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### Unopened museum popular

*ROBERT MILLER*

The Perot Museum of Nature & Science may serve as a depository of wonders of nature's past, but the museum's managers have their minds focused squarely on the future.

Linda Murdock, director of sales for the Perot Museum, says that even though the museum is a year away from opening, event reservations are already being taken, giving North Texans a first opportunity to book an array of gatherings at the new museum in 2013, including weddings, convention galas, birthday parties and quinceañeras, business meetings and bar mitzvahs.

The menus come in a wide variety of choices and price ranges, with catering by Wolfgang Puck Catering and its sister company, Real Delicious by Wolfgang Puck.

"Here's a chance for your business, family or organization to host their events at what we believe will be one of the most fascinating venues in Dallas," Murdock said, revving up her sales pitch.

"The wonderful exhibition halls will provide a stunning backdrop, whether you're 'dining with dinosaurs,' amidst jewels in the Gems and Minerals Hall or hosting a birthday celebration in the education wing."

Designed by architect Thom Mayne and his California firm, Morphosis, the Perot Museum of Nature & Science is a 180,000-square-foot facility that will have 11 permanent exhibition halls, an exhibition gallery designed to host world-class traveling exhibitions and an elegant 297-seat theater with a sophisticated digital projection and sound system.

Amenities include:

An expansive glass-enclosed lobby with a Malawisaurus dinosaur and ample space for up to 320 guests for a seated dinner or 500 guests for a stand-up-style reception.

A roof terrace where visitors can see the Perot museum's sustainable roof upclose while enjoying the Dallas skyline.

A landscape design with three prominent water features on the outdoor plaza.

A 2,600-square-foot Gems and Minerals Hall featuring more than 200 archetypal mineral specimens from around the world. The hall will be large enough for a seated dinner for up to 140 guests.

A space for "dining with the dinosaurs" in the T. Boone Pickens Life Then and Now Hall, where guests can explore how life has changed through time with presentations of the museum's Alamosaurus and other dinosaurs. Accommodations are available for 160 guests for a seated dinner or up to 300 guests for a stand-up-style reception.

A flexible-space auditorium with audiovisual equipment.

The rental fee includes exclusive use of the reserved area, basic housekeeping and the use of tables and chairs that the museum owns. Additional costs will be security, discounted parking and catering. Wolfgang Puck Catering will have full-time offices and kitchens at the museum, and the museum will also have an event planning staff.

For more information, contact event sales manager Nicole Benson at sales@

natureandscience.org or call 214-428-0149.

To learn more about the Museum of Nature & Science, go to [natureandscience.org](http://natureandscience.org).

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