with shape and color, Legorreta + Legorreta, headquartered in Mexico City, has designed more than 100 buildings around the world. Among its many projects, the firm is highly regarded for designing new museum facilities including the Papalote Children’s Museum in Mexico City (1993); the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, California (1998); and the Visual Arts Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico (1999). In January 2000, Ricardo Legorreta was awarded the American Institute of Architects’ (AIA) Gold Medal, which recognizes an architect whose work has had a lasting influence on the history and practice of architecture. Mr. Legorreta is the only Latin American to have received this prestigious annual award.

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

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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'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.