

Laumeiersculpturepark

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Pugh + Scarpa selected as architect for planned Fine Arts + Education Center at Laumeier Sculpture Park

St. Louis, MO (October 19, 2007) – Laumeier Sculpture Park is pleased to announce the selection of Pugh + Scarpa of Santa Monica, California as the architect for a new Fine Arts + Education Center at Laumeier Sculpture Park. “Pugh + Scarpa represent an innovative, thoughtful approach to architecture,” said Laumeier Director Glen Gentele. “The first-class team that Pugh + Scarpa have assembled will help us create a visionary sustainable structure that bridges art, architecture and landscape.”

Architect Lawrence Scarpa was elated to be selected for this project that will transform the visitor experience at the Park. “We’re thrilled,” said Scarpa. “It’s a perfect project for us...the idea that we get to juxtapose a new building with an existing building is quite exciting,” he said in reference to the early 20th century estate house that currently houses the museum galleries, the gift shop and administrative offices. Scarpa was particularly intrigued about the relationship between art, nature and community. He pledged to unify those elements and deliver a sustainable building.

The construction of a new Fine Arts + Education Center is a central component of Laumeier’s Strategic Plan for Public/Private Partnership that was developed in 2003 by the Laumeier Board of Directors, St. Louis County Parks, HOK, stakeholders and members of the public. Addressing some of the key objectives of the plan, the proposed structure would provide year-round space for educational programs and offer expanded gallery space allowing the institution to present larger and more complex contemporary works. Projected at approximately 15,000-20,000 square feet, the design planning process for the Center will begin immediately with conceptual drawings anticipated as early as Spring 2008.

The project is being planned by the Laumeier Board of Directors in partnership with St. Louis County Parks and will be a key component of a capital campaign that the Board of Directors will announce next year.

In acknowledging Laumeier’s 30th Anniversary this month, Laumeier Board of Directors co-chair Ken Kranzberg said, “We’re delighted to work with Lawrence Scarpa and his team at Pugh + Scarpa as we embark on the most exciting chapter in Laumeier’s history.” Board co-chair Nancy Kranzberg added, “This is a thrilling time for an institution that is a cultural treasure for this great city.”

The architect search committee for Laumeier made the selection from among three finalists that visited St. Louis in September for presentations with the committee and public lectures at Washington University’s Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. “From a field of 35 American architectural firms and ultimately three outstanding finalists, Pugh + Scarpa stood out as the best partner to create a dynamic, creative and sustainable new museum building for Laumeier’s unique cultural and natural landscape,” said committee chair Andrew Trivers.

“Each of the three finalists for this project was exceptional and I am personally thankful to each of them for their time and effort throughout the entire process,” said Gentele.

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Pugh + Scarpa will utilize a team of architects and designers from several disciplines to develop plans for the new building including museum planners Eskew+Dumez+Rippel of New Orleans and landscape architects Olin Partnership of Philadelphia. The award-winning firm has a history of residential, commercial, educational and cultural projects including the Mill Center for the Arts in Hendersonville, North Carolina in 2005. The Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh, North Carolina and the 18th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica, California are two projects currently in development.

Lawrence Scarpa: Pugh + Scarpa Architects, Santa Monica, CA

In 1991 architects Lawrence Scarpa and Gwynne Pugh set about building a firm with the intent of making the “ordinary extraordinary.” They established a design focus based on simplicity and environmental awareness, while still involving new materials and digital practices. Pugh + Scarpa has received 27 major design awards in the last five years, among these seven consecutive National AIA Honor Awards and a 2003 AIA/COTE top ten green building award, and is a finalist for the World Habitat Award. Scarpa is also a co-founder of Livable Places, Inc., a non-profit development and public policy organization.
<http://www.pugh-scarpa.com>

Laumeier Sculpture Park is located at 12580 Rott Road in St. Louis County, near Interstate 44 and Lindbergh Boulevard. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. until ½ hour past sunset. The indoor galleries and gift shop are open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. For more information, call 314-821-1209 or visit us at www.laumeier.org.

Photo Captions:



Lawrence Scarpa_1843.jpg

Lawrence Scarpa, principal - Pugh + Scarpa Architects (right) visits with students following a lecture at Washington University on September 17, 2007. Photo by Mike Venso/Laumeier Sculpture Park



Scarpa1025.jpg

Lawrence Scarpa, principal - Pugh + Scarpa Architects, image courtesy of Pugh + Scarpa Architects



Scarpa Mill Center Plaza Night.jpg

Mill Center for the Arts in Hendersonville, North Carolina, 2005, image courtesy of Pugh + Scarpa Architects

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