



TRAHAN ARCHITECTS | LA STATE MUSEUM & SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HONOR AWARD

## Program Summary:

A museum that brings together two programs, sports and regional history.

Building Area: (sf)  
**28, 000 SF**

## Program Statement:

Our exploration focuses on the following questions. How does our design explore the client's brief to exhibit sports and history simultaneously? How does it respond to and connect with the historic building fabric and context? Our resolution is, first, to understand athletics as a component of cultural history rather than an independent theme. While sports and regional history may appeal to very different groups, the building configuration explores interconnections between the two. Second, historical pastiche is set aside in favor of a design language that responds to site. The internal organization is an extension of the existing urban circulation, while the design mediates the scale of the historic commercial core and adjacent residential neighborhood. The pleated copper exterior panels allude to the shutters and clapboards of nearby plantations, complementing the curvaceous interior within.

Cost per Square Foot:  
**\$450 SF**

Construction Cost  
**\$12.6 Million**

Date of Completion:  
**June 28, 2013**

Third the design reflects the carving of the ancient river whose fluvial geomorphology inspired the interior form. The dynamic foyer is sculpted out of 1,100 cast stone panels, seamlessly integrating all systems and washed with natural light from above. The white stone references bousillage, the historic horse hair, earth and Spanish moss utilized by 17th Century settlers. At the climax of the upper level, the path arrives at a veranda overlooking the city square further connecting the interior to the public realm.



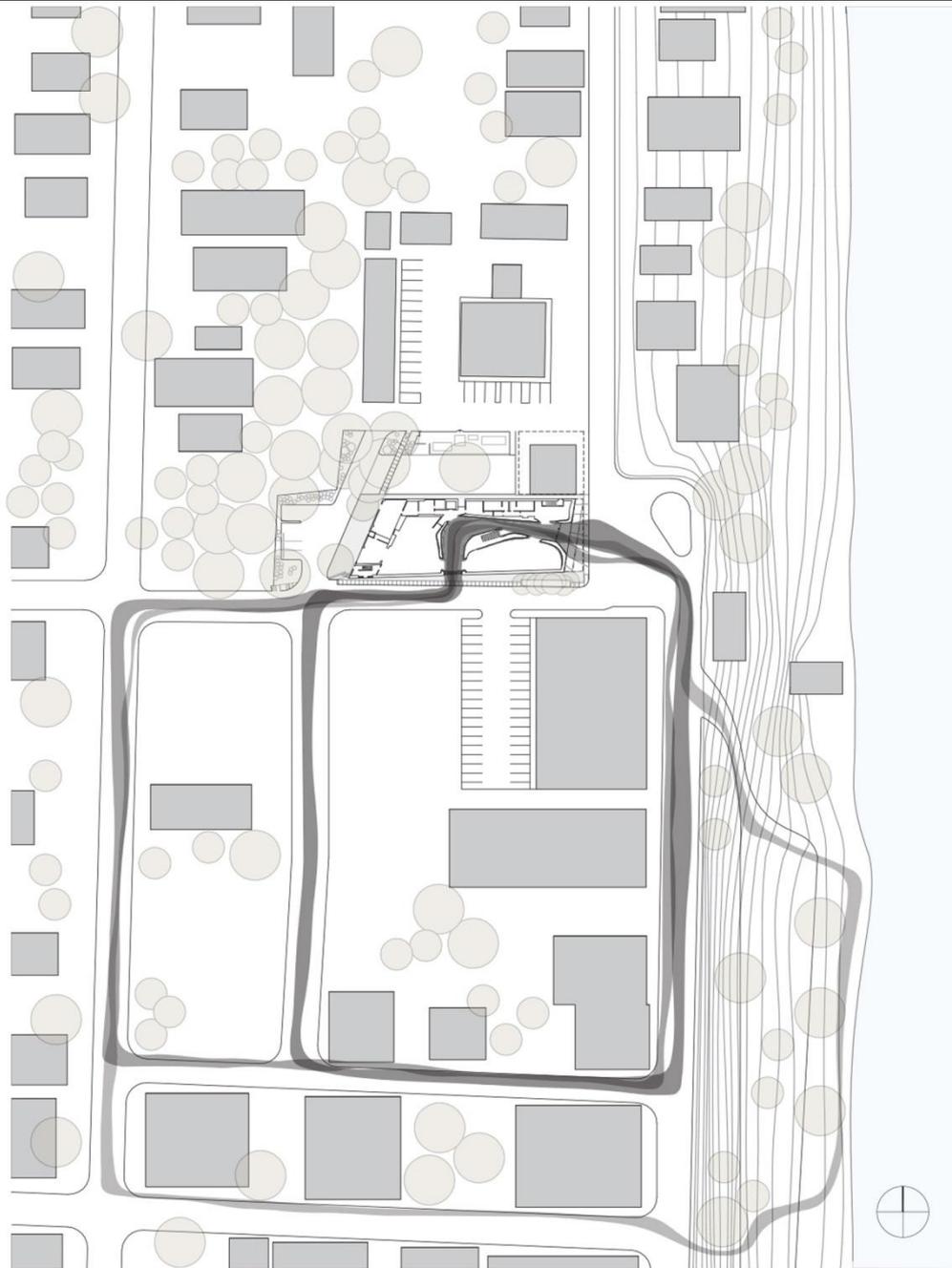
Set in the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase on the banks of the Cane River Lake, the design mediates the dialogue between sports and history, past and future, container and contained.

The building massing is elongated in the East and West directions minimizing direct sun and radiant heat gain on these faces, particularly at the glass door entrances.



The flowing interior emerges at the entrance, enticing visitors to leave the walking tour and enter into the evocative exhibit spaces within.

Materials, such as the stone and copper, were carefully selected in terms of quality and longevity. The aging process and lifespan of the building was a critical component in all material and design decisions.

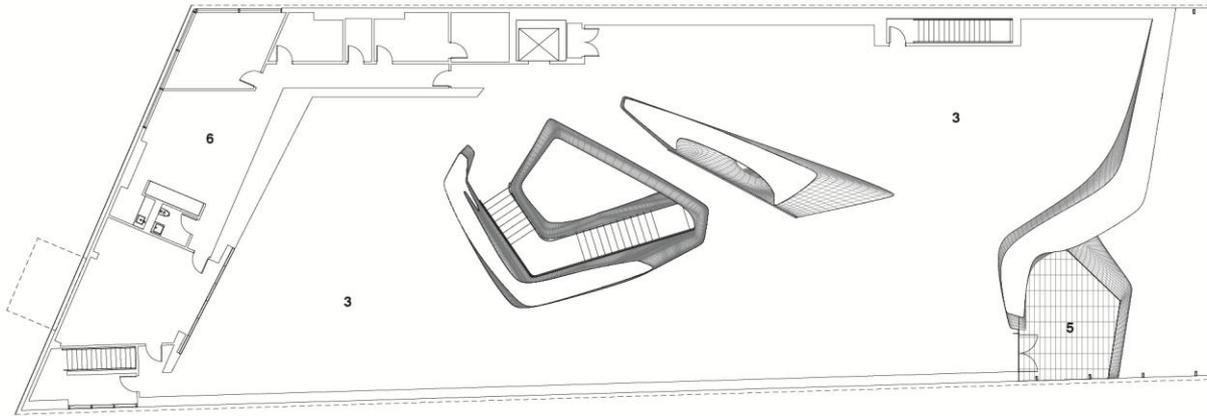


The internal organization is an extension of the existing meandering urban circulation, while the design mediates the scale and character of the historic commercial core and adjacent residential neighborhood.

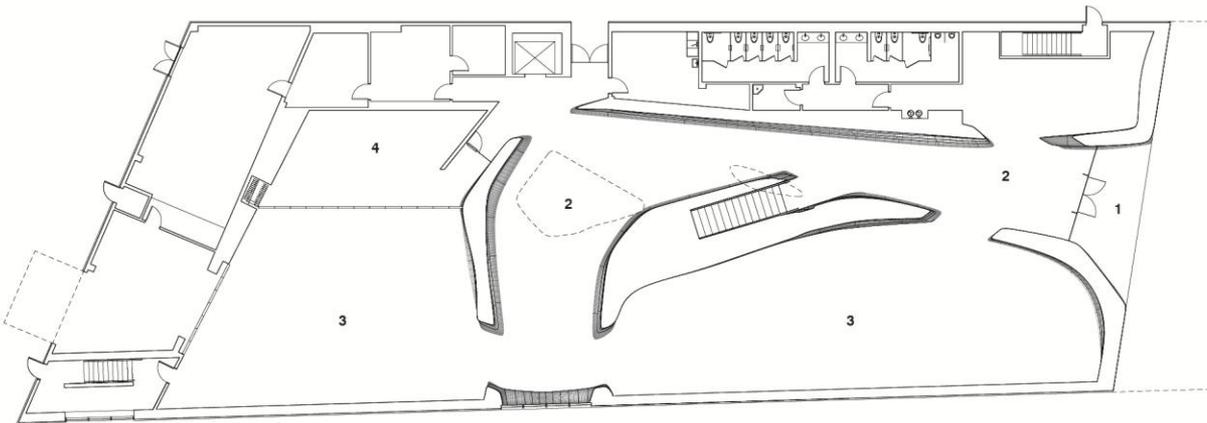
The selection of the site on the highly visible downtown corner of Toulain and Front Street engages the community and promotes walkability and a healthy community.

## Level Two Floor Plan

The greatest challenge in programming and planning the museum is negotiating between two themes in a single facility. Our resolution is, first, to understand athletics as a component of cultural history rather than an independent theme.



second floor plan



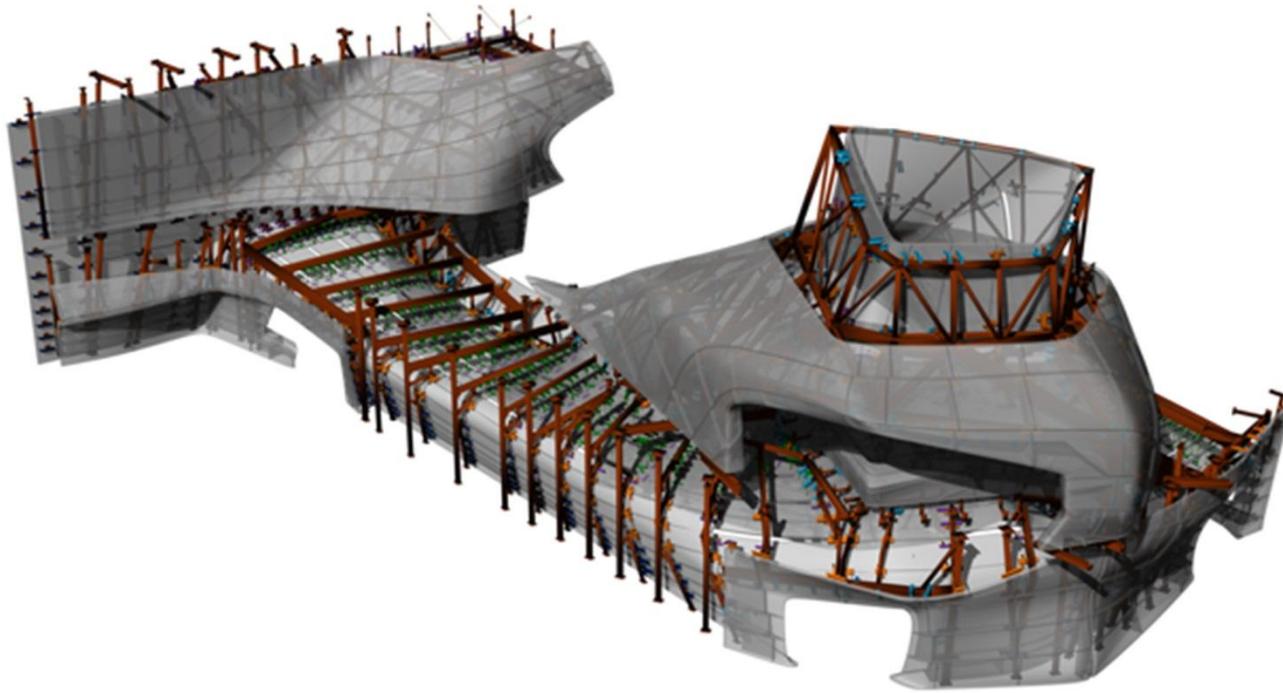
first floor plan



1 porch | 2 foyer | 3 gallery | 4 classroom | 5 veranda | 6 administration

## Level One Floor Plan

The plans encourage ease of circulation between the two themes while also providing the option of circulating separately through one or the other attraction.



The cast stone surface can be described as an 1,100 piece 3d jigsaw puzzle that weighs about 700 tons, with each piece separately made according to its own unique, digitally created pattern, and therefore having a different size and shape from any other piece.

Image courtesy of Method Design.



The cool white stone references bousillage, the historic horse hair, earth and Spanish moss utilized by 17th Century settlers.



The dynamic foyer is sculpted out of 1,100 cast stone panels, seamlessly integrating all systems and washed with natural light from above.

The central atrium is designed to illuminate the cast stone walls of the foyer with natural daylight. Electric lighting is used when sunlight levels are low.



The flowing surfaces reach into the galleries, serving as "screens" for film and display.

A state-of-the-art, low energy HVAC system was employed throughout the building to preserve the museum's artifacts



While sports and regional history may appeal to different audiences, the exhibits and configuration explore interconnections between the two.



At the climax of the upper level, the path arrives at a veranda overlooking the city square, sheltered by copper louvers, further connecting the interior to the public realm.



The "simple" exterior, clad with pleated copper panels, alluding to the shutters and clapboards of nearby plantations, contrasts with and complements the curvaceous interior within.

The building massing is elongated in the East and West directions minimizing direct sun and radiant heat gain on these faces, particularly at the glass door entrances.



The museum exterior skin is a rainscreen system clad in copper panels bent as pleats and louvers.

The use of louvers and awnings mediate light and shadow similarly to plantation homes found in the region.

Further manipulation of the pleats and louvers and their spacing to control light, views, and ventilation creates a porosity and texture variety that animates the façade, mediates building scale, and creates an articulation reminiscent of ornamentation.

Project Name:  
Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Regional  
History Museum

Project Location:  
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Owner/Client:  
State of Louisiana, Office of Facility, Planning &  
Control

Architect(s) of Record:  
(names and addresses)  
Trahan Architects (701 Poydras Street, Suite  
150P, New Orleans, LA 70139)

Project Team:  
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Erik Herrmann, David Merlin AIA, Benjamin  
Rath, Judson Terry

Landscape Architect:  
Reed Hilderbrand Associates

Consultants:  
Lauren Bombet Interior – Interior, LBYD –  
Structural Engineer, CSRS – Civil Engineer ,  
Associated Design Group – MEP/FP Engineer,  
GeoConsultants – Geotechnical Engineer ,  
CASE – BIM Manager and Technology, Method  
Design – Cast Stone Support Steel Geometry  
and Detailing, David Kufferman PE – Cast Stone  
Support Steel Engineer, SH Acoustics –  
Acoustics, Water Management Consultants &  
Testing, Inc. – Waterproofing

General Contractor:  
VCC

Photographer(s):  
(please list which specific slides get credited to  
each photographer(s) listed).

Slides 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

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Slide 6

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