

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

CAM California Architecture Museum

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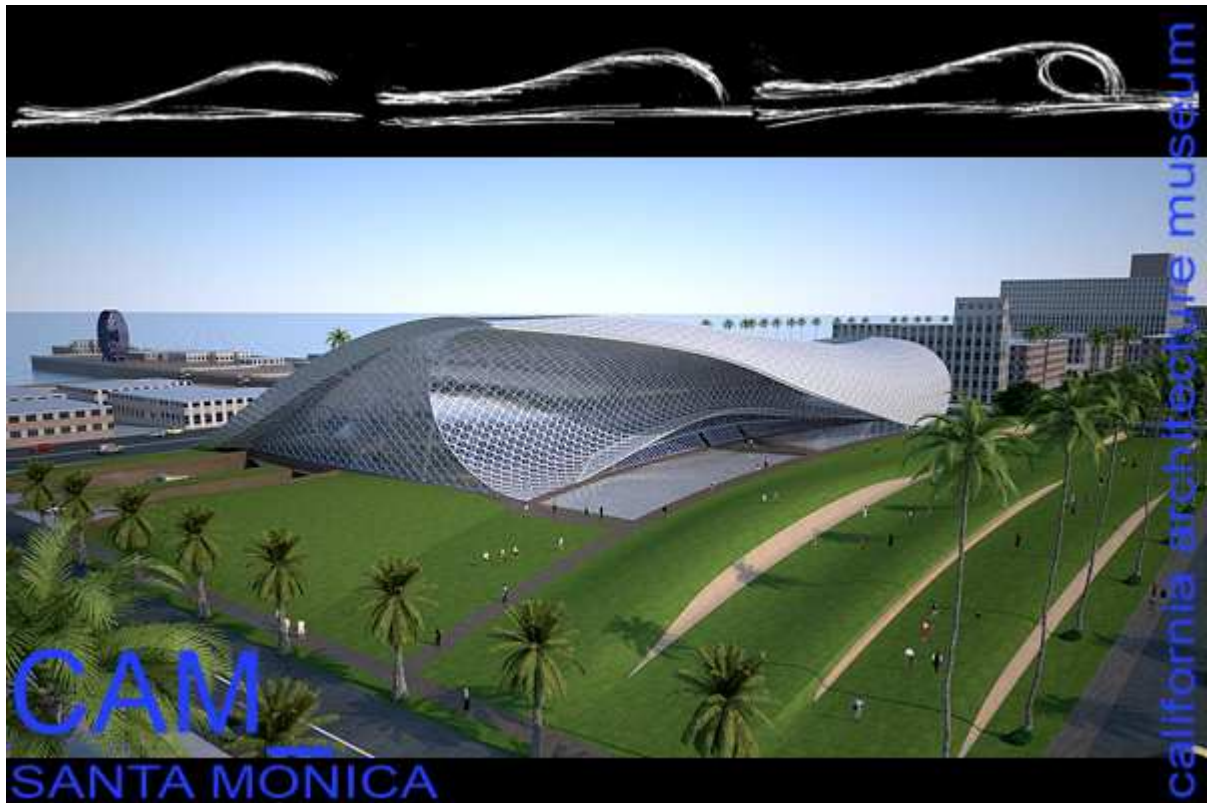
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Despite the un-planned character of Los Angeles, often criticized, and its relative youth, the city is proof of an important part of the architecture history. It hosts several examples highly acclaimed. The big architecture's strength of Los Angeles is also clear in how it's so broad towards contemporary architecture and cutting edge. For this e for all of the previously mentioned reasons, I decided to design the CAM_California Architecture Museum.

With a long analysis, I chose Santa Monica as project site, more specific the Civic Center area, that is bounded by Main Street on the east, Ocean Avenue on the west and Colorado Avenue on the north.

The Pacific Ocean's Wave paralyzes and takes shape in the CAM_California Architecture Museum. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJ92WHOhVil>
It combines a multiplicity of spaces within a single whole. Public and private, recreational and cultural, temporary and permanent merge to draw as much as possible of visitors, creating what is supposed to be a meeting place for any age and any kind people.

The building faces east, following the Pacific Ocean's waves direction, by the main entrance accessible walking through green waves, as a sea print in the sand. Pedestrian access is possible using a wood boardwalks on water, that runs along the wave "tunnel". Water cools hot Californian days, and increases striking reflections that the structure creates, becoming here semi-transparent and keeling over the ground.



Optical charms continue as soon as you go inside the wide and high un-conditioned public space, provided with natural ventilation, that hosts each floor's loggia. Six glass elevators connect each level, offering a total view of the spatial reticular truss. Slanted columns of the primary structure are part of the public and private space too. Access boardwalks continue inside, towering over the winter garden on a lower level. The winter garden will host several tropical and Californian plants. Entrance from the museum parking is located at this basement level.

Public facilities and spaces, retail, lobby, rest areas and vertical connection cores are all located in the front area of the building.



Also, a free museum will show the surf history, California's symbol sport, that draws people from all over the world and mainly because it gives meaning to the building's shape.

Another entrance is located on the opposite side, to the west, in order to welcome people coming from Ocean Avenue and Santa Monica Freeway, but mainly people from Palisades Park, the Beach and the Santa Monica Pier. All of these places are key features for Santa Monica tourism. Here is ticket booth, a coffee-bar, and a library documentation about Californian architecture history, in this way the visitor is in contact with the main museum's theme.

All exhibition galleries place here, in the "wave's back", where there is not natural light because of the water density, still blue, so in this way there is a seeming quietness that allows the right attention in order to follow the Californian history's steps.

The first level is dedicated to contemporary architecture, and mainly to the most famous architects for Los Angeles area. There are also temporary exhibition galleries and a zone showing the process evolution of design techniques during years, from hand drawing to digital architecture.

For a better comprehension, and to delve into favorite topics, at the second level there are classes and a pc laboratory.

At this level there also are two forum that will host any kind of theme, following a program made to please the more people is possible, even if it's not strictly connected to architecture.

At the second level there is the only completely private area, with management and direction offices.

An opulent Ocean's view restaurant closes the activities' proposal for this complex, remaining available to change themes, topics and activities in order to satisfy everyone's requirements.



Because CAM turns to everyone.

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