

Press Contact

Sydney Rich, Communications Manager

sydney.rich@MIM.org

480.245.6953

MIM Architectural Fact Sheet

Project Musical Instrument Museum
4725 East Mayo Boulevard
Phoenix, AZ 85050

Milestones Groundbreaking: Feb. 6, 2008
Grand Opening: April 24, 2010

Dimensions 200,000 square feet, on two floors
80,000 square feet of exhibition space
300-seat Music Theater

Materials & Description Located on a 20-acre site in north Phoenix, MIM features a distinct architectural style that evokes the landscape of the Southwest and the museum's international scope. The museum façade is richly grained Indian sandstone that complements the surrounding desert colors. The stepping masses and horizontal coursing of the exterior surfaces suggest the geology of eroded stone bluffs. The entrance courtyard is a serene and welcoming oasis of desert plantings and running water that reflects the character of an Arizona canyon.

Linking the museum's two stories and numerous spacious galleries is a central corridor called "El Río," a flowing, river-like form that serves as the spine of the museum, connecting the exterior atrium with the interior spaces. Patterns in the Venetian plaster walls, Italian porcelain floor tile and the stainless-steel balcony railings allude to the variety and rhythms of musical composition. Diffused daylight illuminates the galleries and public spaces through windows and skylights; subtle lighting enhances and animates the building at night.

Layout The first floor of MIM features the Orientation Gallery, introducing museum guests to the rich diversity of international instruments; the hands-on Experience Gallery, offering the opportunity for guests to touch and play instruments; the Artist Gallery, featuring musical instruments and special items linked to world-renowned musicians and innovators; the Mechanical Music Gallery; and the Target Gallery for special exhibitions.

The first floor also features the Guest Service area, Museum Store, Café Allegro, a space for group and educational programming and a state-of-the-art Conservation Lab.

The World's Only Global Musical Instrument Museum

The second floor is devoted to MIM's extensive core collections, arranged in Geographic Galleries that focus on five global regions:

- Africa and the Middle East
- Asia and Oceania
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Europe
- United States and Canada

Music Theater

Spanning the two floors of the museum is the 300-seat MIM Music Theater with a 1,250-square-foot stage, which is a premier venue for performances, films and seminars about global musical traditions. An adjacent mixing suite, with cutting-edge, state-of-the-art equipment, allows MIM to capture live recordings of performances in the theater.

Design Team

Richard Varda, FAIA, ASLA, Project Lead Design Principal, RSP Architects, Minneapolis, MN and Phoenix, AZ

Jeremy Mayberg, AIA, Managing Principal

Ted Davis, AIA, IIDA, Design Principal

Tom Sopoci, AIA, Project Manager

Paul Whitenack, AIA, Project Architect

Brian Tucker, AIA, Project Architect

Jeff Walden, Senior Designer

Scott Aspenson, Designer

Alissa Swenson, Interior Designer

Rafael Olabarrieta, Job Captain

Design Partners

General Contractor: Ryan Companies, Minneapolis, MN, and Phoenix, AZ

AV/Acoustical/Security/Telecommunications: Shen Milsom & Wilke, New York, NY

Civil Engineers: David Evans and Associates, Inc., Portland, OR, and Phoenix, AZ

Exhibition Design: Target Commercial Interiors, Tempe, AZ, and Gallagher & Associates, Silver Spring, MD

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