

SAFDIE ARCHITECTS SELECTED TO DESIGN NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM AT PATRIOTS POINT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

BOSTON, MA, October 27, 2014—Following a national search, the National Medal of Honor Foundation has selected Safdie Architects to develop the design for its new museum and education center at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. The National Medal of Honor Museum will bring the stories of the Medal of Honor recipients to life for visitors. The Medal of Honor was created in 1861 and is the nation’s highest military honor. It is awarded by the President of the United States on behalf of the United States Congress for valor in combat. The Museum is the first part of a multi-phase development of the site on the eastern shore of Charleston Harbor and will become an iconic destination in the region.

Safdie Architects, led by celebrated architect Moshe Safdie, was selected for its extensive experience with cultural projects and national monuments across the U.S. and abroad and the philosophical approach it has applied to these structures for five decades. Among its most notable projects are the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, AR; Khalsa Heritage Centre, the national museum of the Sikh people in Punjab, India; the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, Canada; Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum in Jerusalem, Israel; and the United States Institute of Peace on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The designs for each of these projects are responsive to local, cultural, and environmental contexts and speak to the individuals for whom the buildings and public spaces were created.

“We are honored to have been selected for the National Medal of Honor Museum,” said Moshe Safdie. “This is a project with a noble mission on a significant site in a great historic city. It is an unbeatable combination and we look forward to the architectural challenge of creating a building worthy of the story which will unfold within it.”

As part of the announcement, the Foundation has also selected Gallagher & Associates of Silver Spring, MD, as the design team for the exhibitions. Gallagher & Associates and Safdie Architects will work collaboratively with the Foundation to ensure a continuity of experience and message in the Museum and related exhibitions. Work on the designs will begin in November 2014.

“The announcement of our selections marks an important milestone for the creation of the Museum,” said Robert C. Wilburn, president and CEO of the Foundation. “We selected Safdie Architects for their creativity, the unique nature of every building it designs, and its skill in working with waterfront sites. We look forward to working together to create a transformative visitor experience.”

About the National Medal of Honor Foundation:

The National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation is a non-profit educational organization established to preserve and present the stories of the nation’s Medal of Honor recipients; to help visitors understand what it means to put service above self; and to inspire current and future generations about the Medal’s ideals of patriotism, leadership and courage. This will be the only museum in the country that brings together the story of the nation’s highest military honor, all of its recipients, and the wars in which they fought.

About Safdie Architects and Moshe Safdie:

Moshe Safdie is an architect, urban planner, educator, theorist, and author who embraces a comprehensive and humane design philosophy. In keeping with a philosophical approach that Safdie has applied around the world for more than four decades, the design of each of his projects is responsive to local historic, cultural, and environmental contexts and grows out of a vision of the way it can affect the lives of the individuals for whom the buildings and public spaces are created. In recognition of his work’s impact around the world and his lasting influence on generations of younger architects, Safdie was recently awarded the 2015 AIA Gold Medal, the profession’s highest honor.

The firm has designed and realized a wide range of projects around the world, including cultural, civic, and educational institutions; mixed-use urban centers and airports; and master plans for existing neighborhoods and entirely new cities, many of which have become landmarks in their communities.

Notable projects include Habitat '67 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort and ArtScience Museum in Singapore; the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles; and the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri. Safdie Architects is based in Boston with offices in Toronto, Jerusalem, Singapore, and Shanghai.

About Gallagher & Associates:

As president and founder of Gallagher & Associates, Patrick Gallagher has led the design of some of the world's most memorable museum experiences, from his long-standing relationship with the Smithsonian Institution, to high-profile projects in Asia and Europe. Under his guidance, the firm has gained international acclaim for its leadership in the field of museum planning and experience design. The firm's collective portfolio is extremely diverse and often flows from the creation of an interpretive and economic master plan, to full service renovation and finally, to complete ground up building projects. We guide our clients not only in the initial visioning of a particular project; we also assist in operations planning, strategic planning, and lifecycle planning. The firm has extensive expertise in creating experiences that promote regional tourism, link tourism and instigate urban redevelopment. Our interdisciplinary teams combine thorough research, thoughtful master planning and design, media programming, and dynamic environmental graphics.

Gallagher & Associates has collaborated globally with clients on projects such as Gallery One at the Cleveland Museum of Art, the White House Visitor Center, the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery at the National Postal Museum, the College Football Hall of Fame, and the LBJ Presidential Library.

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