PRESENTATION TO THE US COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

National Bonsai & Penjing Museum Concept Plan, USNA

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REED-HILDERBRAND TRAHAN ARCHITECTS
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PROJECT STATEMENT
PROJECT STATEMENT: INTRODUCTION

Existing complex
PROJECT STATEMENT: LOCATION WITHIN THE CAPITAL

LOCATION OF UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARBORETUM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.  
(IMAGE FROM GOOGLE EARTH)
PROJECT STATEMENT: LOCATION WITHIN ARBORETUM

NATIONAL BONSAI & PENJING MUSEUM
LOCATED WITHIN THE VISITOR AND
ADMINISTRATIVE CORE AREA
PROJECT STATEMENT: GOALS

1. Renovate/rebuild the exhibitions to a level of quality expressed in the new Japanese Exhibition

2. Expand exhibits gallery with space for new collections; provide opportunities for interpretation within the collection

3. Bring clarity to the visitor experience including entrance, circulation and wayfinding

4. Improve ability to use the space for events

5. Strengthen the connection between the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum and the Arboretum Core including the future events pavilion

6. Provide universal accessibility throughout the museum complex

7. Consolidate service/operations, improving their functions while providing support space for events
MUSEUM DESIGN
MUSEUM DESIGN: PRINCIPLES FOR ORGANIZATION

1. Provide clear points of entry into the museum complex from the arboretum core, defined by gardens

2. Develop a central court with flexible use to unify the museum complex

3. Provide identifiable entrances into each exhibition located on the central court

4. Develop a garden at each exhibition entrance that prepares visitors for the bonsai experience within; allow adequate space for small groups to gather

5. Create clear, directional circulation through the bonsai collections; visitors should not wonder if they have missed a portion of the collection

6. Separate and clarify exhibition entries and exits

7. Privilege the bonsai exhibitions and minimize the presence of service/support in the complex; organize service spaces to support the goals of the Master Plan Update
MUSEUM DESIGN: VEGETATION

Develop the exhibitions as gardens for shade, the cooling benefits of vegetation, and to create a connection between the larger landscape and the intimate bonsai.
MUSEUM DESIGN: VEGETATION
Understory trees with evergreen groundcovers: potential species selection

CARPINUS CAROLINIANA
MAGNOLIA VIRGINIANA
BETULA POPULIFOLIA
AMELANCHIER SP.

SARCOCOCCA HOOKERIANA
HAKONECHLOA MACRA
CAREX PENNSYLVANICA
JUNIPERUS CHINENSIS
MUSEUM DESIGN
Illustrative Aerial rendering
GARDEN EXHIBITIONS
GARDEN EXHIBITIONS: PRINCIPLES

1. Each exhibition shall reflect the cultural expression of the bonsai or penjing within it, whether subtle or distinct

2. Promote the exhibitions as gardens rather than buildings

3. Create clear circulation through the exhibition for ease of wayfinding

4. Configure spaces to bring elements of surprise, revelation, and discovery to the visitor experience; allow for moments of pause and reflection within the exhibitions

5. Provide apertures in the exhibition enclosure for borrowed views and air flow

6. Incorporate vegetation into the exhibitions for cooling benefits

7. Allow for many solar orientations and micro-climates of the bonsai tree display areas to promote flexibility of use and tree rotation
8. Allow for ease of access and maintenance for museum staff

9. Provide physical barriers or visual cues to keep visitors at appropriate distance from the trees

10. Utilize durable materials that will age or patina over time, reflecting the longevity of the bonsai or penjing tradition

11. Forego winterization of exhibitions; develop overhead structural system for shade and lighting
GARDEN EXHIBITIONS: SYSTEM COMPONENTS

Organization

- Backdrop Walls
- Floating Displays
- Columns/Veranda
- Overhead Structure

CHINESE EXHIBITION
NORTH AMERICAN EXHIBITION
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
GARDEN EXHIBITIONS: ARCHITECTURAL SITE PLAN

Museum Relationships

- Administration, Classroom & Service Building
- International Exhibition
- Chinese Exhibition
- USNA Administration Building (Existing to Remain)
- North American Exhibition
- Japanese Exhibition (Existing to Remain)
GARDEN EXHIBITIONS: CENTRAL COURTYARD

Rendering looking East
GARDEN EXHIBITIONS: CHINESE EXHIBITION

Plan

CLASSROOM / DEMONSTRATION

WORKSHOP & ADMINISTRATION

CENTRAL COURTYARD

SECONDARY COURTYARD

EXIT

ENTRY

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

CENTRAL COURTYARD

EXIT

ENTRY
GARDEN EXHIBITIONS: CHINESE EXHIBITION

Exterior View of Entry Looking West
GARDEN EXHIBITIONS: NORTH AMERICAN EXHIBITION

Plan
GARDEN EXHIBITIONS: NORTH AMERICAN EXHIBITION

Exterior View of South Elevation
GARDEN EXHIBITIONS: NORTH AMERICAN EXHIBITION

Interior View, Featuring Goshin
CONDITIONED STRUCTURES
CONDITIONED STRUCTURES: INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION & STONE GALLERY

Plan
CONDITIONED STRUCTURES: INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION & STONE GALLERY

Interior View of Stone Gallery [Kemin Hu Gallery]
CONDITIONED STRUCTURES: ADMIN., CLASSROOM & SERVICE BUILDING

Plan : Level 1

SERVICE YARD & GROW-OUT SPACE

SERVICE YARD & GROW-OUT SPACE

LOADING / SERVICE
(LEVEL -1)

CONDITIONED STRUCTURES: ADMIN., CLASSROOM & SERVICE BUILDING

Plan : Level 1

SERVICE YARD & GROW-OUT SPACE

LOADING / SERVICE
(LEVEL -1)

CONDITIONED STRUCTURES: ADMIN., CLASSROOM & SERVICE BUILDING

Plan : Level 1

SERVICE YARD & GROW-OUT SPACE

LOADING / SERVICE
(LEVEL -1)
THREE DIMENSIONAL MODEL
MUSEUM COMPLEX
Physical Model Photography