



Tainan



National Museum of Taiwan History

in Tainan

We anticipate that this museum of history will become a place for all the people of Taiwan. In addition, to the glory of Taiwan, we hope the public will join us to help this institution flourish and reflect the diverse, compelling and evolving story of Taiwan.



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**The island of Taiwan is a historical stage,
And the people of Taiwan are its lead actors.
This land, this people, this homeland of rivers and mountains
Carry our history and culture inherited through generations upon generations.**



Here, The Story Begins



The Birth of the Museum

Based in Tainan, one of the oldest cities in Taiwan, the National Museum of Taiwan History is located in one of the most historically meaningful places — the Taijiang Inland Sea. It is also where the story of the Museum begins.

Long before the 17th century, merchants from the East and West met near this location to carry out trade, but during the Qing Dynasty, due to alluvial movements and river diversions, the inland sea became part of the land. This area is an important stage of history bearing on the continued stories of Taiwan. In the 21st century, the Museum is located here to remind people of the vitality and diversity of the land and the people.

The idea of protecting the historical and cultural heritage of Taiwan initiated in 1992, following the instructions of former President Lee, Teng-Hui. The Preparatory Office for the Museum was established in 1999 by the Council for Cultural Affairs, and the official administrative body of the Museum was formally created in 2007. In 2011, after more than a decade of preparation and construction, the Museum opened to the public.





Construction of the Museum

October 1992

President Lee Teng-Hui ordered the Provincial Government to organize "The Provincial Museum of History."

November 1998

The Executive Yuan approved the "Project Proposal for the Creation of the Provincial Museum of Taiwan History."

July 1999

The project was moved to the jurisdiction of the Council for Cultural Affairs.

October 1999

The Council of Cultural Affairs officially established the Planning Bureau of the Museum.

April 2002

The Museum Planning Bureau moved to Tainan.

March 2003

A land ownership certificate was acquired for the Museum.

June 2003

The Executive Yuan approved the "Construction Proposal for the National Museum of Taiwan History."

December 2003

Construction of the Museum began.

October 2004

The Preparatory Office moved into the Museum site.

April 2005

The construction of the Exhibition and Education Building began.

March 2007

The official administrative body of the Museum was formally created.

May 2007

The Administration and Collection Building was officially opened.

October 2007

The unveiling ceremony for the Museum was held.

October 2011

The National Museum of Taiwan History celebrated its Grand Opening.

A museum belongs to all the people of Taiwan

We wish to build a museum that

Truly belongs to all the people of Taiwan.

Together we work

To support the continued existence of our homeland,

To progress a diverse and harmonious society.

In order to introduce the cultural, social, and biological diversity of Taiwan, to promote a common identity, and to preserve Taiwanese history and culture, the Museum has established a multiple resource center to support academic research and reference. The Museum intends to become a haven for the artifacts and archives, to secure, collect and long-term preserve, and in turn to become the leading research center for Taiwanese history.

The exhibitions and activities present the museum's endeavor of research on Taiwanese history as well as the preservation of the historical artifacts. By organizing exhibitions covering a wide range of aspects on Taiwanese history, the public will be able to broaden their perspectives in terms of the various ethnic groups and cultures that have interacted here, thus increasing understanding and respect. By learning about our past, we are able to look into the future with a clearer vision.

In addition, the ordinary inhabitants of Taiwan will also be able to learn and understand more about the history and culture of their home through the exhibitions and educational activities of this Museum. Consequently, the work of the Museum will help create a bright future for Taiwan.

The museum will continue to organize broad-based educational programs, exhibitions and performances, and to integrate social and academic resources in order to build up a culture and education network. Moreover, the Museum commits to build a safe park and quality environment, as well as to expand the full range of public services.

Here, We Walk into Nature and Culture



Walk in the Park

Occupying 20 hectares, the Museum Park is where the humanities encounter nature. This Museum Park is built to accord with four precepts of forming the Taiwanese historical scene: "Knowledge," "Nature," "Folklore," and "Performance." Once here, visitors can explore history and Taiwanese culture, and experience the beauty of Taiwan, as well its leisurely atmosphere.



Ten hectares of water and green land are preserved in the Museum Park to build retention lakes and a complete ecological environment. The use of various landscapes and Taiwanese indigenous plants provides a varied natural environment for many species of plants and animals. After years of diligent efforts, we have also successfully attracted many residents and migrants.

Standing on the Bird Watching Platform by the ecologically-engineered Lotus Lake and Fraternity Lake, it is not unusual to encounter birds such as Moorhen, Little Grebe, Great and Little Egrets, Green-Winged Teal, and Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Little-Ringed Plover, Black-Winged Stilt. It is also possible to see the Common Magpie, Cattle Egret and Ring-Necked Pheasant around the park.

While we were building the Museum, a large number of Common Magpie were attracted to this area and started to build their nests on the steel pillars behind the Cloud Wall with bamboo, wood, and steel bars which they picked up in the construction site, make here their new home. Next time when you walk through the Cloud Wall, try to look for these nests.

The Integrated Architectural Styles

Besides the natural environment, the master plan of the Museum, too, echoes Taiwanese perspectives. Four concepts — “Sailing” (Duhai), “Sandbanks” (Kuenshen), “Cloud Wall” (Yunqiang), and “Integration” (Ronhe), are the central themes behind the design of the Museum.

The pond in the front of the Museum symbolizes the Taiwan Strait, formerly known as the Black Ditch, where shipwreck often occurred among the early immigrants. The Water Stage on the Grand Plaza captures the surprises and excitement when the sailors first saw the sandbank, like the hump back of a whale, in the Southwest Taiwan coast. The Cloud Wall reflects the magnificent sky, and signifies a bright future full of hope. The architecture of the Museum is designed with both the Taiwanese traditional and aboriginal dwellings in mind, and the exterior is appeared with different features such as stilt house, stonewall, and red-brick courtyard, which shows the integration of different ethnic groups as well as their contributions to the cultural landscape. The Museum environment demonstrates a harmonious dialogue between architecture and the nature.



The Administration and Collection Building

Indigenous features inspire the architecture. The glass curtain-walled administration area is lifted by stilts, which presents a sense of light and transparency. On the contrary, the collection storage is built with stonewall-like precast concrete that gives a sense of solid and fastness. This piece of work creates a dialogue between virtual and real, light and shadow, and filled the space with vitality. As for the nuts and bolts of its actual construction, the Museum is the first building in Taiwan to combine load-bearing walls, lateral bracing steel and three-way pre-stressed and pre-cast structure. It is truly a breakthrough for Taiwan in terms of construction technique.

The Exhibition and Education Building

The design concept of this building is to promote a harmonious integration between different ethnic and cultural groups. It not only integrates the Han and indigenous features, but also utilizes the void structures and high-ceilings to create a sense of penetrate and a mutual relationship between the architecture and the natural environment. The construction techniques also employ three-way pre-stressed and pre-cast structure, so that visitors can explore all the exhibitions without being interrupt by any columns and walls. This is an unprecedented museum experience.

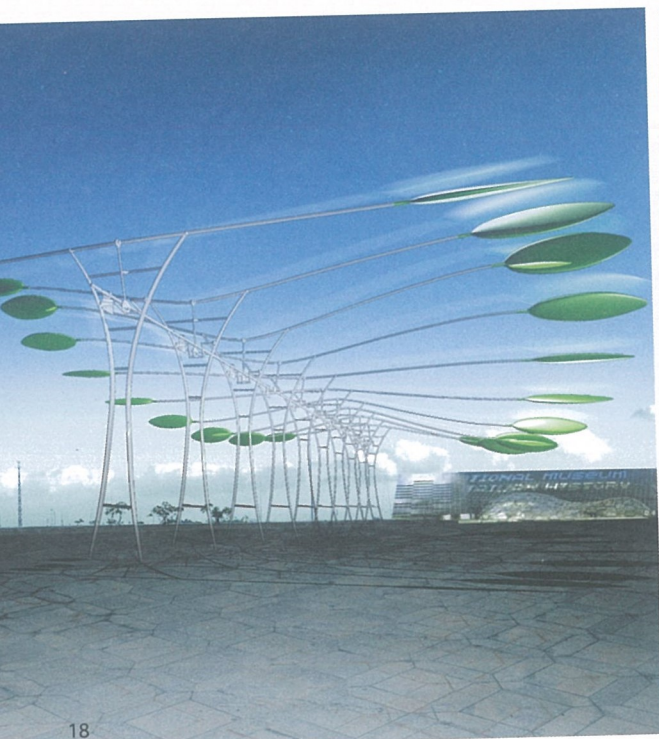


**History,
Like the flow of sudden inspiration,
Running through the past, present, and the future,
Launching an inclusive dialogue,
A Narrative on Taiwan's History.**

A Narrative on Taiwan's History

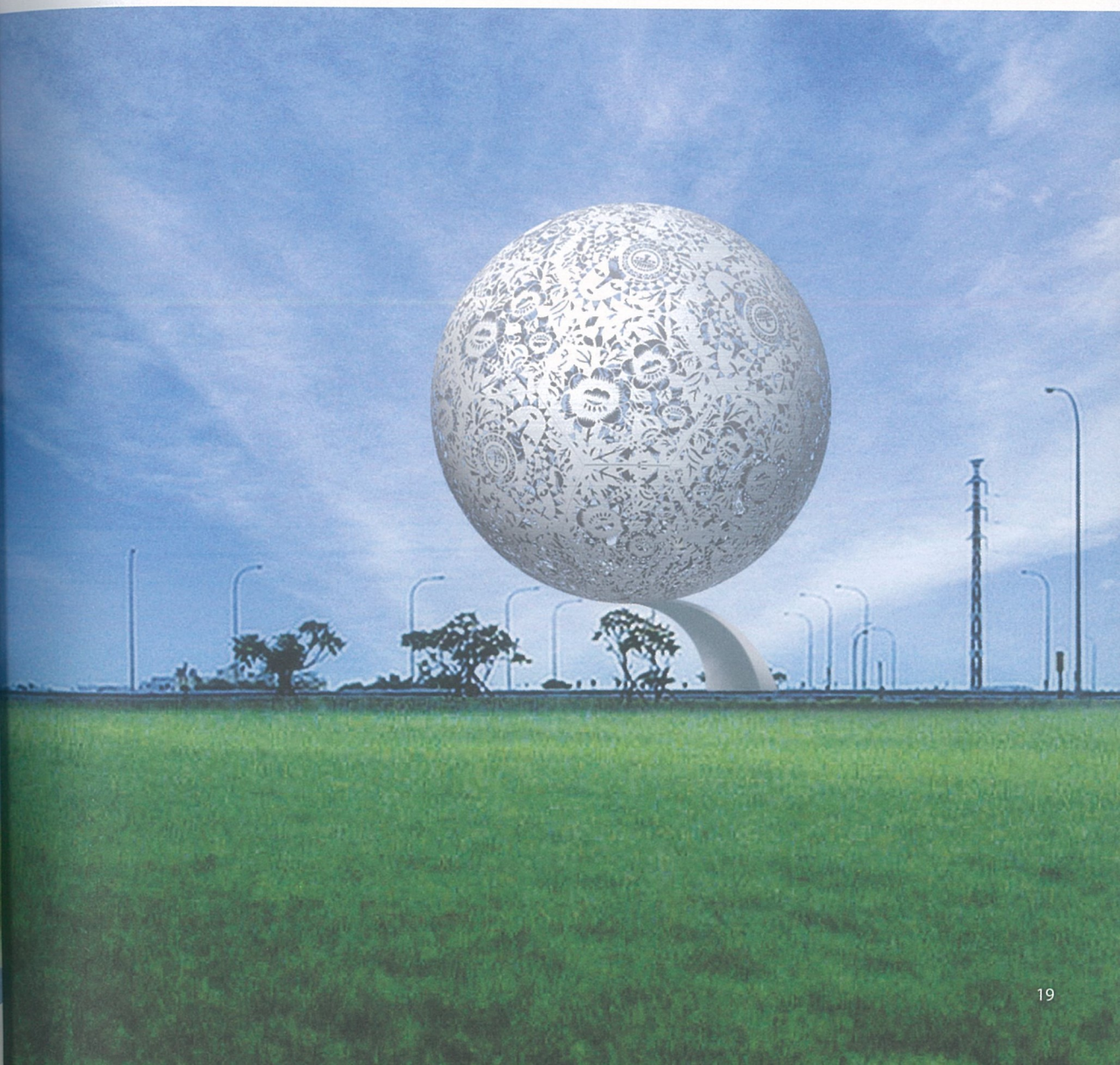
The Museum Park planning focuses on the harmonious integration of humanity and nature, in accordance with the artistic quality of the overall environment. Three public art works, titled "A Narrative on Taiwan's History," echo the themes of the museum architecture, launch a dialogue between present and past, individual and ethnic group, and culture and nature, guiding visitors to travel from the past to the future, and displaying a vision of future pursued by the general public.

"Sailing to the Dream Land" is a kinetic art piece utilizes oar-like structures to create an invisible giant boat, and symbolizes sailing to the future with freedom and hope through the rhythm of moving-paddle structures.



"Harmony" is a spherical sculpture links various features of Taiwanese culture and regions, and its collage of different patterns demonstrates the cultural ideals of sharing, understanding, and mutual tolerance.

A digital art piece "The Origin of Taiwan: the Future Island" removes the artificial invasion of nature to return to a pure and ancient time. Viewers can experience a twilight sense between reality and the virtuality.





Scenic Spots

Cloud Wall

The Cloud Wall that greets every visitor to the Museum is made up of 1,350 pieces of solar panels and 405 pieces of stamped glasses that make-up the typography of "NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TAIWAN HISTORY." The Cloud Wall not only reflects the beautiful sky, but is also an eco-friendly facility that generates power for the Museum.

Fraternity Lake & Lotus Lake

These two lakes, which can hold up to 6,000 cubic meters of water, not only serve practical purposes, but also provide a habitat for resident and migratory birds. It is a perfect site for taking a walk while the sun is setting.





Bamboo House

Built by using traditional handcraft techniques, bamboo houses were very common in the Qing Dynasty Taijiang area, and this building reminds vividly the time when this area did not have any dikes to prevent the floods. Residents of Taijiang used to move their bamboo houses when they needed to look for a safer spot to resettle in. The Museum's bamboo house is located on the Bird Watching Platform, and was built with the aid of our volunteers and local residents to create a space for bird-watching and relaxing.

Hope Hill

Known as "the highest peak" in Annan District, and there is a fig tree called the "Tree of Hope" on the top of Hope Hill. Visitors can enjoy not only a panoramic view of the entire museum park, but also overlooking Southern Taiwan Science Park and the Freeway No. 1.



Education Place

Designed to be a place for families to rest and learn about ecology environment, "Fun" is implemented as the starting point, consisting of three elements: "dream," "inspiration," and "Taiwan." This area is divided into the four areas: "Grass" area is a history experiencing corner, "Water" is an area for dabbling, "Wind" section hangs plant-like art works, and "Sand" area has a sand playground featuring the shape of Taiwan.



Here, Full of Discovery, Surprises, Affection and Hope

A Walk-Through of Taiwan's History

The exhibition area is divided into four sections—the permanent exhibition, the children's hall, theaters, and special exhibitions. The whole museum expresses the profound significance of history via multiple aspects in an inspiring, interactive and interesting approach, while allowing the viewers to discover, be surprised, feel touched, and find hope.

A Walk through time in the Museum

Covering about 4,377 square meters, the permanent exhibition, "Our Land, Our People: The Story of Taiwan" presents the chronicle of Taiwan; it highlights the different governments that have ruled Taiwan and the varied impressions of Taiwan's land and its residents from age to age. Following a timeline, the Permanent Exhibition is designed into seven sections:

Our Land, Our People : The story of Taiwan

As visitors take the escalator to enter the exhibition, a map of Taiwan made up of numerous images of Taiwanese people will grasp their attention. This section is where the visitors start their journey into the Permanent Exhibition "Our Land, Our People: The Story of Taiwan." In here, Taiwan is seen from a global point of view in order to investigate its pluralistic and alternating characteristics with regard to both its natural environment and history. Visitors are encouraged to add their images into the map of Taiwan.

The Early Residents

This section is established with three dioramas based on archeological data, showing the "Baxian Cave Site" from the Paleolithic Age, the "Kending Site" of the Neolithic Age, and the "Qiwulan Site" from the Iron Age, in an attempt to bring to life these periods which will help understand early lives. In addition, visitors will be able to learn more about ancient Taiwanese history through indigenous myths and legends.

Encounters between Disparate Cultures

Due to the trade conducted in the 16th and 17th centuries, various powers from both the East and West encountered each other in Taiwan, which lies along the navigational routes in East Asia. Not only the Dutch and Spanish, the island also attracted the Japanese and Han Chinese settlers. This section uses dioramas, a recreated section of a cabin on a Dutch trading ship, and a small interactive theater to presents stories about the interactions between different ethnic groups of the time.

