



Expansion Update

Welcome

In the weeks since the publication of the premiere issue of Expansion Update, several exciting things have happened to bring The Mint Museums' future into sharper focus. Our expansion endeavor made a major leap forward with the selection of the design team that will create the look and feel of our planned South Tryon Street facility as part of the new urban gateway for the southern end of uptown Charlotte.

Also, we debuted an addition to our web site that will allow us to communicate in a way befitting an arts organization—VISUALLY and in full color. The web site will give you an exceptional window into developments as they unfold. For the latest information, please visit our website at www.mintmuseum.org and click on Expansion Update.

As always, we greatly appreciate the energy and enthusiasm with which you support The Mint Museums.

Executive Director
The Mint Museums

Mint Museum of Art
2730 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28207

Mint Museum of Craft + Design
220 N. Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

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Design Team Selection Brings Focus To Long-Range Vision

This spring will bring more than verdant landscapes, warm breezes and azure skies to Charlotte. It will bring the first tendrils of a renewed artistic awakening for the southern gateway to uptown Charlotte with the unveiling of preliminary designs for The Mint Museums' new facility on South Tryon Street.

The selection of the design team for the new facility was made on January 17 by The Mint Museums' Board of Trustees, based on the recommendation of the Architect Selection Committee. The design team represents a triumvirate of talent stretching down the East Coast -- Machado and Silveti Associates of Boston (design architect), George Sexton and Associates of Washington, D.C. (museum consultant), and Clark Patterson Associates of Charlotte (architect of record).

Patricia Rodgers, Chair of The Mint Museums Board of Trustees, elaborates on the design team choice. "During the interview process, the Selection Committee felt strongly that this team demonstrated a passion for every aspect of what the Mint is trying to accomplish for the community. We could see their ability to collaborate in everything they told us and everything they showed us. The Selection Committee was also impressed with how well they demonstrated a cohesive understanding of our need to project two different identities for the new art museum and the Mint Museum of Craft + Design. They articulated a programming process that will capture the input of staff, board, affiliates, members and the community."

Design Architects: Machado and Silveti Associates

You can see their work in cities such as Berlin, Boston, Buenos Aires, New York, Singapore, San Francisco, Venice, Vienna, and soon, CHARLOTTE! According to firm principal Rodolfo Machado, "We have wanted to work with this team for a long time and are very, very happy to be the design architect on the project. This represents a fantastic opportunity for the life of the city. It will enrich the livelihood and urbanity of Charlotte, and will create a wonderful block with a public plaza and connections to shops and the stadium."

Rodolfo Machado chairs the Department of Urban Planning and Design at Harvard University. Jorge Silveti, the firm's other principal, previously chaired the Department of Architecture at Harvard University. Click on the link at www.mintmuseum.org to see photographs of Machado and Silveti projects, including The Getty Villa, Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Atelier 505, Honan-Allston Library, and Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Architect of Record: Clark Patterson Associates

The firm has devoted more than 10 years of its corporate life to making The Mint Museums' mission flourish. Senior Vice President Don Lee says the firm "is delighted to have been selected by The Mint Museums as the local architect leading the design team for their new museum. We look forward to building on our past relationship with The Mint Museums and the tremendous potential the Wachovia project has to develop a world-class cultural arts campus anchoring South Tryon Street."

As you will see on the website, Clark Patterson's reputation extends far and wide through work on projects such as the McWane Center, CCDS Fine Arts Center, and UNC-Asheville Highsmith Student Center, along with the Mint Museum of Craft + Design.

Museum Consultant: George Sexton Associates

With extensive experience in museum planning, exhibition design and lighting, this renowned firm supplies the elements and nuances that truly bring exhibitions alive. As firm principal George Sexton says, "We are delighted to be one part of a tripartite team that will be working on this stimulating project. The opportunity to work with well-known and world-class museum collections is both challenging and exciting. This museum project will be unique in its urban setting and the context of the overall complex."

For an extensive look at the firm's work for the Denver Art Museum, Peabody Essex Museum, Asian Art Museum, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Museum of Modern Art, and Milwaukee Art Museum, go to the Expansion Update on our web site at www.mintmuseum.org.

What Happens Next?

- Organize focus groups of staff, board, affiliates, members and community representatives for input into the programming phase
- Formal contract negotiations with design team
- Programming work commences with focus groups and Wachovia team
- City Council votes on Memorandum of Understanding
- County Commission votes on Memorandum of Understanding

There are some dramatic changes occurring in the cultural community today; here are some facts.

- The Mint Museum of Art will maintain its current location on Randolph Road. The collections to remain will be: Ceramics; Historic Costume; Pre-Columbian; Asian; Coins & Currency; Decorative Arts; and Spanish Colonial.
- The expansion is in the center city and includes a new facility. The current Craft + Design building will be purchased by Bank of America and the Mint Museum of Craft + Design will move to the new facility.
- The Mint Museums will have a dynamic presence in the Wachovia South Tryon project that includes high-level condominiums, retail establishments and an office complex. Also included in the cultural plaza will be the Bechtler Museum, the Afro-American Cultural Center, and the 1,200 seat theater managed by the Performing Arts Center with the North Carolina Dance Theatre as a primary tenant.

Timeline of Developments

DECEMBER 14 & 15, 2005 -

Second round of interviews with two design team finalists.

DECEMBER 20, 2005 -

County Commission approves Cultural Facilities Plan and authorizes its staff to work with the city and Wachovia to seek funding.

JANUARY 4, 2006 -

Economic Development Committee of City Council is presented with a draft of the Memorandum of Understanding between Wachovia, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

JANUARY 17, 2006 -

The Mint Museums Board of Trustees approves recommendation of the Architect Selection Committee and announces design team selection.

JANUARY 18, 2006 -

The Economic Development Committee approves a motion to take the revised Memorandum of Understanding to the full City Council for approval.

Since the last Expansion Update we have had the opportunity to speak to several organizations, including:

- Central Charlotte Kiwanis
- Executive Women International
- Apprentice Circle of The Founders' Circle Ltd.
- Clear Channel Radio Stations

If you are interested in having someone from the Mint speak to your organization about our expansion plans, please contact us.