



Discover the Architecture of the Canadian Museum of History



Take a walk around the grounds and discover the fascinating symbolism of the Museum's architecture.

Using this map, you can find scenic spots to take a photo – they're marked by camera icons. Flip the page over and match the icon colours to learn a fun architectural fact about the spot you're standing on.

Snap some photos to remember your visit and share using **#CanMusHistory**.



Now that you've taken a photo, find the coloured camera icon to learn more about each location.



As you explore the architectural features, consider the vision of the Museum's primary design architect, **Douglas Cardinal**.

Cardinal is an Indigenous architect who is inspired by landscapes. He intended the design of the building to "speak of the emergence of this continent, its forms sculptured by the winds, the rivers, the glaciers."



Main Entrance

Douglas Cardinal's style of architecture has been called organic, in that the buildings are similar to living organisms. For example, the Main Entrance could represent a face or, more specifically, a mask.

Above the main stairs, you'll see a plaque acknowledging the traditional land on which the Museum is located.

Plaza

The spacious Plaza in front of the Museum and the riverside parkland behind it represent the Great Plains that remained once the glaciers receded.

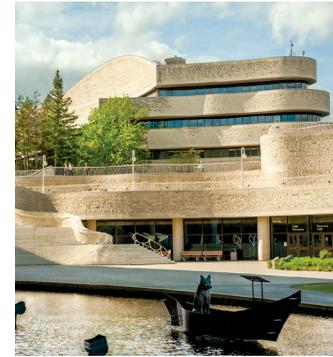
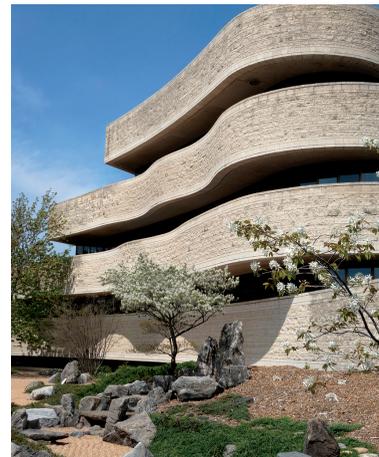


Exterior of Grand Hall

The exterior of the **Grand Hall** is symbolic of a receding glacier – its huge wall of glass gives the impression of melting ice.

Zen Garden

The Zen Garden combines Canadian rocks and plants with Zen-inspired design.



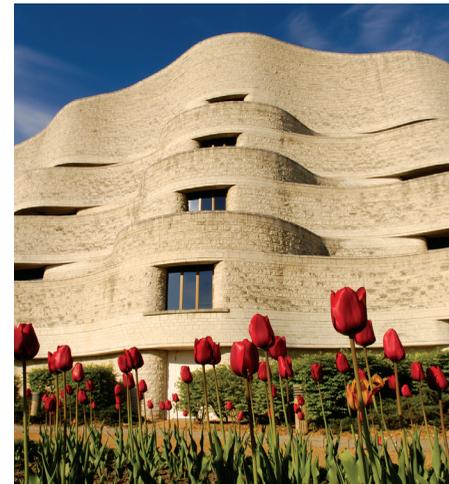
Waterfall Court

The watercourse flowing between the two wings of the Museum represents the streams that formed when the glaciers melted, undercutting the rock of the Canadian Shield.



Curatorial Building

The Curatorial Building that houses the Museum's collection is symbolic of the Canadian Shield. The upper floors overhang or recede from the ones below, drawing inspiration from the erosion of the bedrock by glaciers.



River View Park

The copper roofs of the vaults and domes have started to turn green.

This transformation symbolizes vegetation reclaiming the bare ground after the glaciers melted.

