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Fogg Museum Re-Opens After Three Year Renovation

The work of Renzo Piano can be found in Boston and Cambridge

BOSTON, MA (April 3, 2014): In 2008, the Fogg Museum at Harvard University, located in Cambridge, MA, closed its doors to the public for the first time since opening in 1927. The museum has been undergoing a major renovation and expansion over the past eight years. The public opening, scheduled for November 2014, will showcase the new Harvard Art Museum. This new structure will bring together the Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and Arthur M. Sackler Museums and their collections all under one roof for the first time.

World renowned architect, Renzo Piano, was the architect hired to take on this project. An Italian, Pritzker Prize-winning architect, Piano was selected by Time Magazine in 2006 as one of the 100 most influential people in the world, and the 10th most influential person in the "Arts and Entertainment" category.

Understanding this history of the Fogg Museum and keeping the character of the building was an important piece of this project. While the face and courtyard remains intact, many changes have been made to the interior. The majority of the space inside this 86- year-old building has been reconstructed or completely rebuilt. Now fully transformed, the building has kept historic parts which were described by Renzo as "the bones of the museum."

The Busch-Reisinger Museum, located behind the Fogg Museum, was knocked down and developed into a building that combines it with the Arthur M. Sackler Museum. The Fogg and the new building are now connected by an 8-foot-wide vertical glass seam. This new complex retains some of the historic "bones" while offering many wonderful new features to enjoy.

Visitors to the new Harvard Art Museum complex will be welcomed by one of Piano's more interesting structures. On one side of the complex, a dramatic and unique rectangular building with a shell made up of wood twisted fan blades and a rising glass and steel roof greets visitors.

This is not Renzo Piano's first work in the Greater Boston area. In 2004, Renzo and his team were selected to design a new wing at the Isabella Stewart-Gardner Museum in the Fenway-Kenmore Neighborhood of Boston. Stewart-Gardner was a visionary and a women of the arts. Her love of the city and of Italian culture was the inspiration behind the design of the museum in the early 1900s. Piano team was hired to preserve the historic building and provide updated space for programs that would continue Isabella Gardner's legacy. This new wing opened in January of 2012.

For more information, go to <http://www.bostonusa.com>.