

## Currie Museum one of Top 10 projects worldwide

Dinosaur museum included in prestigious list of 2014 architecture builds

### Press Release

January 13, 2014 — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB – The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum (CDM) has been included in prestigious architecture magazine Azure’s ‘Top 10 Projects to Follow in 2014.’ The list includes projects in China, the Netherlands and Italy and focuses on “innovative, forward-looking and socially relevant” architectural design.

The nine other architectural firms listed are also from all over the world and have designed such notable projects as the New York Times Square revamp and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. The Currie Museum was designed by Teeple Architects, an award-winning Canadian firm.

“We looked at projects from around the world, and one of the most important criteria was a certain adventurousness when it came to form,” said David Dick-Agnew, Azure editor. “We wanted projects that aren’t afraid to explore new ways of relating to their surroundings, and to the different ways people will ultimately use them. Often this means developing new construction methods in order to realize something that nobody has done before. The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum makes a really bold gesture in the way it encloses its exhibition space inside a very solid, sculptural shell that seems to burst open into a soaring glass entrance where articulated dinosaur skeletons will be displayed.”

The Currie Museum also stood out due to its unique location, Dick-Agnew said.

“Most of the entries on our list are based in highly built-up urban areas like Milan, Toronto and Vancouver – cities that are already stuffed with landmark architecture. Only the Dinosaur Museum has the opportunity to bring contemporary architecture of this scale into a totally new region. The Museum is sure to transform its site in a way that the other projects on the list can’t match.”

It was exciting news for Teeple Architects, the firm that designed the museum.

“We are thrilled that the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum has been identified by Azure magazine as an important and exciting building to watch in 2014,” said Martin Baron, partner, Teeple Architects. “This has been a very special project for our firm, one that we have poured our hearts and souls into, and one that we are extremely excited to see realized.”

“The building tells the story of the bone-bed, the scientists and researchers, and of the *Pachyrhinosaurus lakustai*,” said Baron. “But more than that, the building tells the story of the collaborations that made it a reality. It is like an old-fashioned barn raising of a very high-tech building.”

“We were asked to give form to the bold vision developed over the past decade by a group of dedicated community leaders, scientists, educators, and an active and engaged community. It is a rare privilege to be able to contribute to such a collaborative process.”

“Buildings that draw international attention tend to be located in the larger urban centres of the world where there are the resources to pull off bold and expressive projects but small cities and rural towns deserve excellent design as much as large cities do, and as this museum proves, when a community unites behind a project, they can create great things.”

The building design has also allowed for the creation of a unique, exciting interior.

“The excellent sightlines of the building and the openness of the space have allowed us to create a really special world on the inside,” said Stephen Petri, principal, Reich + Petch Design International, the team working with CDM staff to create the exhibits. “All the elements – the building’s architecture, the exhibit design, and the palaeontology that’s at the root of it all - have come together seamlessly to create an immersive visitor experience capturing the excitement of the discovery of new dinosaur species.”

For more information, please contact:

Erika Sherk  
Communications Manager  
Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative  
(780) 532-2362 x 5 or (780) 512-6113  
esherk@countypg.ab.ca

Martin Baron  
Partner  
Teeples Architects  
(416) 598-0554 x 232  
mbaron@teeplearch.com

Stephen Petri  
Principal  
Reich + Petch Design International  
petri@reich-petch.com  
(416) 480-2020

Niki Reich  
Business Development and Marketing Manager  
Reich + Petch Design International  
Nreich@reich-petch.com

-30-

***About the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum and the Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative***

*The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, scheduled to open its doors in December 2014, will be a 41,000 sq. foot, world-class facility highlighting the rich fossil resources of Northern Alberta. Named for Dr. Philip Currie, Canada’s preeminent palaeontologist, the museum, located in Wembley AB will serve as a hub of education and science in the area. The Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative is the omnibus term for the project team tasked with the realization of the museum. Please see [curriemuseum.ca](http://curriemuseum.ca) for more details or contact the Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative at (780) 532-2362.*