

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM OF  
ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY, WEST  
ENTRANCE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

*Architects: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc*

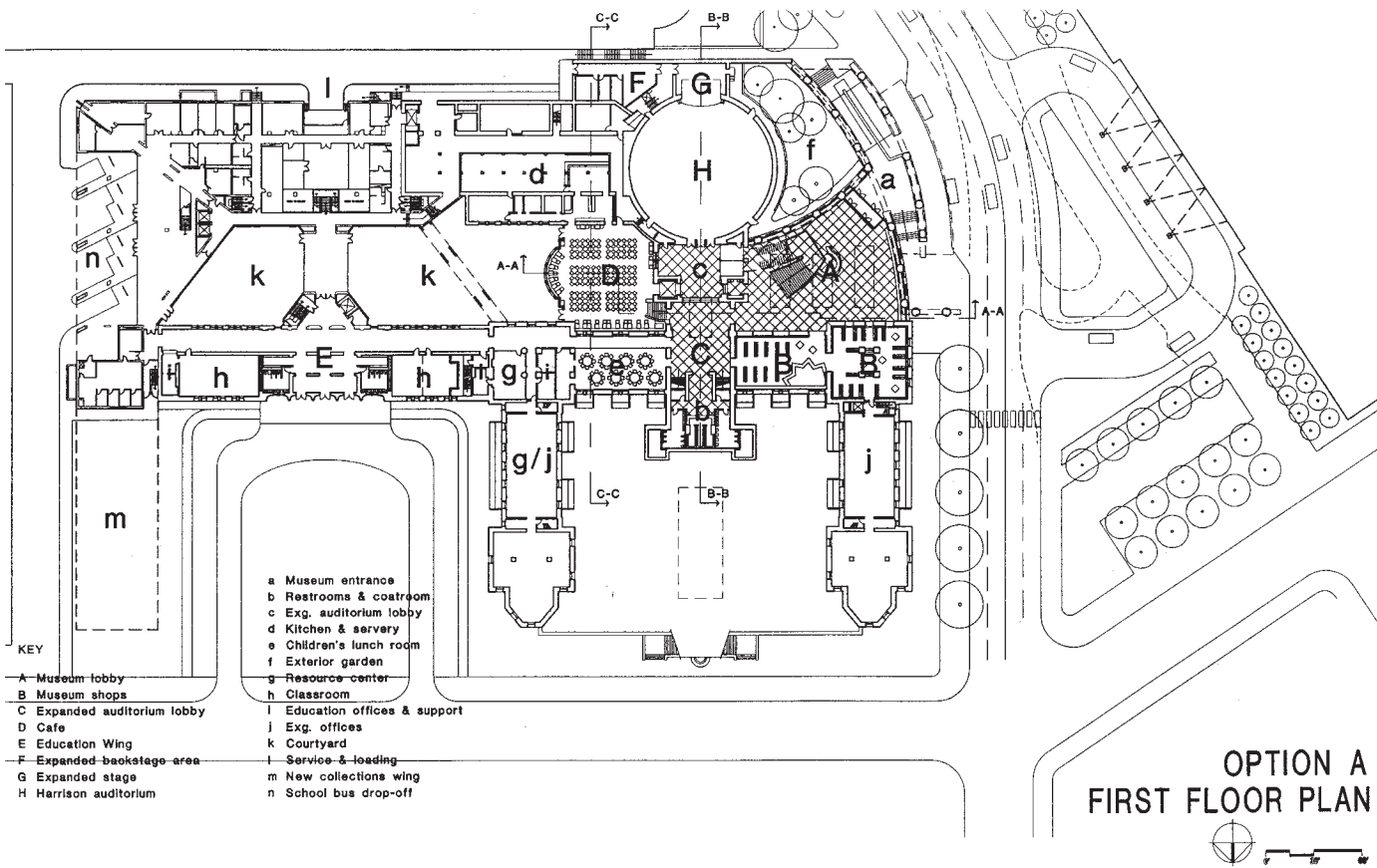
*Location: Philadelphia, PA*

*Client: University of Pennsylvania*

*Completion: 1996 (feasibility study)*

In 1996, the University retained VSBA to explore the feasibility of moving its historic museum's main entrance to a new addition along 33rd Street. Such a move would allow a single, ground-floor, wheelchair-accessible entrance, visible and convenient to the main campus and Penn Hospital complex. This would also enable the museum to locate a protected bus and car drop off, entrance lobby, visitor services, auditorium, retail shops, café, and educational facilities at one level and close together. These features could be separated from galleries for more flexibility and security in scheduling special events and educational programs. VSBA's new entrance study included coordination of the design with current campus planning initiatives that would significantly alter local traffic patterns, pedestrian circulation, and open spaces.

Adding to Wilson Eyre's original masterpiece building is a difficult undertaking. VSBA's design of the new lobby addition proposes an architectural solution that is both contrasting and analogous to the existing building. Its facade -- a series of curving stepped garden walls supported on columns and also serving as iconographic elements -- is set in contrast to the solid brick forms and gabled roofs of the current museum. Brownstone would be used, similar in color to the existing buildings' red brick but different in scale and texture.



New Entrance Feasibility Study  
 Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology  
 University of Pennsylvania