

Hall Of Science Review

Yonatan Kelib
Cabinets Of Wonder
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A: First Impressions.

Sunny, informative, visually beautiful, welcoming, engaging, wonderful use of solid colors. playful, inviting, cheerful, sense of wonderment, spacious, clean, helpful, bright, informative, sheer volume of exhibits, convenient, organized, spacious.green.

B: Notes from the viewpoint of an observer from the following three perspectives; emotional, informational and social.

Emotional: With its beautiful bright, spacious interior and its of pastel color tones, the HOS creates a welcoming and comfortable environment. A safe and comfortable environment. The visitors are encouraged to walk around and explore all the exhibitions, through the open bright space and use of pastel color use and inviting atmosphere.

Informational: A sense of wonderment comes over as you first notice the twin rockets towering over the tree-lined residential neighborhood, as you slowly walk towards the HOS from the subway. You ask yourself "what would twin rockets be doing in a quiet tree line residential neighborhood?". This question increases your curiosity level as well as allowing you to become a bit more excited about what you may find at the HOS. The HOS underlying theme seems to be learning through interaction and experimentation. Through its use of hands on interactive exhibitions, you can fully explore a wide selection of scientific subjects which include from microbiology, chemistry, mathematics, and even the solar system.

Social: The HOS uses its spacious size to create truly interactive exhibitions where the active participation of more then two people is encouraged. I noticed several exhibitions, which were designed in a circular motion so that several users can interact with each other and view the progress made by each other. The young guides who work at the HOS also help in creating social interaction between visitors by acting for the participation of visitors from a crowd of people in helping experiment with and explaining the exhibitions. This participation makes people feel more comfortable to interact with the exhibition as well as with anyone who is near by. The layout and pathway is also large enough to accommodate large numbers of people. The bright and open space helps create a very friendly and social environment for social interaction between the visitors.

3A: General Interest Paper (New York Times)

With its twin rockets seemingly ready to launch into the blue skies, the HOS is sending you a visual cue of the amazing educational journey that awaits you once you enter its doors.

Originally built as a pavilion for the 1964-65 World's fair, the HOS is now ranked as one of the top ten science museums in the country with over 400 hand-on exhibits. These exhibits explore a wide range of scientific subjects such as biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, the solar system, and other subjects in a very innovative manner which I would describe as learning through interaction and experimentation.

This underlying theme of learning through interaction and experimentation is exemplified throughout all of the SOH exhibitions. I believe that it is this level of participation that captures the imagination of the visitors and helps them truly understand and appreciate the exhibition subject matter in a truly innovative and engaging manner.

With a recent \$13 million expansion recently completed, you can expect more exhibitions and a continuation of HOS's commitment to its rich tradition of informing and engaging the public about the scientific wonders that exist around them in the world.

3B: Parents/ Family Magazine

The HOS with its underlying theme of learning through interaction helps nurture a young child's sense of wonder and curiosity. I witnessed this type of entrancement when walking around the exhibitions; I noticed how several children were completely enthralled in their exhibition activity and almost unaware of the world around them.

I noticed once event, which is typical of the type of interaction that I believe, occurs often at the HOS. A father was explaining how gravity works to his two young kids who are around four to seven years old. The two kids stood spellbound watching two shiny silver colored balls rotating in a perfect circular motion within the enclosed bubble replicating the pathway of the solar system in total silence in the celestial bodies exhibition.

The youngest child asked his father in wonderment why the balls did not collide into each other. The father continued explaining to his sons how gravity works yet again and then in order to further help his son understand, he helped his son press the button on the exhibition to add more balls into the miniature solar system. Then after a few minutes, when the oldest child asked the father a question about gravity, it was his younger brother who excitedly while pointing to the balls, in his own words tried explained what he thought gravity was and all the father could do was smile and tell him he was right.

This scene was repeated over and over when I walked from one exhibition hall to another. I saw young children with their parents interacting with the exhibitions and at one point one of the children started to scream when his parents wanted to move on to another exhibition.

Overall HOS creates a truly education, fun filled based interaction driven environment where children will feel right at home. I must admit you will feel like a giant since almost all the exhibitions were designed with a young child's point of view but beside that a day at HOS is a wonderful way to share with your kid the wonderful and exciting world of science.

3D: Design Magazine

The HOS was designed by Wallace K. Harrison for the 1964-65 World's Fair as a building dedicated to scientific knowledge very much the way cathedrals were built for religion. The beauty of its futuristic shapes and use of cobalt blue windows were one way that Harrison wanted the building to amaze and entrance its visitors. The HOS designed to break away from the monotony of traditional building design, it was to be daring, exciting, spacious, and full of light, and in my personal opinion it really is quite a beautiful building. A building that is meant to explore the endless aspirations and hopes for the future.

I was quite surprised by the sheer amount of light and the organic sense of movement within the building. The building is very spacious and creates a very welcoming environment, which allows you to lose track of time very easily. Another aspect of the building that was quite amazing was the fact that it was located in such a quiet family residence neighborhood but after my visit, I understood that the HOS and the community around it truly complemented it each other very well.

The HOS recently underwent a \$13 million renovation, which added over 72,000 square feet of addition feet, which will be used for permanent, and temporary exhibits, as well as exhibition preparation and shop facilities. Overall the HOS creates a truly inviting and relaxed environment, which goes well with the HOS's overall approach of helping the public become aware of the scientific wonders around them through interaction and experimentation.