

San Diego Natural History Museum

San Diego CA

This historical building was built in the 1920's as part of the Pan American Exposition. As part of the museum's long-term goals, 70,000 square feet were added to the facility for exhibits and scientists. The new addition has brought life and excitement to the historic building. A new north side entrance mirroring the entrance on the Prado side of the building opens into the focal point of the museum, a 75' high atrium with a grand stairway and a hanging exhibit of whales, schools of fish and kelp.

A design team headed by Architects Richard Bundy and David Thompson was selected to design the new addition. Consisting of five stories above ground and two basement levels, the addition houses a new gift shop, IMAX theatre, exhibit space video production, laboratory/science areas and administration area. The existing building was be remodeled to provide education offices, classrooms, exhibit areas, library, science and collections storage.

This project consisted of HVAC systems, plumbing, and specialized exhaust systems. The design of the HVAC system posed several unique challenges. The existing mechanical systems were located in a mechanical yard on grade where the new addition was being located. The existing central plant, several air handlers, existing chillers and boilers were relocated to complete the new central plant.

The new HVAC system was installed with the latest energy conserving systems and controls. State of the art CO₂ sensors monitor the varying amounts of people and adjust the ventilation air to provide the correct quantity of air without over or under ventilating.

Special exhaust systems were established for the research and scientific functions in the building, and included fume hoods, dust collection, paint booths, and odorous rooms.

