

Snøhetta 

The Theodore Roosevelt  
Presidential Library Competition

Medora, North Dakota





September 18, 2020

## Snøhetta selected as winner of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Competition

**Medora, North Dakota** — Following an extensive selection process, Snøhetta has been unanimously selected as Design Architect for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. Based in the North Dakota Badlands, the 15th American Presidential Library will share T.R.'s legacy with future generations.

Shortlisted from an original pool of 40 applicants, Snøhetta competed against Studio Gang and Henning Larsen in a design competition amidst a global pandemic for the final selection. The three teams traveled to Medora over the summer to survey the site and to meet with the local community, stakeholders, and residents. As the selected design architect, Snøhetta will work with a local, North Dakota-based architect to deliver the final project.

Snøhetta's design for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library is informed by the President's personal reflections on the landscape, his commitment to environmental stewardship, and the periods of quiet introspection and civic engagement that marked his life. The design of the Library is more than a building; it is a journey through a preserved landscape of diverse habitats, punctuated with small pavilions providing spaces for reflection and activity. The Library's gently sloping roof looks to the northeast, gazing over the National Park, historical settings in the Little Missouri River valley, and the Elkhorn Ranch far in the distance, further connecting the Library of tomorrow with its origins in the past.

"When designing a new project, we think about how we can more give to the site or community more than is initially asked of us," said Craig Dykers. "We integrated the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library into the landscape of the North Dakota Badlands. We still have much to learn about President Roosevelt, and we're looking forward to working with the Medora community and the broader project team to translate this knowledge into an immersive place to learn about T.R.'s life and legacy."

"One of Theodore Roosevelt's most enduring legacies is conservation and our national parks," said Theodore Roosevelt V, a great-great-grandson and namesake of the 26th president. "This will be the only presidential library alongside a national park and the only national park alongside a presidential library. It will invite visitors to see and experience the very cradle of conservation. That is why this location in North Dakota is perfect for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library."

The building's location at the northeast edge of the butte preserves the landscape for conservation research while offering a setting for educational walks, leisure, and recreation. As visitors set out on the Library loop, they will encounter adventurous paths which connect to the nearby Maah Daah Hey Trail as well as several small pavilions. Ranging from contemplative nooks to expansive vistas, these pavilions invite visitors to experience Roosevelt's trials and triumphs in dialogue with the landscapes that shaped him. The Library is understood to be the buildings, pavilions, paths and landscape.

The design functions in harmony with the unique ecology of the region and expresses the conservation ethos for which Roosevelt is remembered. Its construction will use

locally sourced and renewable materials, while its sophisticated energy systems will set a new standard for sustainable design in the region. The design also mitigates the impact of wind and other climatic factors so that the Library will be accessible in all seasons.

### About Snøhetta

Snøhetta began as a collaborative architectural and landscape workshop, and has remained true to its trans-disciplinary way of thinking since its inception. For 30 years, Snøhetta has designed some of the world's most notable public and cultural projects. Snøhetta kick-started its career in 1989 with the competition-winning entry for the new library of Alexandria, Egypt. This was later followed by the commission for the Norwegian National Opera in Oslo, the National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion at the World Trade Center in New York City, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Expansion in California.

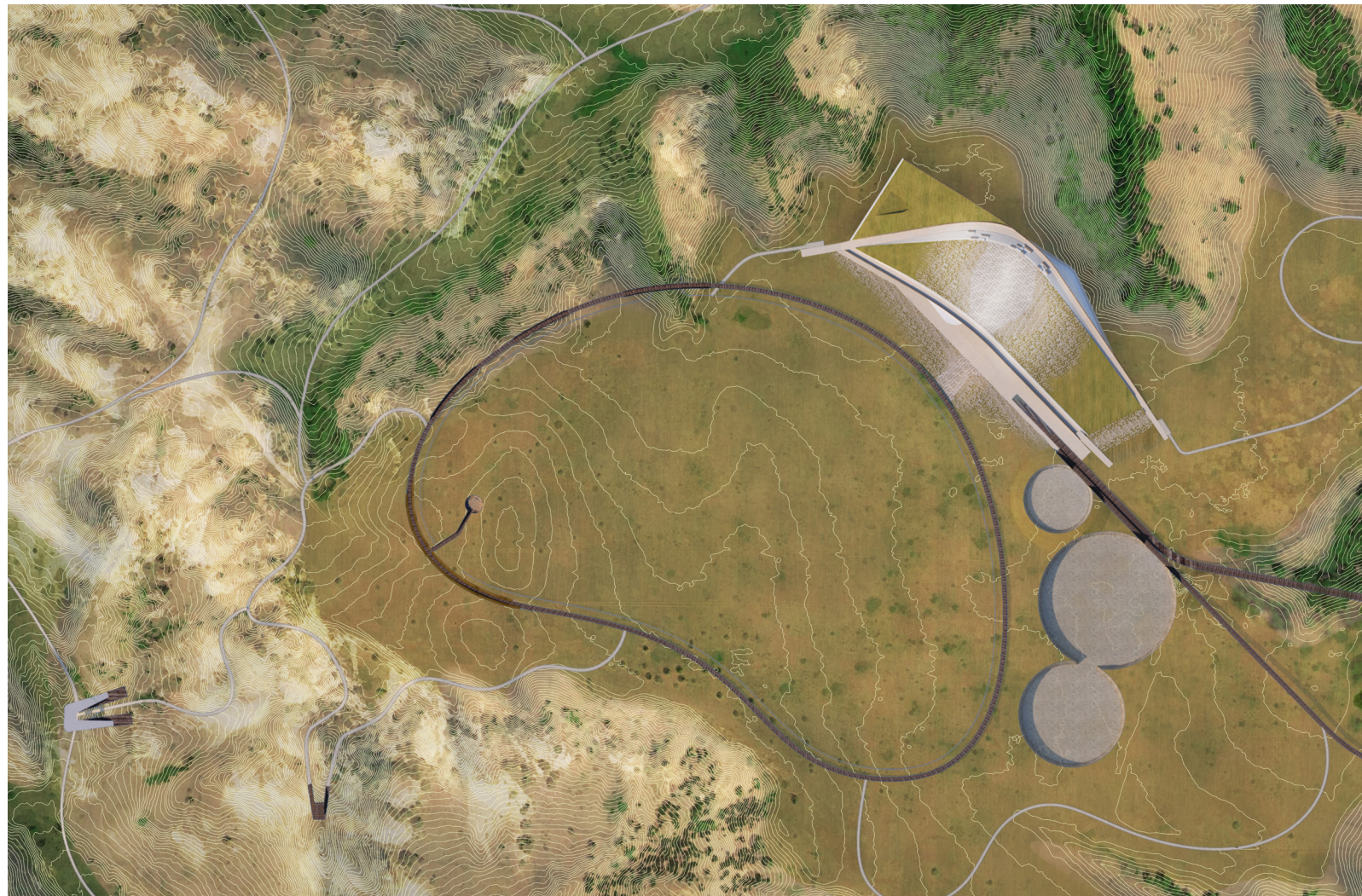
Snøhetta is currently working on a number of civic and cultural projects internationally including the Willamette Falls Riverwalk in Oregon City; the Le Monde Headquarters in Paris; the Cornell University Executive Education Center and Hotel in New York; the El Paso Children's Museum in Texas; and two public libraries in New York City, one in Far Rockaway, Queens and one in the Bronx. Recently completed works include Calgary's new Central Library in Canada; the design of the Times Square pedestrian plazas in New York; and the Lascaux IV Caves Museum in Montignac, France; and Harvard HouseZero, a collaborative research and construction project with Harvard University's Center for Green Buildings and Cities that strives to be the world's most ambitious net-zero retrofit.

Among its many recognitions, Snøhetta received the World Architecture Award for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet, and the Aga Kahn Prize for Architecture for Alexandria Library. Since its completion, the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet has also garnered the Mies van der Rohe European Union Prize for Architecture and the EDRA (Environmental Design Research Association) Great Places Award, as well as the European Prize for Urban Public Space, The International Architecture Award and The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture. In 2020, Snøhetta was awarded the AIA New York's Medal of Honor, the organization's highest honor for distinguished work and high professional standing.

### About The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation

The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation is a non-profit organization that is planning, building, and overseeing operations of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. Through the principles of Conservation, Leadership, and Citizenship, the Foundation aims to build an architecturally significant destination at the fulcrum of T.R.'s heroic journey: the Badlands of North Dakota. The Foundation hopes to create a museum of the future for one of the most iconic American figures in our collective memory—to create a legacy for today to create a new tomorrow.





Wash Pavilion



Traveler's Pavilion



Pavilion of the Sky









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