

**OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA HONORED WITH
PRESTIGIOUS 25-YEAR AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS CALIFORNIA COUNCIL**

***AIACC honors OMCA with award recognizing both its original (1969) and
transformed (2010) architectural integrity***

(OAKLAND, CA) November 29, 2010—The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) today announced it received the 25-Year Award from the AIA (American Institute of Architects) California Council with Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates, 1969, Mark Cavagnero Associates, 2010. The 25-Year Award recognizes distinguished California architecture of enduring significance which has retained its central form and character, with the architectural integrity of the project intact. Winners of this prestigious award must be located in California and completed 25 to 50 years ago.

“We are pleased and honored for the Museum to be awarded this important award from the AIA,” says OMCA Executive Director Lori Fogarty. “The Oakland Museum of California has long been known as a landmark of museum architecture and represented a revolutionary design for its time. Our commitment—and the commitment shared by Mark Cavagnero Associates—was to retain the Museum’s key qualities and to celebrate the original vision of Kevin Roche, and at the same time to meet our current institutional needs and the needs of our community. We are delighted that AIA has recognized our efforts to blend these two visions.”

Set on four city blocks by Lake Merritt in downtown Oakland, the Oakland Museum of California was designed by Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates and is an icon of mid-century modernism. It first opened its doors in 1969. Roche's design united under one roof Oakland's collections of art, history, and natural sciences, which had been housed in different museums across the city. The building became a milestone in museum design. Inspired by the vision of OMCA as a "museum for the people," Roche designed a community gathering place, with terraced gardens, a central courtyard, walkways, koi pond, and outdoor sculpture courts that continue to provide an urban park for Oakland residents and visitors. Renowned landscape architect Dan Kiley designed the multilevel rooftop gardens and surrounding arboretum to complement the structure's modernist geometry. The building is an acknowledged masterpiece of civic architecture.

Recognized as one of the most significant examples of post-World War II modernism in America, the Museum was also one of the first sustainability-conscious landmark buildings in the country.

Building Transformation and Modernization

OMCA's recent renovation and expansion was overseen by San Francisco architectural firm Mark Cavagnero Associates, with a design that honors the original architecture and landscape vision of Roche and Kiley while upgrading visitor amenities and better integrating the Museum collections to serve the Museum's evolving needs. Cavagnero's renovation was conceived to advance OMCA's original mission, with architecture encouraging cross-fertilization and dialogue among the museum's historically independent departments.

"Designing the renovation of a building so cherished by the local community and so respected by my professional peers was an extraordinary privilege," said Mark Cavagnero. "That the AIA California Council has recognized the Oakland Museum of California with the 25-Year Award is a tremendous honor."

Modifications include new exhibition and programming space and modernized lighting throughout, as well as improvements to the Museum's 270-seat James Moore Theatre, cafe, and store. A 90-foot long stainless steel canopy over the Oak Street entrance and central stair enhances the Museum's street presence, offering a fresh new face that

honors the historic concrete building with its own unique architectural language. The renovation adds 6,400 square feet of gallery space to the 94,000-square-foot total, including two tall naturally-lit gallery extensions. The transformed Gallery of California Art and Gallery of California History, which reopened to the public on May 1, 2010, showcase the most comprehensive collection of California art and material culture in the world. Work on the Natural Sciences Gallery, which will repurpose 7200 square feet of its space, and enhancement to classroom and education facilities will be completed by 2012. AIACC also recognized this recent work with a **Merit Award for Architecture**, citing the design's success in further elevating the stature of the landmark, while also contributing eloquently to the building's architectural legacy.

ABOUT THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) brings together collections of art, history and natural science under one roof to tell the extraordinary stories of California and its people. OMCA's groundbreaking exhibits tell the many stories that comprise California with many voices, often drawing on first-person accounts by people who have shaped California's cultural heritage. Visitors are invited to actively participate in the Museum as they learn about the natural, artistic and social forces that affect the state and investigate their own role in both its history and its future. With more than 1.8 million objects, OMCA is a leading cultural institution of the Bay Area and a resource for the research and understanding of California's dynamic cultural and environmental heritage.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, CALIFORNIA COUNCIL

The American Institute of Architects, California Council (AIACC) is the nation's largest state architectural organization, representing more than 11,000 architects on issues of statewide importance to the public and profession. With headquarters in Sacramento, the AIACC comprises 22 chapters. Among many of its programs, the AIACC represents the interests of architects before California's Legislature and regulatory agencies, conducts conferences on architectural practice and design, publishes practice guides and the *arcCA* journal, and sponsors an annual design and achievement awards program.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Museum admission is \$12 general; \$9 seniors and students with valid ID, \$6 youth ages

9 to 17, and free for Members and children 8 and under. OMCA offers onsite underground parking and is conveniently located one block from the Lake Merritt BART station, on the corner of 10th Street and Oak Street. The accessibility ramp is located at the new 1000 Oak Street main entrance.

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For more information and visuals, please contact:

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