



September

Building in Bloom

Dig your toes into the grass on the rooftop of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. When the museum re-opens on Sept. 27, the Academy will take the title of world's largest green-certified public museum, complete with a two-and-a-half-acre living roof.

That roof features seven hills covered by six inches of soil and nine species of plants native to northern California. In all, 1.7 million flowers and other plants will grow on the roof, attracting an abundance of butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. Even better, the roof will help the 410,000-square-foot museum reduce its energy consumption by providing natural insulation. The Academy expects the new environmentally sensitive

features, along with other green design elements like 60,000 solar cells and denim insulation, to help the building earn a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum certification, the highest ranking for environmental design available.

If you can pry your eyes from the blooming roof, you'll find more natural wonders inside the Academy. Explore a four-story rainforest stocked with frogs, bats, and eels; creep past the white alligator in the museum's swamp replica; admire the 212,000-gallon aquarium filled with coral and 4,000 reef fish; and get lost inside the world's largest all-digital planetarium. Once you explore this museum's green scene, you won't miss marble floors and "Don't Touch" signs.

Raise the Roof
The grassy top is certified green.



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