

SPECTACULAR NEW CULTURAL LANDMARK AND A WORLD-CLASS COLLECTION CENTRE

Hungarian Natural History Museum,
Debrecen:

- New Exhibition Building
- New Collection Centre







HUNGARIAN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM – NEW EXHIBITION BUILDING, DEBRECEN

Spectacular new cultural landmark opens a new chapter in the history of Hungarian museum architecture

The museum will provide a unique artistic experience combining landscape, architecture and exhibition design to offer its visitors new perspectives on preserving nature and its impact on our lives.

„The winning project can represent a catalyst for a future way of understanding architecture, building and landscape. I think it’s a very forward-looking building, it’s one where the building itself can teach a lot about natural history.”

Martha Thorne, architectural academic, curator, editor, and author, former executive director of Pritzker Architecture Prize

The building proves that architecture can be both a cultural landscape element and a tool for ecological restoration.

The mass, size and shape of the new museum building organically fits into the natural environment, its green roof covered with native plants naturally extending the forest canopy.





The Hungarian Natural History Museum is the largest natural history and anthropological collection in the Carpathian Basin: 11 million natural objects, 360,000 preserved species.

The institution will be a centre for shaping nature conservation attitudes, serving simultaneously the dissemination of scientific knowledge, community experiences, and the building of a sustainable future.



„We want to make this building a gift, not only to the visitors and the people working there, but to the community at large.”

– Bjarke Ingels, architect, founder and creative partner of Bjarke Ingels Group



„Ribbons of landscapes that almost imagining the Natural History Museum as the intersections of different lineages, different paths, different habitats.”

– Bjarke Ingels, architect, founder and creative partner of Bjarke Ingels Group



Main features:

Location: Culture Park Debrecen, Hungary

22,900 sqm total floor area

7,200 sqm exhibition space

5,800 sqm public, reception and circulation areas

14,000 sqm indoor and outdoor gardens

Winners of the international design competition:

Bjarke Ingels Group is a Copenhagen, New York City, London, Barcelona, Shanghai, Oslo, Los Angeles, Zurich, and Bhutan-based group of architects and designers operating within the fields of architecture, product, landscape design, and planning.

Vikár and Lukács Architects Studio has been a defining player in contemporary Hungarian architecture for more than two decades.

Project management:

Debrecen Infrastructure Development Ltd.







HUNGARIAN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM – NEW COLLECTION CENTRE, DEBRECEN

The New Debrecen Collection Centre follows the simple logic and elegant utility of the traditional Hungarian clay vessel: a building intended to protect and incubate

The international architectural design competition envisaged the creation of a building that would ensure the controlled storage of collections, the smooth operation of research, and the creation and preservation of knowledge.

The Collection Centre of the Hungarian Natural History Museum – within the framework of a greenfield investment unique in Central Europe – houses world-class collection and display storage facilities and research workshops.



The investment in the Debrecen Science Park area represents a long-term, reassuring solution to the collection and storage problems of the largest natural history and anthropology collection in the Carpathian Basin that have existed for decades.

“The design team paid special attention to sustainability, security and innovative logistics solutions relating to the collections, so the Centre can excel in serving as the scientific support base of the Hungarian Natural History Museum.” – Jury comment





„The centre's defining feature is its stratified brick façade, referencing Hungary's geological and material history with the soils used for the manufacturing its bricks originating from different regions the country. The brick tones, too, create a material representation of the Collection Centre's disciplines – geology, fossils, animal life, human activity, and ecology – and its mission to understand the bio- and geodiversity of not only the Carpathian Basin but also the entire earth.”

- Fernando Sordo Madaleno, architect, principal at Sordo Madaleno

Main features

Location: Science Park, Debrecen, Hungary

43,000 sqm total floor area

17,000 sqm collection warehouse

4,500 sqm scientific research workshops

8,500 sqm library

Winners of the international design competition:

Sordo Madaleno is a third-generation Mexican architecture practice, which operates studios between London and Mexico City

Buro Happold is an international, integrated consultancy of engineers, designers and advisors

Építész Stúdió is a Hungarian multi-generational creative community of an apartment studio

Project management:

Debrecen Infrastructure Development Ltd.







Debrecen