

Paris | “Pyramide” renovation project to change the face of Louvre

By RICCARDO BIANCHINI - 2016-08-30

Completed in 1989 on a design by Chinese-American architect Jeoh Ming Pei, the “**Pyramide**”, the famous new entrance wing to the **Louvre Museum**, has been one of the most criticized, yet successful, museum renovation projects of its time.

Indeed, the Pyramide has completely redefined the access to the most visited museum in the world, providing an underground entrance hall that helped rationalizing the visitors’ flow and provided new and improved public services to the Louvre.



Jeoh Ming Pei in front of the Louvre “Pyramide”, 1989

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Now, after a quarter-century, that revolutionary projects needs to undergo a radical transformation. Design solutions that were cutting-edge twenty years ago are no more adequate to the current requirements of such a museum, visited each year by about 10 million people (one and a half times the population of Ireland, to give a figure).

The EUR 40M renovation project, designed by a team composed by Paris-based practice **Agence Search** together with Louvre’s specialists, envisages the complete redefinition of the museum lobby, including thermal and acoustical treatment, access systems, furniture, signage, reception and ticket desk, information and multimedia supports, commercial facilities and cloakroom. Furthermore, brand new educational spaces and a resource center will be created.

The **Pyramide project** has been started in Summer 2014 and is scheduled for completion in mid-2016.



*The Louvre museum visitors' main entrance; top: current; bottom: project view
(image © Agence Search, courtesy of Musée du Louvre)*



*The "Richelieu" passageway; top: current; bottom: project view
(image © Agence Search, courtesy of Musée du Louvre)*



*Information-desks area: top: current; bottom: project view
(image © Agence Search, courtesy of Musée du Louvre)*



*Ticket-desks area: top: current; bottom: project view
(image © Agence Search, courtesy of Musée du Louvre)*



Cloakrooms: top: current; bottom: project view
(image © Agence Search, courtesy of Musée du Louvre)



Entrance hall signage: top: current; bottom: project view
(image © Agence Search, courtesy of Musée du Louvre)