



Anchorage Museum

AT RASMUSON CENTER

121 W. SEVENTH AVE. • ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
907.343.4326 • WWW.ANCHORAGEMUSEUM.ORG

EXPLORE ALASKA'S HISTORY AND CULTURE

Anchorage Museum Expansion List of Contractors

Scope of Project

- Addition of an **80,000-square-foot wing**
- Construction of a **planetarium**
- Development of a **two-acre landscaped public common** adjacent to the new building
- Existing museum building **renovation**

Project Cost

\$106 million

Start/Completion Dates

Ground breaking, fall 2006 – Grand Opening, spring 2010

Building Design Team

David Chipperfield Architects, London, England - Design Architect

<http://www.davidchipperfield.co.uk/>

The building expansion design is the work of David Chipperfield, an internationally-renowned, award-winning architect who has designed other museum projects in U.S cities and around the world. His architecture reflects current modernism – he is interested in regionalism, context, creating beautiful spaces and use of light.

Chipperfield said of this project, "The landscape that is the setting for the city of Anchorage is a continual reminder of the unusual dominance of the natural environment. It is rare in our modern world that the presence of nature is so unmediated. We believe that the role of this new museum is to heighten the sensitivity to these conditions, to encourage an appreciation of the beauty of the objects and establish an understanding of their connection to the people and land that produced them."

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Building Design Team (continued)

Kumin Associates, Inc., Anchorage - Architect of Record

<http://www.kumin.alaska.com/>

Kumin Associates is responsible for developing the construction documents and details so they convey David Chipperfield's design vision while responding to the technical climatic, structural and seismic conditions in Anchorage. The award-winning firm manages the design aspects of the project from concept through the construction and administration phases.

Building Construction

Alcan General, Inc., Anchorage – General Contractor

Alcan General joined the project team in 2005 through a competitive bid process and was integral in the design process, reviewing project constructability and costs. The general contractor coordinates the activity of nine project subcontractors.

Exhibit Design

Exhibit Designer for Arctic Studies Center exhibits - Ralph Appelbaum Associates, Inc., New York

<http://www.raany.com/>

Exhibit Designer for General Science / Young Learners Exhibits - Ansel Associates, Inc., Point Richmond, California <http://www.anselinc.com/>

Exhibit Construction

Exhibit fabricator for Arctic Studies Center exhibits – Maltbie, Netherfield Museum Showcase System, Mount Laurel, New Jersey <http://www.maltbie.com/showcases.html>

Exhibit fabrication for General Science/Young Learners exhibit – Multiple fabricators and artists nationwide

Museum Building Committee (MBC)

The MBC is a group of 18 volunteers that has the responsibility of directing the expansion project. They report to the Anchorage Museum Association and the Municipality of Anchorage.

On matters of funding and investment, the MBC reports to the Anchorage Museum Foundation.



Anchorage Museum Expansion Fact Sheet

About the Anchorage Museum

- The Anchorage Museum is the largest museum in Alaska and one of the top 10 places visitors come when they visit the state.
- The current Anchorage Museum is a museum of the North with an emphasis on the art and history of Alaska and the circumpolar North. With the expansion in 2010, the museum will add a new dimension to its mission – interpreting the science of the North.
- This museum first opened in 1968 with 60 borrowed paintings and 2,500 historic and ethnographic objects owned by the local historical society.
- The museum's collection currently holds more than 24,000 objects and 500,000 historical photographs.

Expansion Overview

The \$106 million expansion of the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center will bring a new era to one of Alaska's premier visitor attractions with the completion of an 80,000-square-foot wing and renovation of the existing building by early 2010. With the grand opening in the spring of 2010, visitors to the museum will be able to enjoy:

- the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, a centerpiece of the expansion housing an exhibition of rare Alaska Native heritage objects from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of the American Indian with an interactive database of the items on exhibit;
- the Bob and Evangeline Atwood Alaska Resource Center, including the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation Reading Room, which invites perusal of the museum's collection of 500,000 historic photographs and 10,000 books;
- hands-on science from The Imaginarium, an interactive science discovery center which is relocating to the existing museum building, allowing the museum to offer hands-on exhibits for visitors of all ages to explore physics, living plants and animals;
- a new Thomas Planetarium where visitors will journey to the stars, taking trips through the solar system, or join in planetarium presentations that explore the night sky;
- the TOTE KidSpace, a place where everything can be touched and children and parents can explore art, history and science through play;
- new and expanded museum café and museum shop featuring extensive collections of Alaska art, books, jewelry and more;

Expansion Overview (continued)

- a two-acre common, a landscaped public area that celebrates the environment while creating an active, vibrant place for outdoor exhibits, gatherings and recreation; and
- a new main entrance reoriented on C Street and windowed galleries clad in fritted (striped) glass that protects the art and artifacts while affording views to the outside majesty of Alaska, imparting a “sense of place.”

Floor-by-Floor Breakdown and Timing – New Addition

- **First Floor – Lobby, Museum Shop, Library and Archives (Spring 2009)**
On the first floor off the lobby, visitors may begin exploring galleries immediately, get a bite to eat in the new café with outdoor patio or browse the extensive collection of Alaska art, books, jewelry and more in the larger gift shop. A new Alaska resource center with a reading room also is on the first level.
- **Second Floor - Smithsonian Institution’s Arctic Studies Center (Spring 2010)**
More than 600 objects from the Smithsonian’s collections will come to the museum on long-term loan. Visitors may learn about Alaska Native life through video, audio and interactive displays in this 8,000 square-foot gallery. The Smithsonian’s Arctic Studies Center will also feature an archaeology laboratory, an interactive database of the items on exhibit, visiting master artists, and ongoing research and collaboration with cultural centers and museums across Alaska.
- **Second Floor – Contemporary Native Art in the ConocoPhillips Gallery (Spring 2010)**
The Anchorage Museum is fortunate to have one of the most extensive collections of contemporary Alaska Native art in both traditional and non-traditional styles. Featuring the work of nationally known artists, Contemporary Alaska Native art helps shape our perception of what it means to be Native in Alaska today. The sculptures, carvings, paintings and mixed media in the Contemporary Native Art gallery often represent traditional values, but present them from a fresh perspective or in an unusual medium.
- **Third Floor – Special Exhibitions and Children’s Gallery (Spring 2009)**
The open, flexible gallery space on the third floor will display traveling exhibitions from around the world and special exhibitions from the museum’s vast collections. The Children’s Gallery, also on the third floor, features a hands-on art exhibition that changes annually.
- **Fourth Floor – Vista Viewing Area (Spring 2009)**
From the gallery on the fourth floor, enjoy vistas of the Chugach Mountains and downtown Anchorage. Comfortable benches allow visitors a place for reflection.

Renovations to Existing Museum Building and Timing

- **Hands-on Science Discovery and The Imaginarium (Spring 2010)**
The Thomas Planetarium and the hands-on science learning areas, including BP Kinetic Space and TOTE KidSpace, will be located on the east side of the existing museum and will replace the current Children’s Gallery and temporary exhibition galleries which are moving to the new addition.

Green Building

The expanded museum is seeking certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the nationally accepted standard for energy-efficient and sustainable building. If achieved it will be the first LEED-certified building in Anchorage.

Green Building (continued)

Among the environmentally friendly elements of the museum expansion:

- minimal building footprint through stacking on four levels plus a basement and maximized use of planted landscape and green space;
- use of locally produced, recycled content building and landscaping materials whenever possible;
- implementation of an air quality management plan during and after construction to flush out contaminants before occupancy; and
- recycling collection areas for building users.

The museum will remain open throughout construction with periodic partial and full closures during March and April 2009. For more information on the Anchorage Museum expansion visit www.anchoragemuseum.org or call (907) 343-4326.



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Anchorage Museum Expansion Custom Glass Curtain Wall Façade

"The façade will give an overall reflective quality to the entire building, reinforcing its volumetric form while allowing particular views into and out of the building."

David Chipperfield, Architect

The shimmering glass façade of the museum expansion is a design concept created by architect David Chipperfield. It is a curtain wall that will reflect views of the distant mountains and the lush landscaped commons nearby. It serves as the external skin of the building but is not a weight-bearing part of the structure.

The specially designed façade panels are made of glass manufactured in Germany and then shipped to China for custom fabrication. The glass has a low iron content which results in a very clear product with no color.

A Chinese company, Sanxin Special Glass Technology Company Ltd., located in Shenzhen, produced the panels because of its specialized manufacturing capability.

Panel Details

- The glass façade allows for 25 percent transparency of the museum.
- More than 600 panels, four feet wide and in varying heights, will complete the façade.
- The two-sided glass panels are 12 inches thick, allowing for different applications in different parts of the museum.
- The panels are unique because of the frit, a reflective exterior chemically-applied striping, and the height, which is up to 26 feet tall. The mirrored frits will appear as matte stripes from the interior.
- In some areas the panels will be clear and in other locations they will sandwich insulation and an aluminum lining that will render the building's exterior opaque.

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Panel Details (continued)

- Some panels are fitted with blinds to protect museum collections from sun damage. All of the glass offers ultraviolet protection.
- To ensure that the panels meet strength, seismic and weather resistance standards, some early production units were rigorously tested. The panels were tested by Construction Research Laboratory in Miami, a facility that has provided the service for construction projects around the world since 1955.

For more information on the Anchorage Museum expansion, visit www.anchagemuseum.org or call (907) 343-4326.



Anchorage Museum expansion project strives to be first LEED-certified “green” building in Anchorage

The Anchorage Museum is pursuing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the 80,000-square-foot addition slated to open in Spring 2009. The LEED Green Building Rating System promotes a whole building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

“We understand that, if achieved, the museum expansion will be the first municipal building in Anchorage LEED-certified as a ‘green’ building,” said James Pepper Henry, Anchorage Museum director and CEO. “It is our hope that by securing LEED certification, the museum will be an example of sustainability for future public building projects and other museums throughout the state.”

A grant from the Kresge Foundation’s Green Building Initiative allowed the museum to investigate sustainable building options early in the design process. A LEED checklist was used to track sustainable features incorporated during the design phases and revealed additional opportunities to conserve resources and maintain energy efficiency while creating a beautiful public building.

Environmentally friendly elements of the museum expansion:

- minimizes the building footprint by stacking the program on four levels plus a basement and maximizes the planted landscape and green space;
- uses recycled content building materials whenever possible;
- uses locally produced materials whenever possible, including concrete aggregate and landscape supplies;
- provides an air quality management plan during and after construction to flush out contaminants before occupancy;

Museum Seeks LEED Certification for Expansion (continued)

- allows staff to control their work area light levels, resulting in energy cost savings and higher productivity;
- offers increased energy performance resulting from extensive testing of the skin and HVAC systems;
- encourages use of alternative transportation, providing easy access by pedestrians and public transportation, convenient bike racks and a shower and changing room for staff;
- aims for a 20 percent reduction in water use through the use of low flow or automatic plumbing fixtures; and
- promotes recycling by providing local and central collection areas.

For more information, including a detailed list of the museum expansion's green features, visit www.anchoragemuseum.org/expansion/building_green.aspx.

Construction on the \$106 million expansion started in September 2006. The new building is expected to be complete in Spring 2009, opening levels 1, 3 and 4. Level 2, home to the Arctic Studies Center, is slated to open in Spring 2010, about the same time renovations of the existing museum are expected to be complete. For more information on the museum expansion, visit www.anchoragemuseum.org/expansion.



Anchorage Museum Expansion Landscape Design Overview

Many factors were considered when designing the Anchorage Museum site.

The site needed to respond to the architecture of the new expansion, museum program, adjacent streets and city, and regional context. Early in the design process the design architect, David Chipperfield, and the landscape architect, Seattle-based Charles Anderson of Charles Anderson Landscape Architecture, discussed how to approach the museum site design. Both designers agreed the site needed to:

- strike a bold presence,
- complement the architecture, and
- provide respite from the adjacent busy streets

The two boldest design moves were either to fill the site or to leave it empty. Because of the wide avenues, parking lots and open sky that surround the site, it was clear that the answer was to fill the site.

Birch Trees

Although the designers felt the site should be filled, the program of the site needed to be flexible and open. To achieve these seemingly opposite requirements, Charles Anderson Landscape Architecture looked back to one of the most enigmatic and dynamic icons of the Southcentral Alaskan landscape — the deciduous birch forests.

About the birch trees and site design:

- Paper birch is one of the most culturally and ecologically important and widespread native trees in the Anchorage Bowl, extending from Cook Inlet to the rolling foothills of the Chugach Mountains.
- Planted on a graduated grid, the birch trees complement the dramatic form, mass and semi-transparent skin of the building, and move from dense spacing at the west end of the site, to an airy spacing as it approaches the new building.

- The birch trees create a unified element that provides an animated, transparent screen between the street and the museum. Its staggered, syncopated spacings create multiple mutations of light and space, while still providing a formal cogency and simplicity to the whole site. A low, simple understory planting will accentuate the open space between the ground and the tree canopy, and focus the eye on the dancing shadows and the warm white of the trunks.

A Public Common

Clearings carved into the forest will be surfaced with turf and hardscape, creating areas for gathering, sculpture and group activity. The largest of these carvings becomes a civic common that generously spills out from the new museum entrance into the heart of the museum site. A series of benches line the northern edge of the civic common, providing a place to have lunch, meet friends, and capitalize on summer light.

The landscape creates a dramatic urban forest in the middle of the city. It is a singular visual statement, as well as an ambiguous terrain open to multiple interpretations.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How will the Anchorage Museum landscape be maintained?

A. The museum will add a groundskeeper to its staff and contract with an arborist to care for the trees. Anchorage-based landscape architects from Earthscape also serve as a local resource. Built into the design are two elements that will help reduce maintenance issues: the site is predominantly filled with native plants that will require less upkeep over time, and the site is fully irrigated.

Q. Will the Anchorage Museum landscape be a safe place to visit?

A. Considering safety issues in the landscape design has been a high priority for Charles Anderson Landscape Architecture (CALA). One of the key elements of the design is to ensure that visibility is clear into and across the site. To achieve this, all trees will be limbed up to six feet and all shrubs will be no taller than three feet, providing open sight lines at eye level. Additionally, CALA worked with museum design firm George Sexton Associates on the site lighting design to provide safe levels of light throughout the site during the winter months.

Q. Is it prudent to primarily use one species of trees for the Anchorage Museum landscape?

What if there is a bug infestation or all the trees get a disease?

A. Charles Anderson Landscape Architecture selected the Paper Birch as the dominant tree because of its regional ecological significance and beauty. While it is true that insects and diseases can wipe out a stand of trees of the same species, this happens most often when the trees are stressed due to circumstances such as drought, restricted root space and compacted soils. The museum landscape design mitigates these kinds of stresses with a fully irrigated site and a large, open plant bed filled with native topsoil to ensure the birch trees are healthy.

Q. Where are the birch trees coming from?

A. About 250 birch trees were salvaged in summer 2008 from a few sites near Big Lake that are privately owned and will eventually be developed commercially. The trees will be cared for in a nursery until they will be re-planted on the museum site in 2009. The birch trees will be about 16 feet tall when first planted. Over the next 20 years, the trees will mature to 30 – 40 feet tall.

Q. Where can I learn more?

A. Please visit the museum's website at: www.anchoragemuseum.org for more information, including presentations by the building's architect, David Chipperfield, and landscape architect, Charles Anderson. Multiple public presentations over the last 3 years have included question and answer sessions that are reflected in these images and summaries.



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Anchorage Museum's Thomas Planetarium Journey to the Stars – Experience the Universe

In a new 530 square-foot planetarium, visitors will journey to the stars, taking trips through the solar system or join in The Imaginarium's presentations that explore the night sky. The Thomas Planetarium will present fascinating and enjoyable ways to learn about astronomy and space.

This multi-purpose space will be used for a wide variety of education programs and films featuring breathtaking images and immersing the audience in surround sound. Programming may include:

- exciting and innovative laser light shows combining laser images choreographed to music;
- educational and entertaining small format films;
- interactive science demonstrations; and
- creative and informative art, history and science offerings for multi-generational audiences.

Other facts about the Planetarium:

- Opening: Spring 2010
- Features a state-of-the-art Digistar 3 projector manufactured by Evans & Sutherland Corporation, the world's first computer graphics company. Digistar 3 uses powerful graphics hardware and software to generate immersive images on the interior surface of a dome, integrating all-dome video, real-time 3D computer graphics, and a complete digital astronomy package.
- Cost: \$1.96 million
- Size: 180-degree, spherical perforated aluminum projection dome with a diameter of 24 feet
- Seating: Planetarium seats 48 and is accessible to people with disabilities
- Hours: Open during museum hours with occasional evening programming
- Admission Fees: To be determined
- Named for major campaign contributors Lowell and Tay Thomas

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