

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM: DESIGN OF ENDURING SIGNIFICANCE

by
Howard Hershberg, AIA



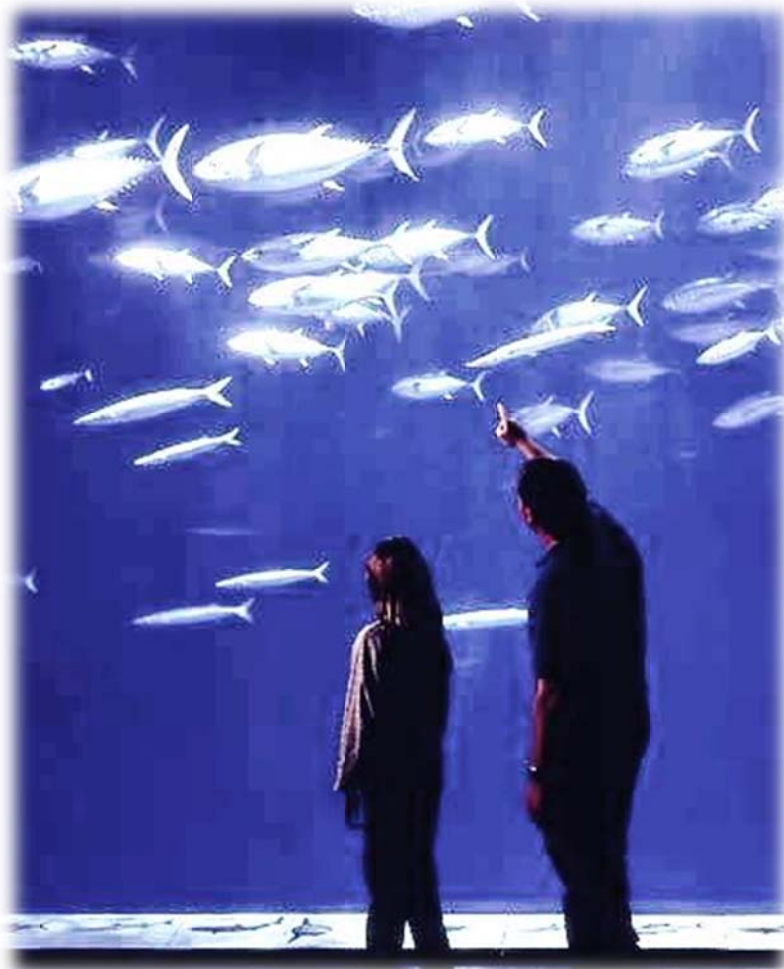
SOURCE: Kelp Forest

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The American Institute of Architects California Council (AIACC) 2011 Twenty-Five Year Award recipient is the Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA).¹ The award recognizes buildings between twenty-five and fifty years old that have stood the test of time. The Monterey Bay Aquarium, designed by EHDD Architecture, was completed in 1984 in the historic Cannery Row in Monterey, California. The Aquarium's mission is "to inspire conservation of the oceans," and this facility, built half over land and half over water, embraces that mission. The MBA occupies land at the end of Cannery Row. The Aquarium was built on the site of the Hovden Cannery, a sardine cannery that helped define the character of Monterey from the time it was built until the cannery's closure in 1973, after sardine fishing collapsed. Hovden Cannery was dismantled in 1980.

The MBA pumps 2000 G.P.M. through 100 exhibit tanks night and day. During the day, the seawater is

¹ For more information about the Monterey Bay Aquarium see the Monterey Bay Aquarium Visitors Guide <http://gocalifornia.about.com/cs/montereycarmel/a/mbaq.htm> and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Website (www.montereybayaquarium.org).



SOURCE: Outer Bay Exhibit at the Monterey Aquarium © Monterey Bay Aquarium/Randy Wilder

filtered for clarity. At night, unfiltered seawater is pumped through the exhibits bringing in nutrients. Wastewater is pumped from the aquarium back into Monterey Bay. This design makes the MBA ecologically part of the Pacific Ocean. A 4.5 million liter tank in the Open Sea Galleries features one of the world's largest single pane windows. The pane is made up of five panes seamlessly glued together via a proprietary process.

While an aquarium takes lots of energy to run, they have implemented several conservation strategies including installing motion sensors and energy efficient lights in office spaces, replacing aquatic pumps with energy saving models, and regular power plant upgrades to increase the Aquarium's energy efficiency. They have a comprehensive recycling program and encourage their vendors to do the same. More than a third of the full-time employees carpool, walk, telecommute, bike to work, or use mass transit.

The Louisiana State Energy Office (SEO) disseminates information about energy efficiency and conservation. The information includes articles, facts, products, and applications being proposed, designed, and used by the building industry.