

## Moshe Safdie in Los Angeles, California

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*The fourth phase of the Skirball Cultural Center, under construction in Los Angeles, California will open in October 2013. Image: Courtesy Skirball Cultural Center*

Construction continues on the fourth and final phase of the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, California, set to open in October 2013. The thirty-year project has been masterplanned and designed by Moshe Safdie.

This phase of the development will feature two adjoining buildings – Herscher Hall and Guerin Pavilion – on the north side of the campus. These facilities will provide additional space for the Skirball's programming, including the addition of 40,000 square feet of classrooms, conference spaces, gardens, and a grand hall accommodating up to 1,200 guests. The 9,000-square-foot (840-square-meter) grand hall is daylit by nearly 100 custom skylights in a roof supported by Oregon Douglas Fir beams.



*Interior rendering of the great hall and its window wall. Image: Courtesy Skirball Cultural Center*

A large window-wall frames a view of the cascading terraced courtyard garden, which contains 30 Japanese maple trees. And the entrance plaza to the new building is accented with coral trees, enamel art panels, and a fountain.

The campus building palette comprises pink Tadoussac stone, recessed glazing, stainless steel roofs, vaulted ceilings, and discreet planted areas.

Thirty years ago, Uri D. Herscher and Moshe Safdie envisioned a barren hill in Los Angeles, California as the setting for a cultural institution where people of all backgrounds could come together to discover and celebrate the meaning of heritage.

The design of the Skirball Cultural Center is rooted in a desire to seamlessly weave together the buildings and the surrounding landscape. In response to the site's steep and complex topography, Safdie designed the campus as a series of building clusters and a network of outdoor courtyards, arcades, and landscaped ravines.

Spanning the four construction phases, the indoor spaces include a museum, galleries for changing exhibitions, conference and educational centers, and multipurpose auditoriums. The outdoor spaces integrate the buildings with the natural beauty of the site.



*Aerial view of the fourth phase under construction. Image: Courtesy Skirball Cultural Center*

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