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# WHAT IS EXPERIENTIAL DESIGN?

An Introduction

# Experiential Design is a multi-faceted field that combines several disciplines to create rich environments and experiences.

Successful Experiential Design combines the elements of spatial planning, narrative scripting, visual interpretation, media development, and lighting and sound design to create dynamic and often immersive interior spaces and exterior sites that convey complex themes, powerful ideas, or history-altering events in identifiable and relatable ways for contemporary audiences.

The role of an Experiential Graphic Designer is to work in tandem with exhibit designers to transform words on a page into visual experiences that put narratives into context using a variety of elements. Techniques may be as simple as didactic text on a panel, move up to the complexity of informational graphic or map, or graduate to a mechanical or digital interactive experience like a multi-player game.

Experiential Graphic Designers work in space with a variety of materials, finishes, and techniques, considering carefully how visitors will approach an environment and interact with their surroundings. Hierarchies of information are developed, graphic styles and treatments are researched, and materials are selected to convey a mood, sense of place, or time period. Experiential Graphic Designers work in three dimensions and must consider multiple aspects of a space to achieve a holistic experience, from the surrounding walls and structures, to floors, to lighting and sound, and even effects of nature such as shadows or angles of view. In most if not all cases, they must also comply with ADA requirements for type size, contrast, and distance from the floor and obstructions that may impede access.

Experiential Graphic Designers—as in my case—can also responsible for developing, concepting, and producing identification, wayfinding, and code signage for both exterior and interior use, moving them closer to Environmental Design. This requires a thorough understanding of the architecture and construction of a building and also its site to determine visitor needs, plan locations, and quantify the types of signage functions, such as decision-making points. It also requires an understanding of state, regional, and local codes and ordinances to work within any restrictions imposed by these.

# ANOTE ON THE CONTENTS

The Legal Stuff

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Likewise, parts of images contain work executed by others such as Gallagher & Associates staff, vendors, design & fabrication partners, media & A/V specialists, or independent contractors. The images of the completed projects include the work of many highly talented & dedicated teams, including but not limited to the following:

- » Gallagher & Associates Silver Spring & NYC Staff
- » kubik maltbie
- » Explus Inc.
- » Cortina Productions
- » Available Light
- » DCL
- » Gelberg Signs
- » Hickok Cole Architects
- » Integrated Architecture
- » Clark Construction



Washington, DC

Human Intelligence Gallery - Completed Area, Sir Francis Walsingham Vignette: Direct Print on Scenically-Treated Substrates & Canvas, Phenolic Graphics, & Boogie Board Interactive



Photo: International Spy Museum.



Washington, DC

Analysis Gallery - Completed Area, Introduction Graphics: Lenticular Graphics and Painted Direct Print Panels with Viewports



Photo: International Spy Museum.



Washington, DC

Analysis Gallery - Completed Areas, Mindgames Letters: Painted Acrylic with Chemetal Facing; Puzzle Interactive Wall Mural: Multi-Layer Mural with Applied Graphic Panels, Dimensional Letters, & Painted Direct Print Panels



Photo: International Spy Museum.





Washington, DC

Spying That Shaped History Rotunda - Completed Area, Who Would Have Thought?: Wall Murals & Phenolic Interactive Sliding Rail with RGB Acrylic Secret Text Reveal



Photo: Cortina Productions.

Washington, DC

Mosab & Gonen Exhibit Gallery - Graphic Elevation: Digital Mural with Custom "Spray paint" Text & Weathered Poster; Direct Print Metal Panel Applied to Mural



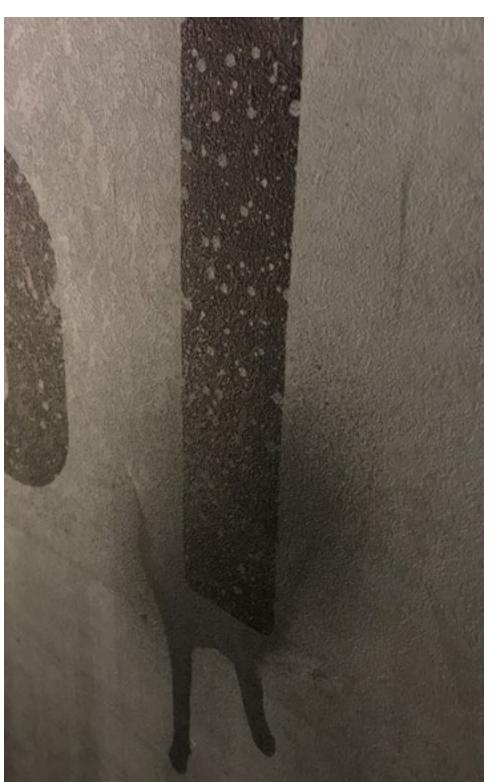




Washington, DC

Mosab & Gonen Exhibit Gallery - Custom Graphic Output Details: Distressed Mural Lettering Digital Print on Concrete Texture Wallpaper







Photos: Adrian O. Constantyn.



Washington, DC

Agents & Handlers Theater Entry and Risk & Trust Interactive Area - Graphic Elevation: Hand Painted Silhouettes Over Scenically-Treated Plaster; Custom Stencil Graphics On Painted Wall

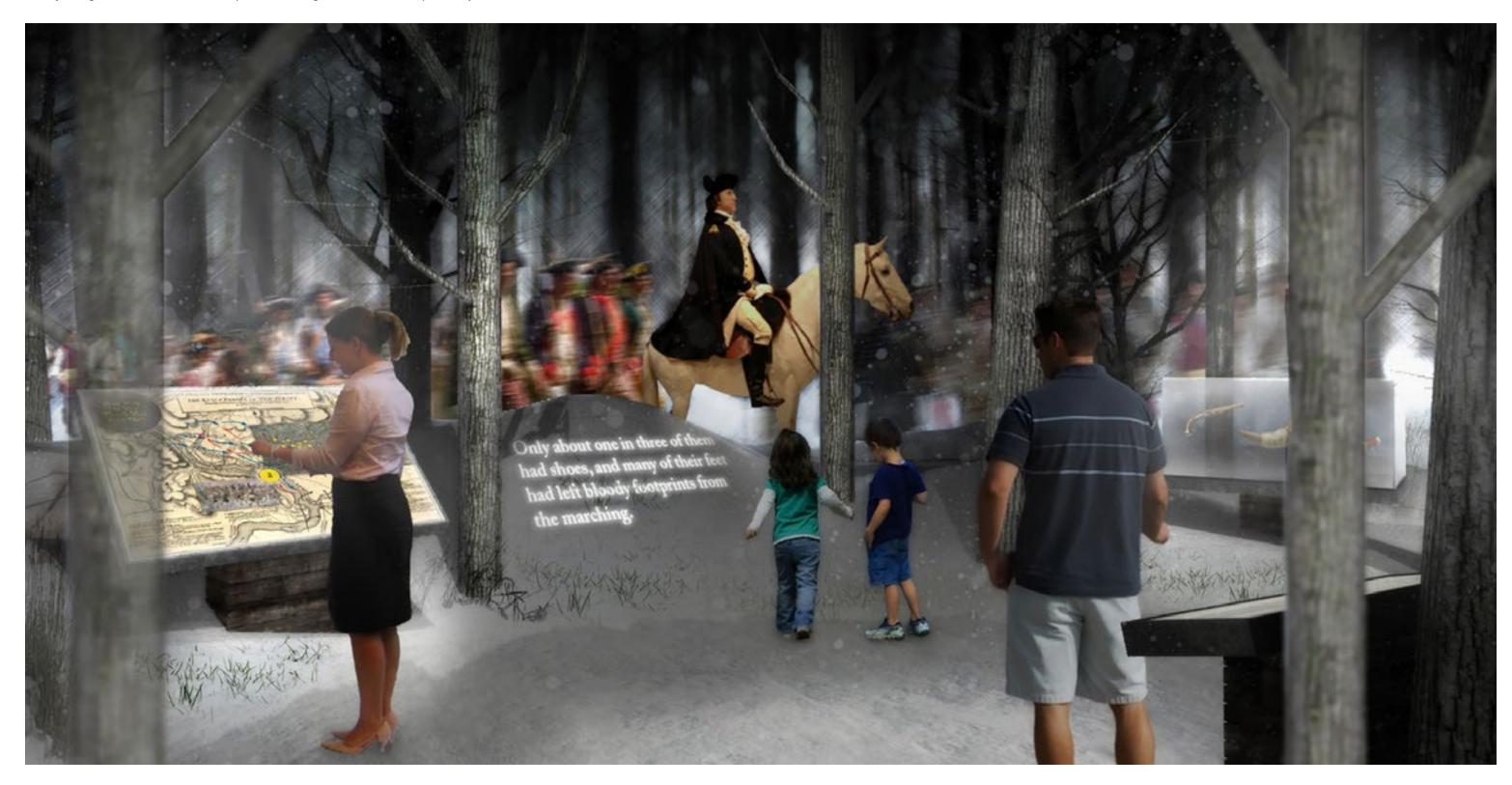


Agents & Handlers Theater Entry Risk & Trust Interactive Area



Mount Vernon, VA

Valley Forge March Area - Concept Rendering: Interactive Map & Projections



Mount Vernon, VA

Life at Mount Vernon Gallery - Concept Rendering: Interactive Table, Rails, and Wall Treatments







Mission Drop Gallery - Concept Rendering: Introductory Media, Scene 2







What Does It Take? Gallery - Concept Rendering: Historic Figures Displays









Teamwork Gallery - Concept Rendering: Multi-Player Touchscreen Interactive



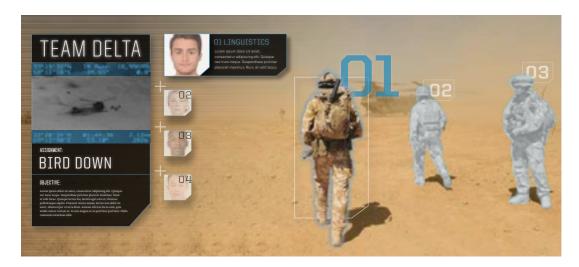




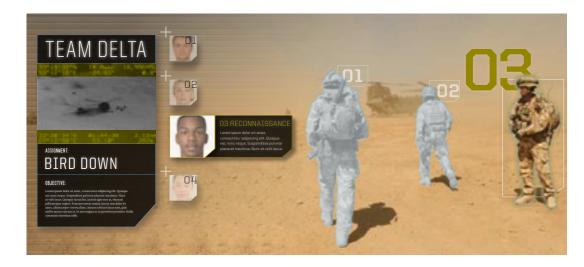
# THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF INTELLIGENCE & SPECIAL OPERATIONS

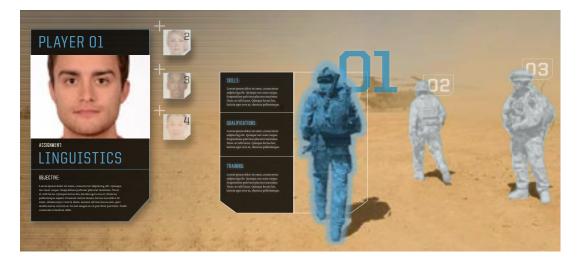
Loudon County, VA

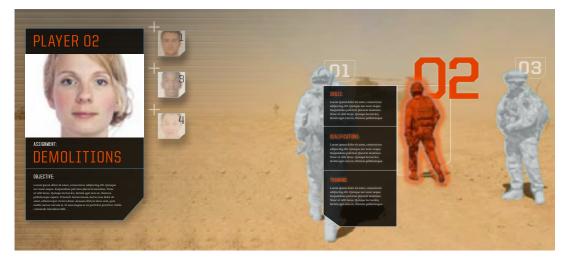
Teamwork Gallery - Concept Graphic: Multi-Player Touchscreen Interactive Player States. Passive (Left) & Active (Right)

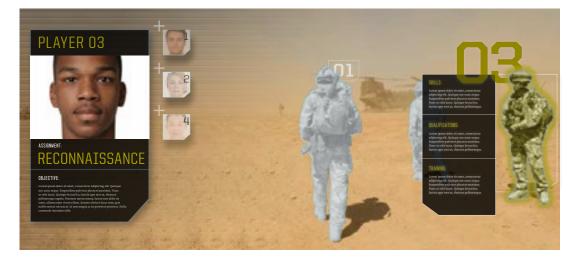


















Problem Solving Gallery - Concept Rendering: Obstacles Area



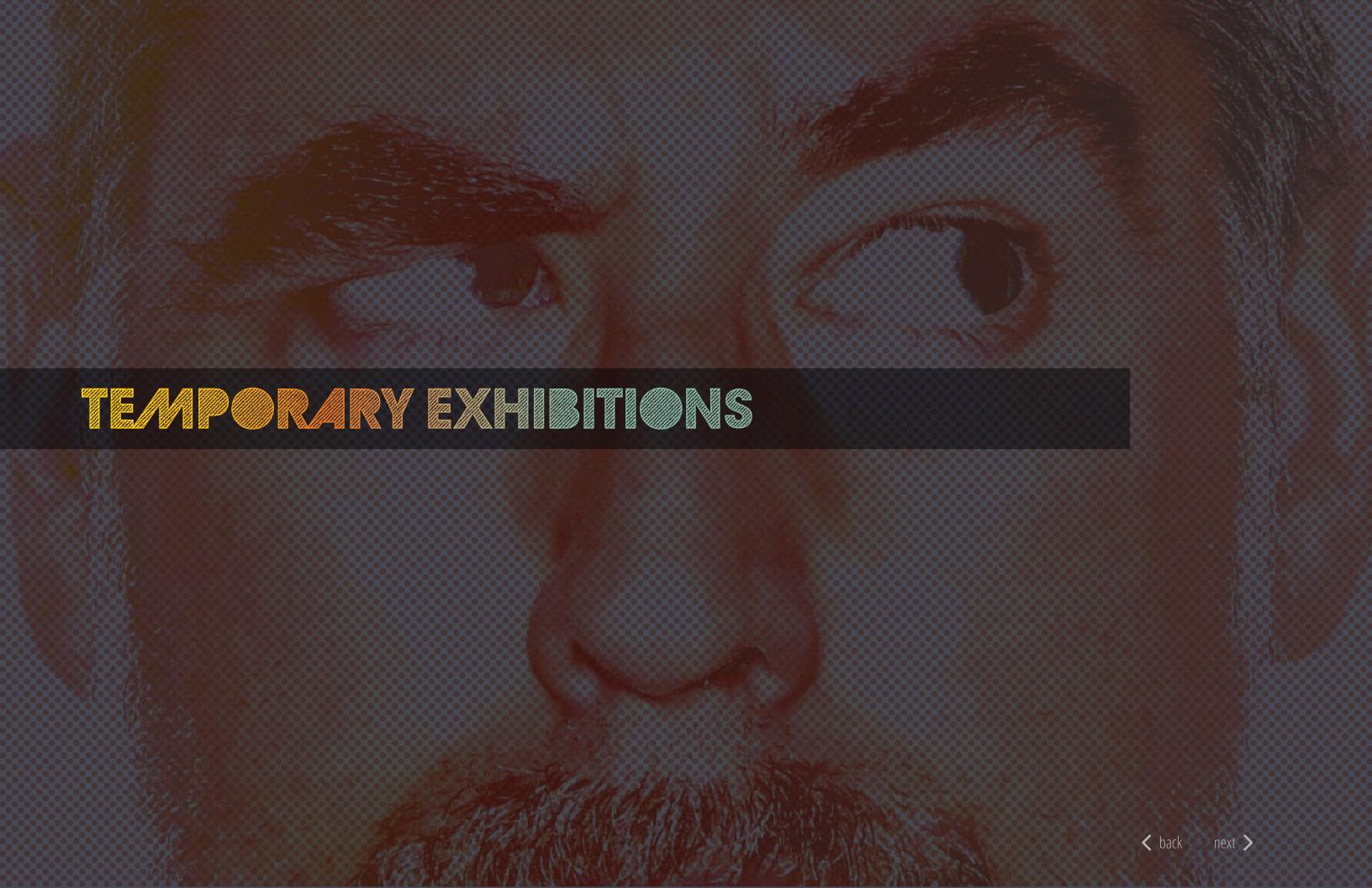




Future Threats Gallery - Concept Rendering: Media Rotunda







# **VIOLINS OF HOPE TEMPORARY/TRAVELING EXHIBITION**

The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, Beachwood, OH

Overall Exhibition - Key Area Images: See Annotations Below





Entryway Mural & Introductory Media Experience



**<** back

Pod Interior with Timeline & Stories, Violin Vitrine

Photos: Gallagher & Associates.





# **ISRAEL: THEN & NOW TEMPORARY/TRAVELING EXHIBITION**

The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, Beachwood, OH

Overall Exhibition - Completed Panoramic Views: Various Materials, Finishes, & Graphic Techniques

**ROLE:** Concept Design; Schematic Design; Design Development; Final Design Administration





Photos: Adrian O. Constantyn.



# **ISRAEL: THEN & NOW TEMPORARY/TRAVELING EXHIBITION**

The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, Beachwood, OH

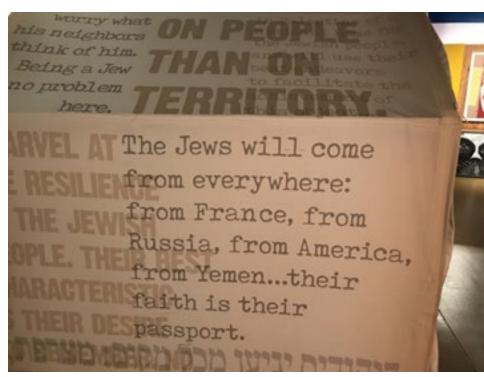
Overall Exhibition - Key Area Images: See Annotations Below



Timeline Media Installation: Painted MDF Table with Projection Mapping over Scaled Terrain



Narrative Structures: Digital Graphics on Panels in Powdercoated Framing



Media Tent: Digital Graphics on Heavy Canvas



**ROLE:** Concept Design; Schematic Design; Design

Development; Final Design Administration

Media Column: Digital Map & Text Graphics over Curved Panels with Internal Illumination Photos: Adrian O. Constantyn.



Meijer Inc. Corporate Headquarters, Grand Rapids, MI

Faces of Meijer/Sandy the Pony Area - Completed Area: Various Materials, Finishes, & Graphic Techniques



Photo: Meijer Historical Archives.



Meijer Inc. Corporate Headquarters, Grand Rapids, MI

Faces of Meijer Area - Graphic Elevation: Multi-Plane Applied Digital Graphics, Painted MDF, & Direct Print Hickory Panels



Meijer Inc. Corporate Headquarters, Grand Rapids, MI

Timeline Area - Graphic Elevation & Segment Detail: Painted Direct Print Panels, Wrapped Mural Panels, & Routed & Direct Print Hickory Rail





Meijer Inc. Corporate Headquarters, Grand Rapids, MI

Supply Chain Area - Graphic Elevation: Mural & Applied Painted & Direct Print Map Mounted to Hickory Medallion



Meijer Inc. Corporate Headquarters, Grand Rapids, MI

Distribution Area - Graphic Elevation: Painted Panels with Custom Graphics Mounted to GC Wall with Monitor at Center



Meijer Inc. Corporate Headquarters, Grand Rapids, MI

Thrift Market Area - Graphic Elevation, Scenic Storefront: Painted Wood, Glass, Frosted Film Graphics, Applied Graphics, Recessed Murals, & Embedded Monitor

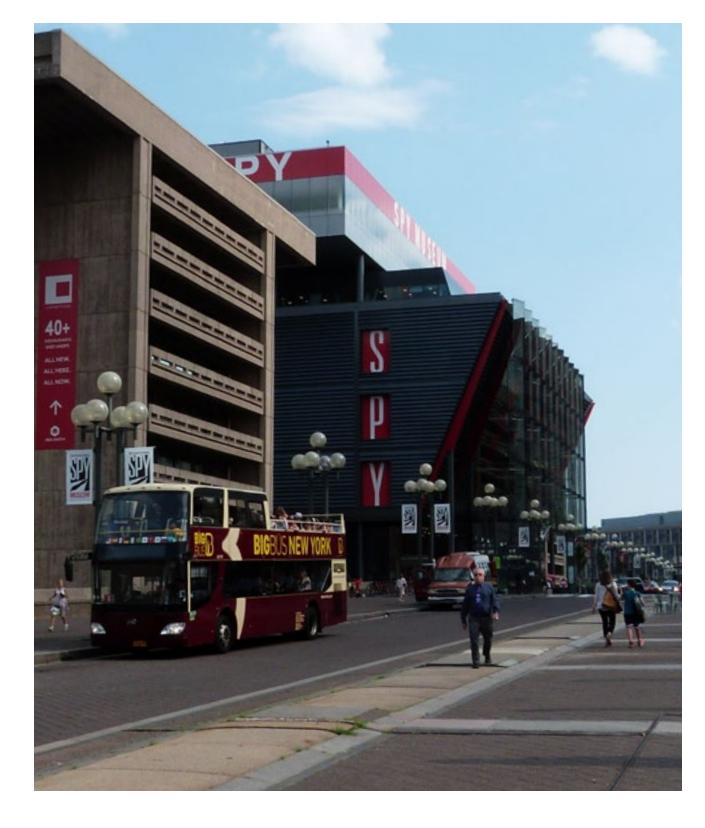




Washington, DC

Exterior Special Signage - Completed Building Wrap & Loading Doors: 3M Film Applied to Glass & Steel

**ROLE:** Programming; Concept Design; Schematic Design; Design Development; Final Design; Construction Administration





Photos: Adrian O. Constantyn.





Washington, DC

**ROLE:** Programming; Concept Design; Schematic Design; Design Development; Final Design; Construction Administration

Exterior Special Signage - Completed Monument: Painted Aluminum with Brushed Stainless Face on Painted Aluminum-Clad Plinth with Non-Skid Platform



Photo: Adrian O. Constantyn



Washington, DC

**ROLE:** Programming; Concept Design; Schematic Design; Design Development; Final Design; Construction Administration

Exterior Special Signage - Completed Monument: Painted Aluminum with Brushed Stainless Face on Painted Aluminum-Clad Plinth with Non-Skid Platform



Photo: Adrian O. Constantyn.







Washington, DC

ROLE: Programming; Concept Design; Schematic Design; Design Development; Final Design; Construction Administration

Exterior ID Signage - Completed Primary Entry: Rail-Mounted Extruded Aluminum Letters with Brushed Stainless Steel Face & Painted Returns, External LED Light Wash



Photo: Adrian O. Constantyn



Washington, DC

Exterior ID Signage - Completed Store Entry: Typical; Fire Department ID: Extruded Painted Aluminum Letters

**ROLE:** Programming; Concept Design; Schematic Design; Design Development; Final Design; Construction Administration

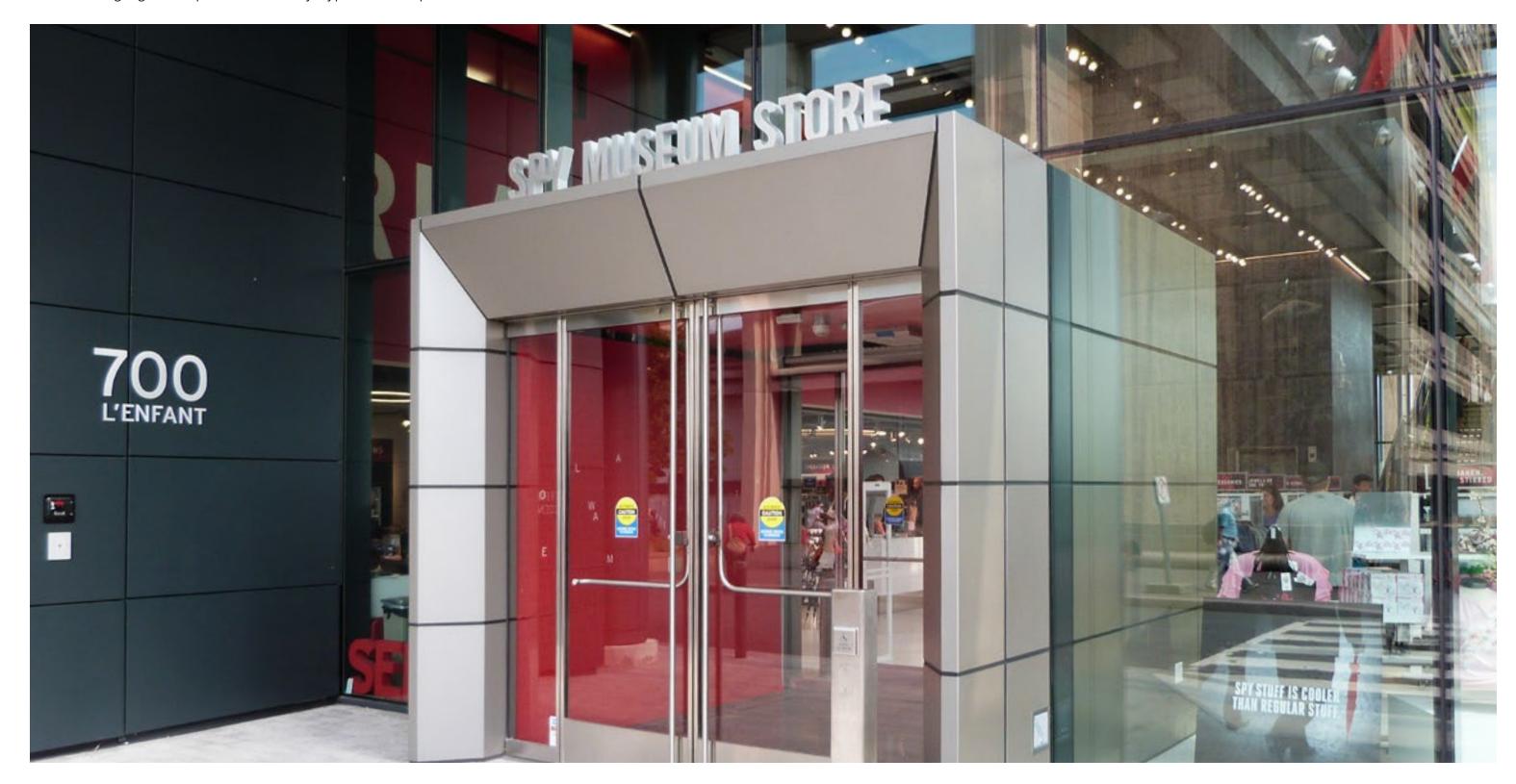


Photo: Adrian O. Constantyn.





Washington, DC

Exterior ID Signage - Graphic Elevation, Primary & Store Entries: With Measurements & Details for CFA

DC Sign Code - N101.4.1.4 Sign dimensions. The aggregate area of all signs advertising any one business on a building or premises shall be limited to 25 sq. feet (2.322 m<sup>2</sup>) per street frontage.



Washington, DC

**ROLE:** Programming; Concept Design; Schematic Design; Design Development; Final Design; Construction Administration

Interior Wayfinding Signage - Completed Restroom ID: Painted Acrylic with Metallic Painted Pictograms & Lettering; Orientation Sign: Stainless Steel & Painted Aluminum with Direct Print Graphics, Matte Overlaminate





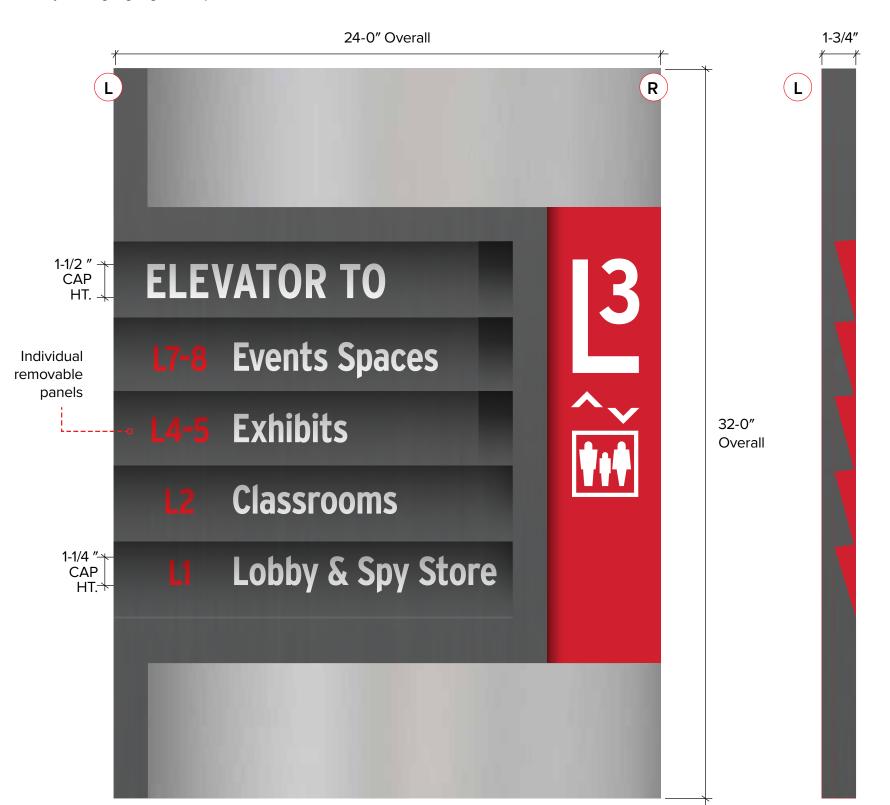


Photos: Adrian O. Constantyn

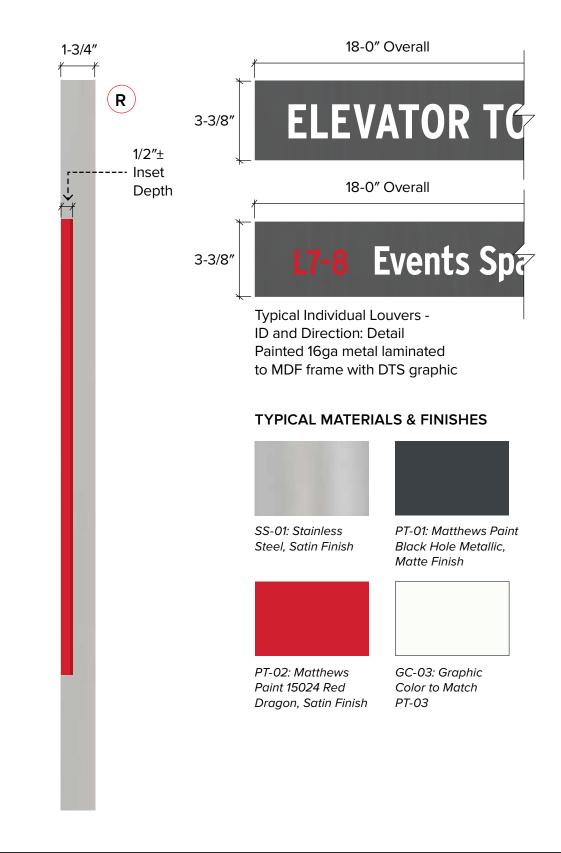


Washington, DC

Interior Wayfinding Signage - Graphic Detail Elevations & Sections: Level Orientation



**ROLE:** Programming; Concept Design; Schematic Design; Design Development; Final Design; Construction Administration



**ROLE:** Programming; Concept Design; Design Development; Final Design; Construction Administration

Washington, DC

Interior Code Signage - Completed Restroom IDs: Painted Exterior-Grade Polymer with Painted Recessed Tab, Metallic Painted Pictogram Plant-Ons, Silkscreen Elements, & Tactile Braille



Photo: Adrian O. Constantyn.



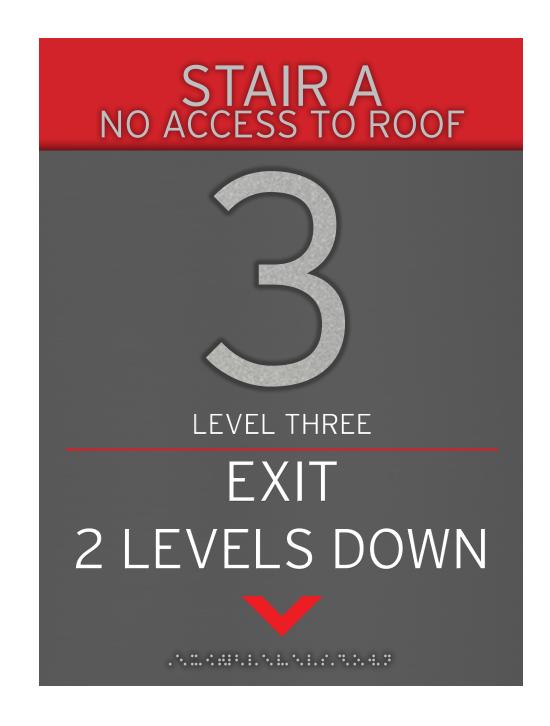


Washington, DC

Interior Code Signage - Graphic Details: Typical Styling

















#### THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF INTELLIGENCE & SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Loudon County, VA

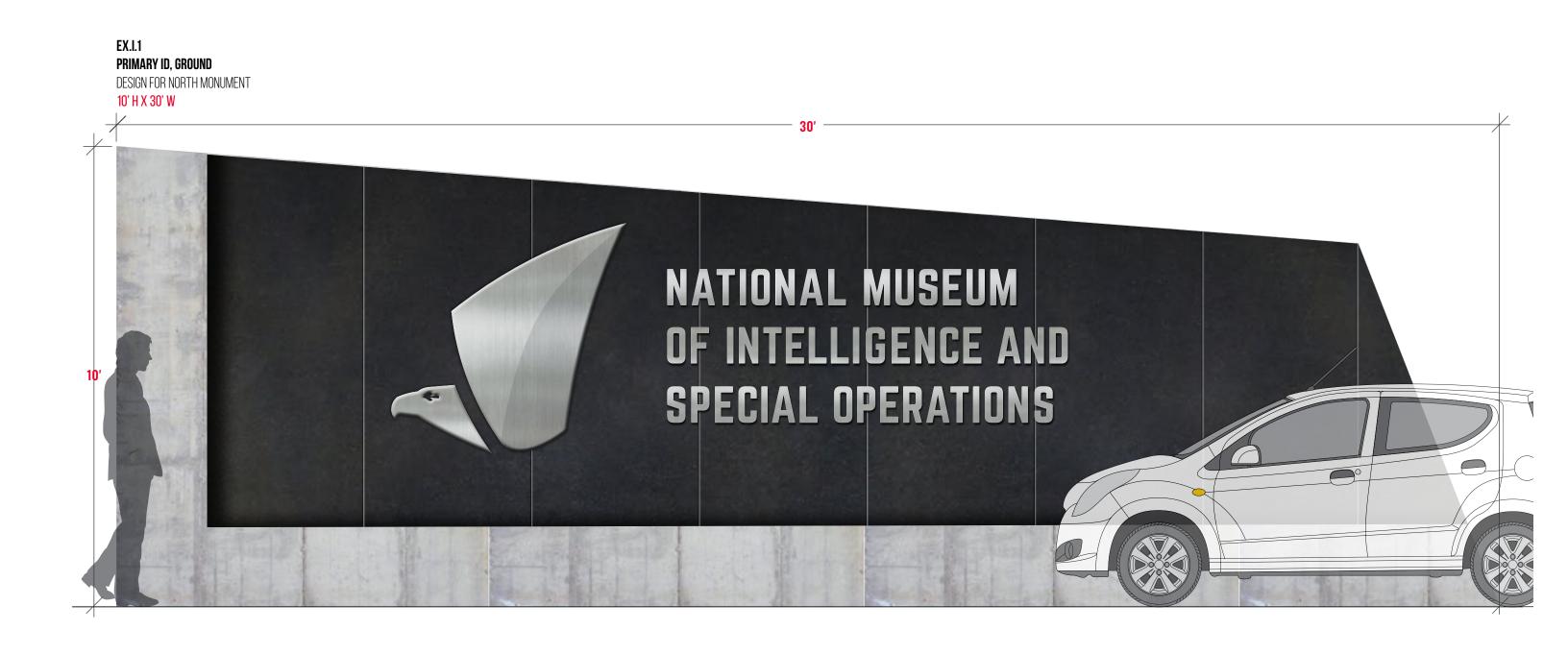
Exterior Signage Concepts - Graphic Elevations: Preliminary Site Signage Studies for Vehicular & Pedestrian Pylons



#### THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF INTELLIGENCE & SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Loudon County, VA

Exterior Signage Concepts - Graphic Elevations: Preliminary Site Signage Studies for Vehicular Monument





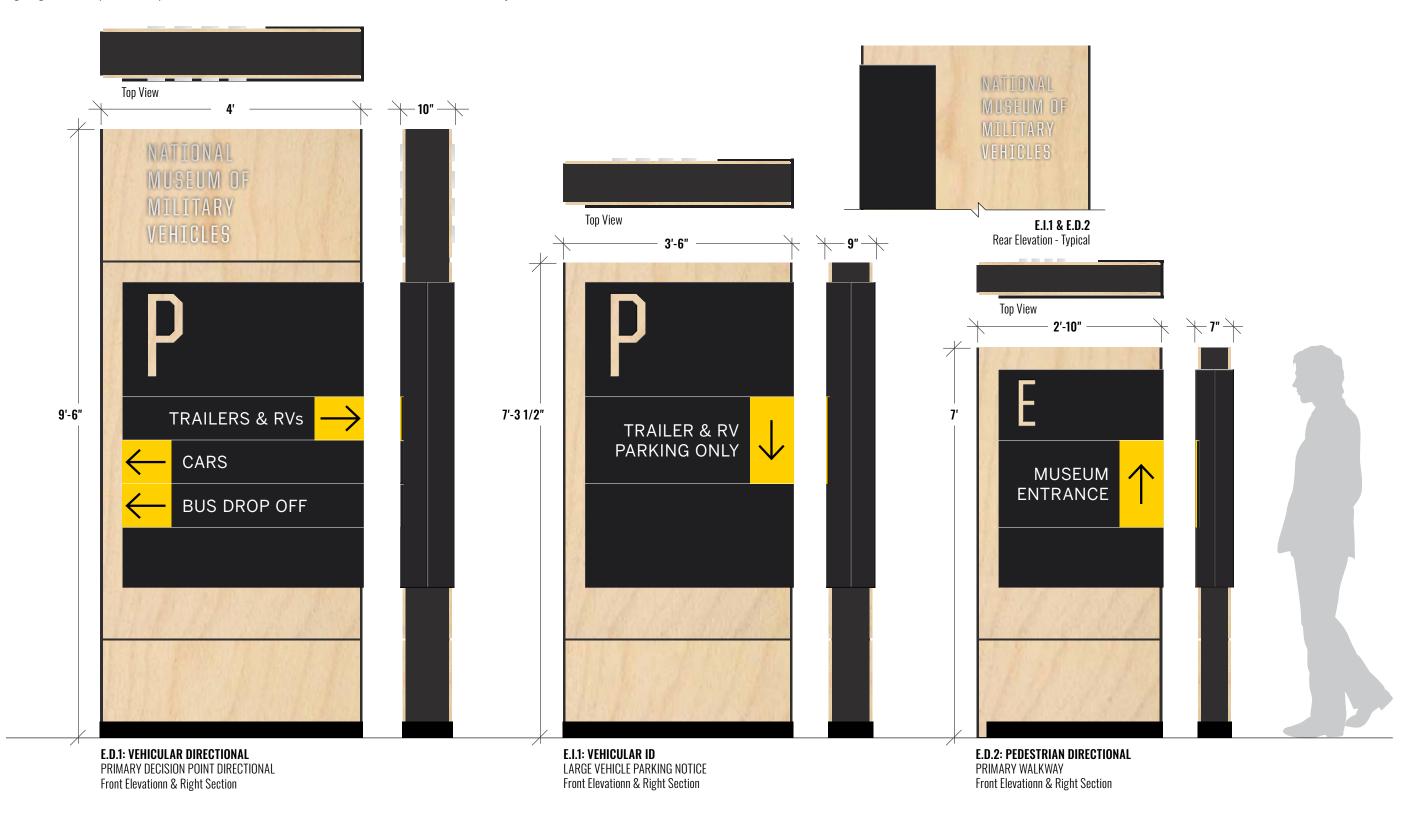




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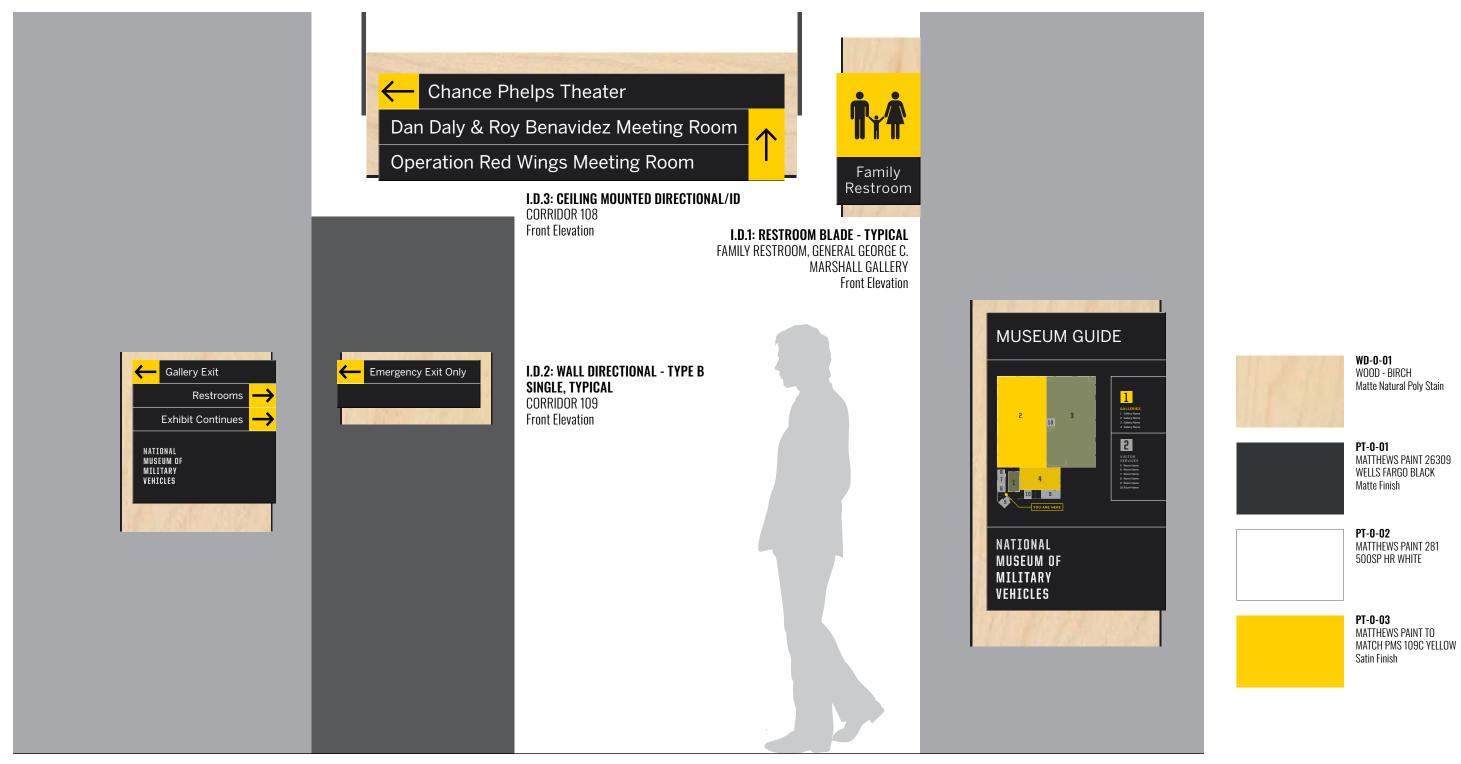
DuBois, WY

Exterior Signage Concepts - Graphic Elevations & Sections: Vehicular & Pedestrian Pylons



DuBois, WY

Interior Signage Concepts - Graphic Elevations & Typical Finishes: Wayfinding, ID, & Orientation



I.D.2: WALL DIRECTIONAL - TYPE A MULTI, TYPICAL

I.O.1: PRIMARY ORIENTATION

DuBois, WY

Signage Concepts - Graphic Elevation: Typical Gallery & Group Space ID, Extruded Aluminum Letter in Brushed Bronze Finish or Dimensional Painted Acrylic Letter with Chemetal Facing to Match Brushed Bronze

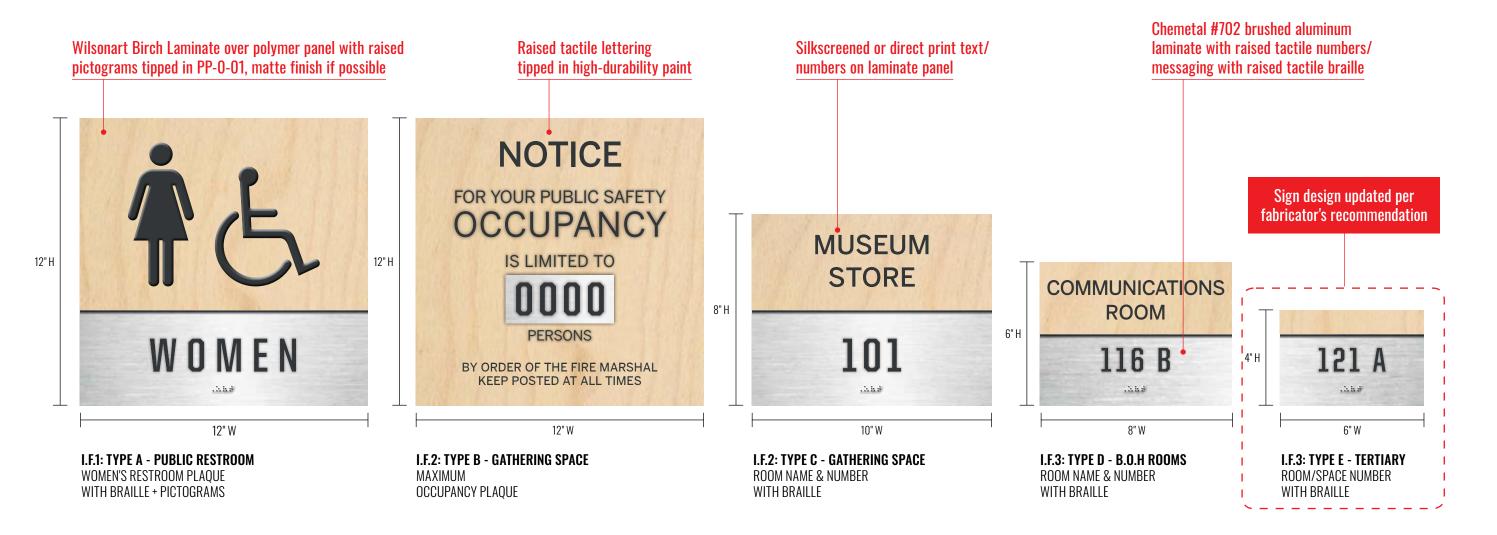




ROLE: Programming; Concept Design; Schematic Design; Construction Administration

DuBois, WY

Code Signage Concepts - Graphic Elevations & Typical Finishes: Typical as Noted





MATTE FINISH (IF POSSIBLE)





WD-0-01 WOOD LAMINATE - BIRCH Wilsonart Laminate (product # TBD) By Fabricator

MTL-0-01 METAL - BRUSHED ALUMINUM OR CHEMETAL #702 BRUSHED ALUMINUM LAMINATE By Fabricator













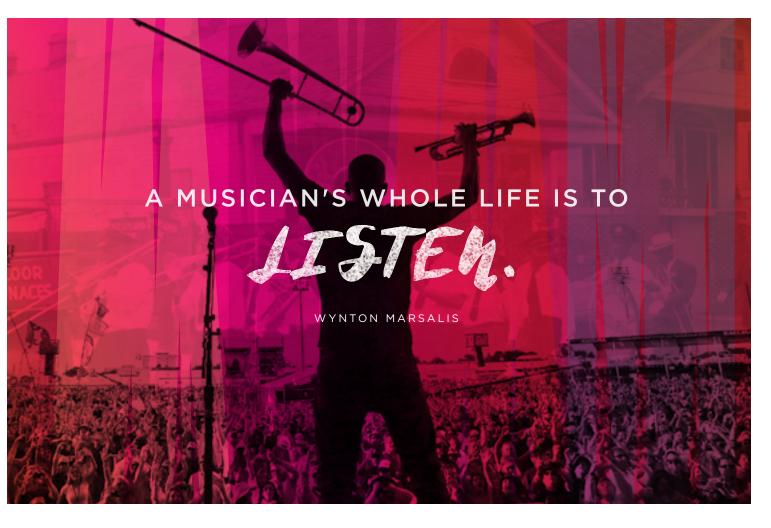


**CLIENT PRESENTATIONS ROLE:** Programming

New Orleans, LA

Programming Documentation - Graphic Treatment: New Orleans Music Experience



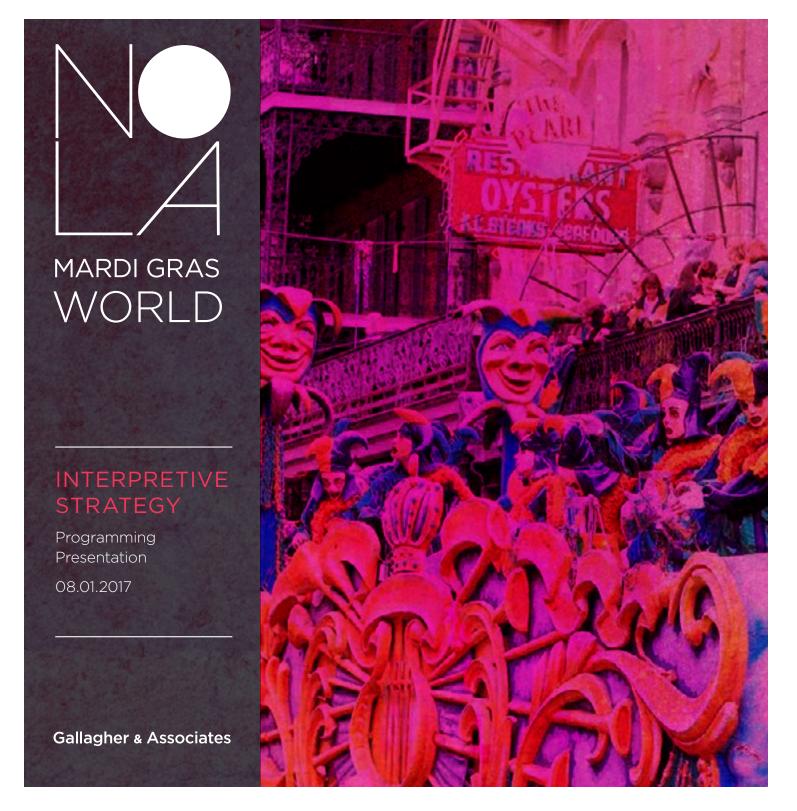


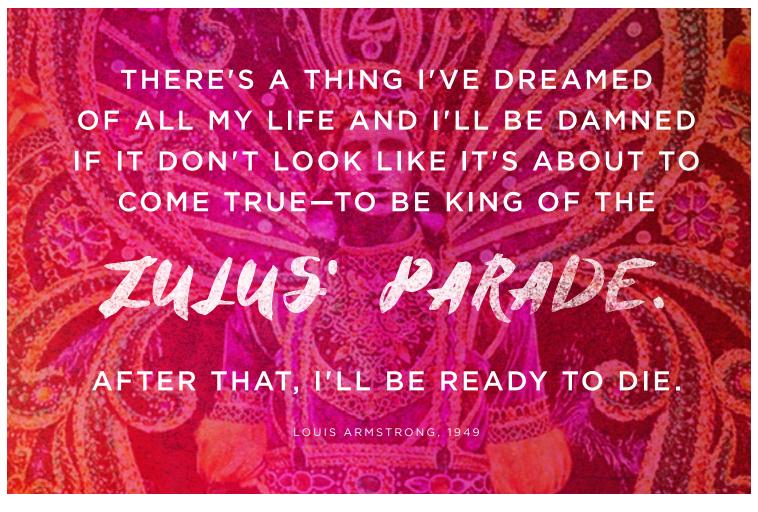




New Orleans, LA

Progamming Documentation - Graphic Treatment: New Orleans Music Experience









International Spy Museum



## International Spy Museum

East Berlin Thematic Area - Graphic Element Composition: Scenic Construction with Graphics, Props, & Media "THE WALL" **67**" 65" malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Ut eu dui vitae augue sagittis pellentesque in ut ante malesuada. Ut eu dui vitae augue sagittis pellentesque in ut ante malesuada fames ac

# International Spy Museum

West Berlin Thematic Area - Graphic Element Composition: Scenic Construction with Graphics, Props, Media, & Lighting Effects







**<** back

## International Spy Museum

1980s U.S. Thematic Area - Graphic Element Composition: Impressionistic Environment with Mirrored Walls, Printed Scrims, Objects, Media, & Lighting Effects







International Spy Museum

Thematic Galleries - Graphic Mood Boards



ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ BERLIN DDR



# OPERATION GHOST STORIES USA 2000s

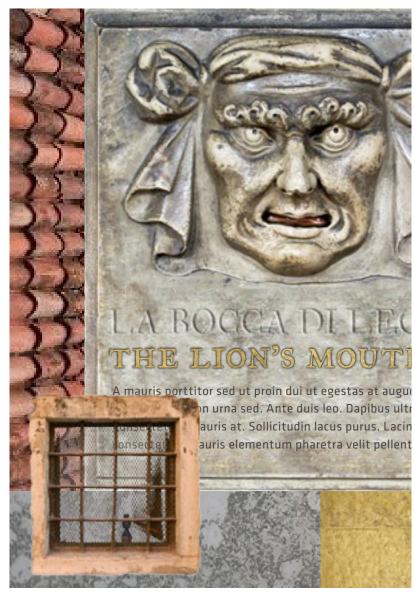
# SPIES IN OUR BACK YARD

A mauris porttitor sed ut proin dui ut egestas at augue duis maecenas aliquet dolor. Con urna sed. Ante duis leo. Dapibus ultrices lacinia. Consectetuer mauris at. Sollicitudin lacus purus. Lacinia magni vestibulum consectetuer mauris elementum pharetra velit pellentesque. Vulputate elit felis mattis natoque mi justo in vivamus ultrices elit arcu vivamus senectus praesent. Ligula voluptatibus faucibus.



ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ THE MODERN AGE





ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ VENEZIA













International Spy Museum

Human Intelligence Gallery - Graphic Scrim Concepts: Morten Storm, Noor Inayat Khan, Dmitri Bystrolyotov





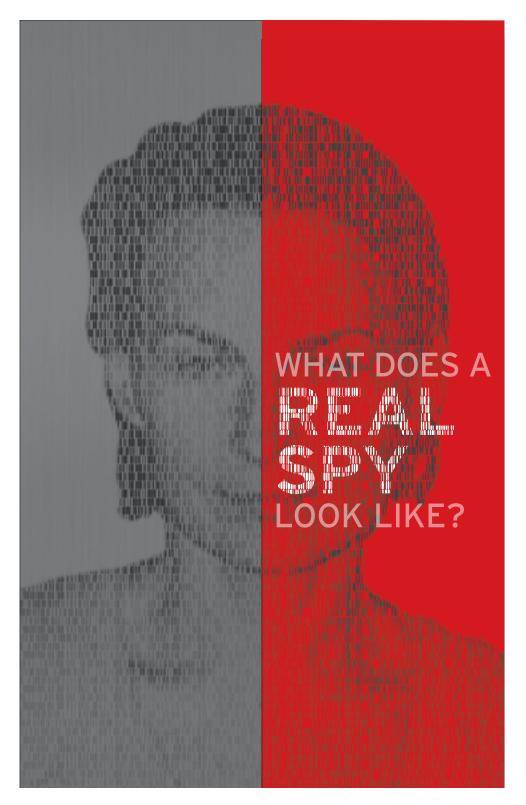


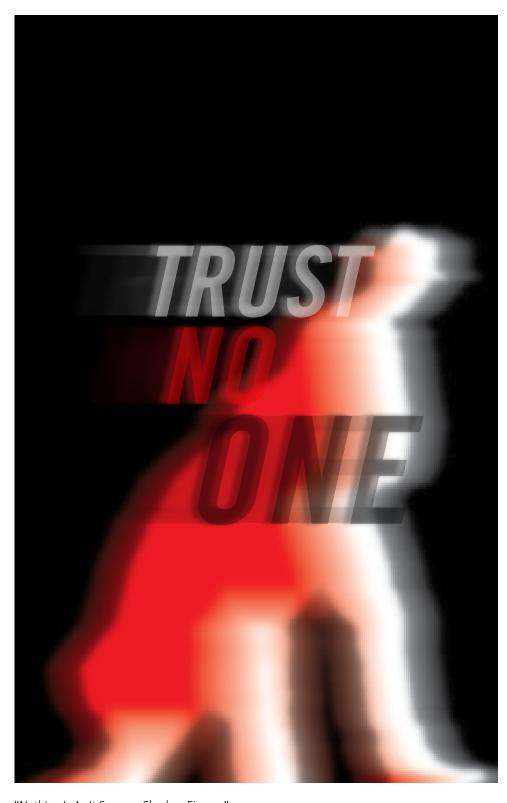
**<** back

# International Spy Museum

Thematic Wall Art - Graphic Concepts: Artwork to Complement & Support Exhibit Themes within General Circulation Spaces







"A Walk Through Time - Building the Berlin Wall"

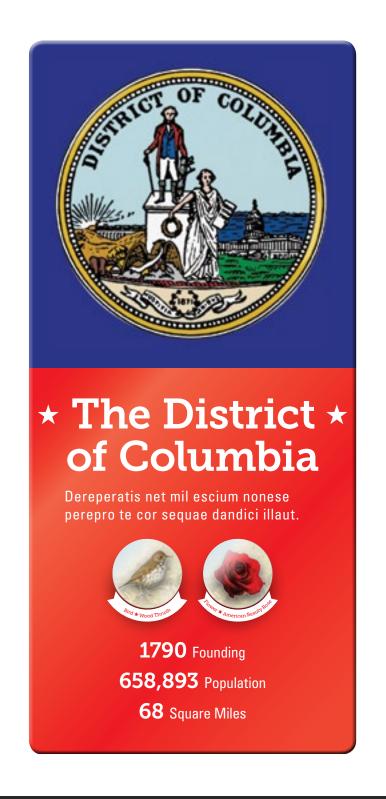
"Coded in Our DNA - Could You Spot A Spy?"

"Nothing Is As It Seems - Shadow Figures"

## International Spy Museum

State Flagpole & Plaque - Base & Plaque Concepts: Cut & Polished Granite with Direct Embed or Enamel Graphic





George Washington's Mount Vernon

Exterior Signage - Graphic Concepts: Directional Blades & Overhead ID

