

February 10, 2010

Snøhetta began as a collaborative office in 1989 when its members designed the competition-winning entry for the Alexandria Library in Egypt. Since that time, Snøhetta formed an office in Oslo, Norway and in New York City in 2004 after winning the commission to design the National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion at the World Trade Center site. Since its inception Snøhetta has always been formed by an atmosphere where its in-house architects, landscape architects and interior architects all work together to create the conceptual development of a design. Today the company consists of 155 staff across both offices and includes 15 nationalities among its composition, including Canadian citizens as well as Norwegian and American.

The collaborative and multi-national character of the office has allowed it to work in a wide range of cultural contexts from Asia to Africa, Europe and the Americas. The company's most well-known buildings have included the *Bibliotheca Alexandrina* in Egypt and the National Opera and Ballet of Norway in Oslo. Both of these projects have received considerable accolades including the 2009 Mies Van der Rohe Award for European Architecture and the 2005 World Architecture Award for the Oslo Opera as well as the 2004 Aga Khan Prize and the 2005 World Architecture Award for the Alexandria Library.

Snøhetta is currently designing or have in construction a number of prominent new cultural buildings including the King Abdulaziz Center for Knowledge and Culture in Saudi Arabia, the new James B. Hunt Jr. Library in Raleigh, North Carolina, the Wolfe Center for the Collaborative Arts in Bowling Green, Ohio, the Queen's University Performing Arts Centre in Kingston, Ontario, and the National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion in New York City. All of these are expected to open before 2011.

An exhibition of Snøhetta's work is currently touring internationally, opening in Oslo in 2009, continuing to New York in 2010 and will also be in Ontario at the Buildings and Architecture Centre in Cambridge in 2010. Recently two books have been published concerning the company's work—"Snøhetta Works" in 2009 and "Conditions" in 2008. The company has been featured in nearly all world media outlets on both television and in print. Since Snøhetta's entry was first published for the Toronto Waterfront design competition in 2005 and the opening of the new National Opera in Oslo the firm has been published in the Toronto Star and other Ontario newspapers.

One of the company's co-founders, Craig Dykers will be the principal architect from Snøhetta for the Ryerson Student Learning Centre leading his team. Craig has taught and lectured internationally on design and practice and has on numerous occasions spoken specifically on library design to many of the world's leading library and information technology institutions.

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