

Calif. Museum Desert A 'Living' Example Of Sustainability, Conservation

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Jupiter Kalambakal - AHN News Writer

Hemet, CA (AHN) - A 70,000-square-foot museum complex in the harsh desert of Southern California continues to receive attention for its sustainable design and conservation features.

The \$40 million Water+Life Museum structure located near the famous Diamond Valley Lake Reservoir is the world's first Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum-certified museum, reports said.

Lehrer Architects is responsible for the museum's cutting-edge design, which has reaped awards from local and international organizations. The buildings are topped with 540-watt, 3000 panel photovoltaic installation that provides roughly half the museum's energy needs, reports said.

Lehrer principal architect Michael Lehrer said the complex made use of different green elements: heat-blocking glass, natural light emitting windows, smart interior lighting, radiant floor heating and cooling, drought tolerant landscaping, and a drip irrigation system that uses reclaimed water.

The firm's website described the museum project as requiring "the most exacting green standards" because while Hemet's desert environment records triple-digit summer heat, water also freezes here during the winter.

Lehrer said the Water+Life Museum is a "living" example of sustainability and conservation.

"We are gratified to receive the Platinum rating, but even more proud that the Water + Life Museums will effectively conserve water and electricity for generations to come," the chief architect had said.

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