

Johnson Favaro to Design New Museum of Redlands



Rendering Courtesy of Johnson Favaro

Culver City, CA (October 17, 2017) – The Redlands Historical Museum Association has commissioned Culver City-based architecture and urban design firm, Johnson Favaro to design the Museum of Redlands (MOR). The new museum will be situated just west of downtown Redlands, at the site of the former Redlands Daily Facts building. The museum will present changing exhibitions and interactive technology that explore the rich cultural heritage of the city of Redlands and Southern California.

“The new museum will transform the plain architecture of the Daily Facts building into something that is both of its time and able to stand the test of time,” explained principal architect, Jim Favaro, “The flexible design will allow for diverse programming that will place the museum at the heart of the social, cultural, and intellectual life of Redlands.”

The project includes interior and exterior modifications to the existing 14,500 square foot building, as well as a 4,000 square foot second floor addition over the original annex on the west side of the building for compact archival storage. A shade screen with decorative traditional Middle Eastern inspired pattern will cloak the second story addition. The interior of the new museum will feature three large, open galleries approximately 8,000 square feet in total, with removable bearing walls. The south gallery will absorb the courtyard of the existing building into its interior space, while an atrium skylight providing natural lighting will preserve the memory of the prior courtyard. Agricultural imagery such as barns, wood pallets and orange crates, will ornament the gift shop, offices and meeting rooms at the museum entrance and flanking the south gallery.

The architecture of the exterior of the building will consist of simple white plaster surfaces in keeping with the traditional architecture of Southern California and arid climates across the world.

“We appeal to the traditions of architecture in arid and semi-arid climates where the strength of the sun has compelled the employment of thick walls that are light in color, screened walls that let in light but not heat, low profile massing, shaded courts and atria,” said Jim Favaro.

The east loggia will provide shaded, sheltered indoor/outdoor lobby and passage to the museum entrance from the parking lot and auto court. High quality pavement forms a plaza in front of the loggia for vehicles and multiple outdoor uses. The existing loggia facing Brookside Avenue will be enclosed in a solar insulating glass plane to create new exhibition space visible from the street day and night. The west loggia at ground floor, beneath the second floor addition, will connect with the events garden on the west side of the building. The events pavilion will have sliding glass doors on the south end that, when opened, will accommodate an outdoor stage, and when closed, an indoor meeting room.

Johnson Favaro has been working closely in collaboration with museum design firm IQ Magic, as well as Redlands Historical Museum Association (RHMA) president Steve Stockton.

About Johnson Favaro

Steve Johnson and Jim Favaro founded the architecture practice Johnson Favaro in 1988 in Culver City, CA with a commitment to the public realm where they believe excellent architecture has the greatest impact and is most appropriately experienced. For over thirty years Johnson Favaro has focused their work on schools, libraries, civic, cultural and community institutions, both private and public. The firm is founded on the principle that high quality and inspiring architecture, in support of the social infrastructure of which these institutions are a part, is crucial in the advancement of our democracy and civil society. Current work includes the new City of Riverside Main Library, the Museum of Redlands (MOR), the new administrative headquarters for UCLA University Extension, a new early education and elementary school in West Hollywood, CA and an allied health sciences building for Southwestern College in National City, CA.

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