Panama’s BioMuseo

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# Introduction

Since 2001, when an international group of architects, designers, and scientists began working together on the design and construction of the museum, preparations have been under way in anticipation of the institution's debut. Its primary objective is to act as a clearinghouse for up-to-date knowledge concerning the natural history and biodiversity of the isthmus. Because Panama serves as a land bridge between North and South America, the country's flora and animals exhibit characteristics that are common to both continents. The settlements that are situated on either side of the isthmus are highly distinct from one another due to the fact that it is situated between two distinct oceans. In addition, Panama is engaging in extensive research on the subject of evolution. This demonstrates how the species on either side of the isthmus evolved after they became separated a few million years ago due to the separation caused by the isthmus. An institution that encourages tourism, education, and investment from outside sources is known as the Biomuseo.

**The 15-year Plan**

The renowned architect Frank Gehry was given the task of designing and building three "Gateway Projects" in 1999 with the intention of bolstering Panama's nascent tourism economy. This is when the idea for the Biomuseo was first conceived. Over the course of time, one of these, which was situated in Amador, evolved into what is today known as the Biomuseo.

On December 31st, 1999, the United States of America handed over sovereignty of the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone to the Panama Canal Authority and the Government of Panama. During that year, the city of Panama City played host to a number of gatherings for the purpose of discussing the prospects for the undeveloped land located on both banks of the canal. The BioMuseo in Panama has been open to the public for the past fifteen years. The museum was under construction for a total of ten years, was supervised by four different presidents of Panama, encountered several delays during construction, and cost the country a total of one hundred million dollars. Now that we have discussed the total cost, we will dial it back to the design and functionality of the BioMuseo. The work of modern sculptors and painters is most analogous to that of Frank Gehry's architecture than it is to that of any other living architect. In the Biomuseo, there are various allusions to the local culture, as well as the biodiversity (colors), and the design of the canals. The building draws our attention to the surrounding scenery and blends in seamlessly with it. Because of its location at the beginning of the Amador Causeway and the entrance to the Canal, it gives the impression that it is floating like another ship and is filled with vibrant colors and was open to the public on October 2, 2014.

**World first Museum of Biodiversity**

The Biomuseo, Frank Gehry's first and only building in Latin America, is a complicated postmodern structure. When asked why he accepted the commission, Gehry mentioned his ties to Panama and his desire to protect biodiversity. This word refers to the incredible range of species, habitats, and genetic makeup found on Earth. The museum's exterior features bright hues that nod to regional heritage. Tour groups are welcome to take guests on a tour of the building and its grounds and exhibits. Each gallery tells a different story. One of the initial displays show how important the Isthmus of Panama's natural and cultural history is. A strange fact is that there are more than 2,300 different kinds of trees in Panama. This is more than double the number of tree species in the United States and Canada combined. Most of them grow in humid forests with palms, lianas, and ferns. There are also insects, birds, and mammals in these forests. When it comes to marine life, coral reefs are the center of marine biodiversity. More than half of the 1,700 fish species in the seas around Panama can be found in reefs. Even in cities, people can see dozens of the 1,800 species of butterflies that live on the isthmus. This shows how much biodiversity there is. The nonprofit Amador Foundation, which promotes Panama's history and environment, developed the Biomuseo. The Biomuseo, which sought to expand its reach and highlight Panama's role in raising awareness of the world's biodiversity, was inspired by Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, and Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles.

The postmodern architecture of the structure is made up of metal canopies of various shapes and sizes that are clad in blue, green, yellow, orange, or red. The use of vibrant colors by Gehry is intended to symbolize Panama's neotropical habitat and pay homage to its abundance of diversity and culture. The ten individual sections that comprise the roofline come together at various angles, linking the two levels of gallery space around a central outdoor atrium, which serves as the museum's focal point. The steel beam framework and corrugated sheet metal remain visible in this large atrium, evoking the usual tin-roof houses prevalent locally. Even though it barely debuted in 2014, the building's dramatic front has already made it one of Panama's landmarks.

**The Technology behind Biomuseo**

This experience needs to be reinforced by kiosks around the room that allow for direct engagement and information retention in order to make the most of it. When you enter the museum, you immediately become a part of an immersive experience that is dependent on where the visitor steps to determine which projections are shown on a giant central sculpture.

One of the technological prerequisites for the Biomuseo was that everything had to be operated from a server room located in the basement. From this room, the electricity and all of the computers were managed. They had to build transmission systems for HDMI 4K panels and USB Touch for the interactive display touchscreens because of the distance between there and the galleries.

The displays at the exhibitions are quite remarkable. Oceans Divided and The Living Web each have a total of 19 planar LED displays. These displays come in a variety of sizes and configurations, including two 65-inch displays housed in custom "touch table" furniture, two more 65-inch touchscreens on wall mounts, two 50-inch touchscreens, nine free-standing 27-inch kiosk touchscreens, one 27-inch touchscreen, and two 65-inch and one 50-inch non-interactive displays. The Panama Is the Museum features 23 exhibits, four of which are touchscreen kiosks measuring 24 inches. Aside from the technological advancements. The significance of the problem of biodiversity is highlighted throughout BioMuseo. A projection facility with ten screens allows visitors to view audiovisual images of the natural treasures that make up Panama's ecosystems. This facility is in Panama City, Rep of Panama. Visitors will gain an understanding of the role that internal geological processes played in the formation of the isthmus through their exploration of The Bridge Arises. Around three million years ago, animals from all over the world started crossing the isthmus. This massive monument portrays 72 of those animals. The displays at Biomuseo illustrate the intricate relationships that have developed over time between Panama's human population and the country's rich biological variety.

**Conclusion**

Since 2001, an international team of architects, designers, and scientists has developed the museum. For present isthmus biodiversity and natural history. Panama connects North and South America and features animals and flora from both. Communities on the Pacific and Atlantic sides of the isthmus differ due to the huge oceans. Panama's evolutionary experiment is essential. Isolation affected species on both sides of the isthmus.

The Amador Foundation, a charitable Panamanian organization whose mission is to preserve the natural environment of Panama and spread awareness of the country's rich cultural heritage, was the organization that took the initiative to build the Biomuseo.

Even if the exhibits in this museum may be the subject of a book's worth of text, the most effective method to learn more is to go there in person. It is an absolute necessity. An unforgettable experience is produced not only by the setting and the structure, but also by the contents itself.

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