

The building was to be more than a building.

It was, even from the outside, to inspire thought, reflection and understanding. The design had to be steeped in meaning.

Designers at Blackburn Architects, with BOORA Architects, developed a three-building plan with each pavilion representing one of the characteristics upon which the Underground Railroad and all freedom struggles were built:

Courage
West Pavilion

Cooperation
Center Pavilion

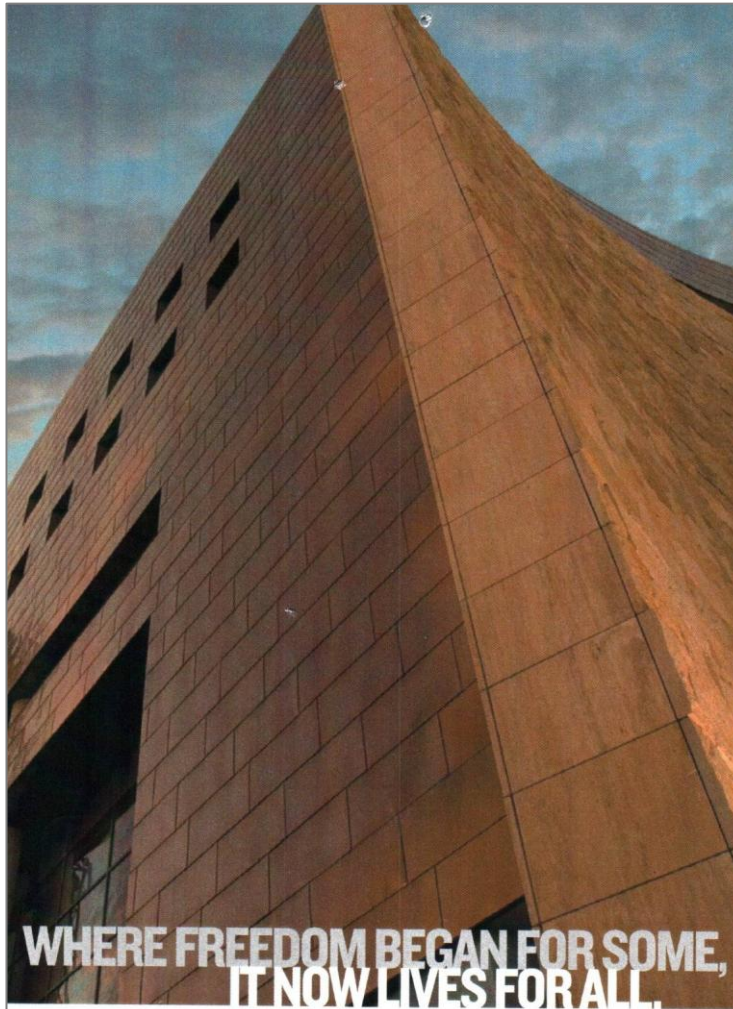
Perseverance
East Pavilion

The exterior and interior were to curve – to ebb and flow – like the great Ohio River which represented the gateway to freedom to so many passengers and conductors on the Underground Railroad. And to show that the path to freedom was never a clear or straight one.

The south-facing wall would be in glass, overlooking the Ohio River in the day and giving view at night to an internal glow – symbolic of the candle in the window that signaled a safehouse on the Underground Railroad.

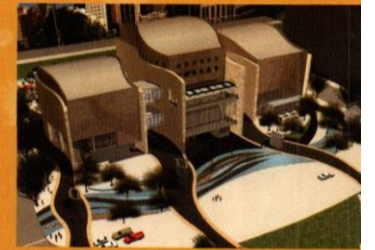
The stone for the building's exterior would be specially selected from a quarry in Italy. Called travertine stone, its rough, ultimately durable and beautiful surface would represent perseverance.

A material that was smooth, colorful and multi-dimensional – copper – would be selected to complement and contrast the earthy, steadfast stone. The building's copper face would transform the look of the Freedom Center from year to year, reminding visitors that freedom is not a constant and that positive change is possible.



A FACILITY TO CHANGE TOMORROW

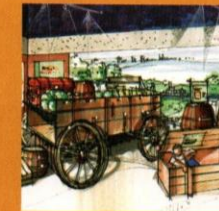
- 158,000 SQUARE FEET
- 3 CONNECTED BUILDINGS DEDICATED TO COURAGE, COOPERATION AND PERSEVERANCE
- "FREEDOM STATIONS" IN CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY
- IMMERSIVE, INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS
- PERSONAL, POWERFUL STORYTELLING
- DISCUSSION FORUMS
- NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



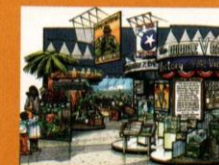
Located on the banks of the Ohio River in downtown Cincinnati



Story Theater: Enter this environmental theater and you'll be transported in time by powerful, in-person storytelling and high-tech visual imagery.



Take-You-There Exhibits: Crawl into a crate like that of Henry "Box" Brown who shipped himself to freedom; walk through a darkened forest, knowing that for escaping slaves or abolitionists, the next turn could mean freedom or death.



Freedom Today: Has seeing the price of freedom changed how you view today? And tomorrow? A series of state-of-the-art interactive exhibits will allow you to look back, while also looking forward.