

Architectural Record

- [Sign In](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

Search

- [NEWS](#)
- [PROJECTS](#)
- [HOUSES](#)
- [OPINION](#)
- [EXCLUSIVES](#)
- [CONTINUING ED](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
- [SUBMIT](#)
- [PRODUCTS](#)
- [CONNECT](#)
- [MAGAZINE](#)

[cart](#)

- [NEWS](#)
- [Latest News](#)
- [Awards](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Podcasts](#)

- [Podcasts](#)
- [Design:Ed Podcast](#)
- [Sponsored Podcasts](#)

- [PROJECTS](#)
- [Buildings By Type](#)
- [Reuse & Renovation](#)
- [Museums & Arts Centers](#)
- [Colleges & Universities](#)
- [Multifamily Housing](#)
- [Interiors](#)
- [Lighting](#)
- [Kitchen & Bath](#)

- [HOUSES](#)
- [Record Houses](#)
- [House of the Month](#)
- [Featured Houses](#)

- [OPINION](#)
- [Book Reviews / Excerpts](#)
- [Exhibition Reviews](#)
- [Forum](#)

- [EXCLUSIVES](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Design Vanguard](#)
- [Top 300 Firms](#)
- [Future of Practice](#)
- [Sponsored Content](#)
- [Sponsored eBooks](#)

- [CONTINUING ED](#)
- [Editorial Continuing Ed](#)
- [CE Center](#)
- [CE Academies](#)

- [EVENTS](#)
- [Dates & Events](#)
- [Record on the Road](#)
- [Innovation Conference](#)
- [Women In Architecture](#)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Ad Excellence Awards](#)
- [Submit an Event](#)

- [SUBMIT](#)
- [Submission Guidelines](#)
- [RECORD Competitions](#)

- [PRODUCTS](#)
- [Products by Category](#)
- [Record Products of the Year](#)
- [Material World Newsletter](#)
- [Sponsored Products](#)

- [CONNECT](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Editorial Calendar](#)
- [Store](#)
- [Customer Service](#)
- [My Account](#)

- [MAGAZINE](#)
- [Digital Edition](#)
- [Current Issue](#)
- [Historic Archive](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Firm Pass](#)

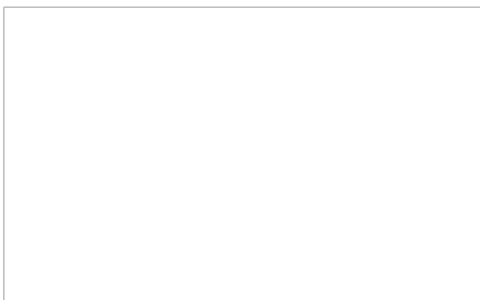
[Architecture News](#)

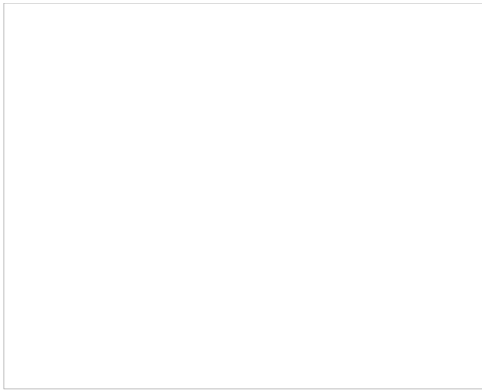
By [James Murdock](#)

August 16, 2008

UFO Museum Has Close Encounter of the CAD Kind

Have intelligent beings from other planets visited Earth? The International UFO Museum and Research Center, in Roswell, New Mexico, lacks a definitive answer, such as an alien spacecraft—but it does have plenty of intriguing photographs and affidavits from people who say they have seen one. “If visitors walk out of here with more questions than they had when they came in, that’s all we ask,” says executive director Julie Shuster.





Images courtesy Ahearn-Schopfer Associates

Ahearn-Schopfer Associates, a Boston-based firm, is designing a new home for the International UFO Museum and Research Center, in Roswell, New Mexico.

In designing a new home for the institution, Kevin Schopfer, AIA, a principal of Boston-based Ahearn-Schopfer Associates, also sought to arouse curiosity. Although his 18,000-square-foot, one-story building features a rectangular footprint and mostly rectilinear concrete volumes, a warped plane cant from the west elevation and soars nearly 90 feet above the main entry. This surface, which will likely be gel-coated fiberglass, folds over on itself while a funnel-shaped hole connects the top and bottom facets.

“The concept is that this is a found object emerging from a file cabinet, kind of like information hidden in a drawer somewhere,” Schopfer explains, referring to the purported government cover-up of extraterrestrial evidence. “It’s meant to grab your attention and question what it is.”

The funnel represents a wormhole, he continues, which some physicists hypothesize is a shortcut between distant parts of the universe—and that ufologists believe extraterrestrials use to visit Earth. It’s a billboard building that “entices people from the roadway,” Schopfer admits, but it avoids the ubiquitous alien and UFO iconography common in Roswell, an isolated desert town whose name is synonymous with the alleged crash of a flying saucer there in July 1947.

What the museum lacks on its exterior it will contain inside. A large mock-up of a flying disc will hang from the ceiling in the lobby. It’s this “iconic moment” that visitors will remember afterward, hopes Penny Sander, senior associate and project manager at Cambridge Seven Associates, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which is designing the exhibits.

Chances are there will be many visitors. Annual attendance has grown from 3,000, when the museum opened in 1992, to more than 160,000—one reason why it has already moved twice into bigger accommodations. It is now raising \$15 million for construction of the new building and hopes to break ground in early 2009; later phases might include a 30- to 40-room boutique hotel.

Schopfer learned that the museum needed a new home while watching a TV program about the Roswell crash. The project allowed him to pursue his interests in architecture and outer space. “UFOs make a great story,” he says, “and the subject matter is really endless.”

Share This Story

**Looking for a reprint of this article?
From high-res PDFs to custom plaques, [order your copy today!](#)**





1 FREE ARTICLE(S) LEFT

Subscribe today for unlimited access.

Get started for as low as \$1.99/month.

[Already a registered subscriber? Sign in.](#)

[Get full access for multiple users with a Site License.](#)

[More Videos](#)

[Sponsored Content](#) *i*

[Sponsored Content is a special paid section where industry companies provide high quality, objective, non-commercial content around topics of interest to the *Architectural Record* audience. All Sponsored Content is supplied by the advertising company and any opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and not necessarily reflect the views of *Architectural Record* or its parent company, BNP Media. Interested in participating in our Sponsored Content section? **Contact your local rep!**](#)

[close](#)



[Sponsored bytise - The International Surface Event](#)



• [Sponsored byKI Wall](#)



• [Sponsored byMitsubishi Electric Trane HVAC US LLC](#)

[Listen to Architectural Record's DESIGN:ED Podcast](#)

Events

January 28, 2025

Credits: 1 AIA LU/HSW; 1 AIBD P-CE; 0.1 ICC CEU; 0.1 IACET CEU

This course highlights the benefits, applications, and design potential of expanded mesh and perforated metal in creating sustainable, inspiring architectural projects.

January 29, 2025

Credits: 1 AIA LU/Elective; 1 AIBD P-CE; 0.1 ICC CEU; 0.1 IACET CEU

This webinar offers strategies to develop next-gen leaders, enhancing value, retention, and resilience for architecture firms.

[View All Submit An Event](#)

Products

[See More Products](#)

Popular Stories



Related Articles

-



[See More](#)

-



[See More](#)



[See More](#)

Related Products

[See More Products](#)





[See More Products](#)

×



[SUBSCRIBE](#)

- [RESOURCES](#)
 - [Advertise](#)
 - [Contact Us](#)
 - [Submit](#)
 - [Store](#)
 - [Want More](#)
- [SUBSCRIBE](#)
 - [Create Account](#)
 - [My Account](#)
 - [eNewsletter](#)
 - [Customer Service](#)
 - [Manage Preferences](#)
- [SERVICES](#)
 - [Marketing Services](#)
 - [Reprints](#)
 - [Market Research](#)
 - [List Rental](#)
 - [Survey/Respondent Access](#)
- [STAY CONNECTED](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [Instagram](#)
 - [YouTube](#)
 - [X \(Twitter\)](#)
- [PRIVACY](#)
 - [PRIVACY POLICY](#)
 - [TERMS & CONDITIONS](#)

- [DO NOT SELL MY PERSONAL INFORMATION](#)
- [PRIVACY REQUEST](#)
- [ACCESSIBILITY](#)

Copyright ©2025. All Rights Reserved BNP Media.

Design, CMS, Hosting & Web Development :: [ePublishing](#)

