

Hong Kong Museum of Science and Technology

Kowloon, Hong Kong

Role: Master Planner and Conceptual Designer for new science museum; Oversaw and coordinated work of the exhibit design firms.

Program: Immersive science exhibits, changing exhibits area, lobby, cafe, gift shop, function spaces, classrooms, exhibit support, and offices.

Building Area: 188,000 sf

Status: Opened in 1990

Description: In 1985 we were hired as museum planning and design consultants to the Hong Kong Urban Council to develop a long range conceptual plan for the Hong Kong Museum of Science and Technology and the Hong Kong Museum of History, both to be co-located on a prominent site in the Kowloon district of Hong Kong. The total museum complex contains approximately 430,000 gross sf. The first phase of this project was the design and construction of the Hong Kong Museum of Science and Technology.

Our first task was to prepare the building program for both initial and future phases of construction and project necessary staffing to operate the facility. After preparing the preliminary conceptual building design to show how initial and future phases of construction would take place on the site, we developed an overall design concept for the project. The building structural system was designed to offer the maximum flexibility for installation of exhibits. The precast concrete structure permits spans of approximately 60 feet, with all mechanical, acoustical and lighting elements incorporated between the structural beams. This integration of building systems provides a simple and ordered exhibition environment without visual distractions and allows the full height of the exhibit spaces to remain unencumbered by infrastructure. It was conceptualized to allow several alternatives for phased construction.

We also provided museum and architectural coordination throughout the detailed exhibit design and installation work. West Office Design of San Francisco prepared an Exhibition Master Plan for the first phase structure of the Museum of Science, which houses approximately 70,000 sf of exhibits. After the Exhibition Master Plan was completed, we assisted in the selection of three exhibit design firms to prepare final exhibit design (West Office Design of San Francisco, Shab Levy Exhibits of Portland, Oregon, and Toshihiko Sakow Associates of Norwood, New Jersey). We prepared design and construction documents for the building's infrastructure elements, components that are not directly a part of the building or part of an actual exhibit, such as exhibit platforms, enclosures, canopies, etc.



