



National Building Museum Adds Indoor BEACH Exhibit

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If you can't afford to get to the shore this summer, one alternative that just opened is an exhibit called the BEACH at the National Building Museum in downtown Washington D.C.

Officially opened to the public on Saturday, July 4, curators and designers at the National Building Museum have built a 10,000 square-foot replica of an ocean coastline in the building's Great Hall.

According to museum's official website, the BEACH area is enclosed using scaffolding, wooden panels, and perforated mesh that have been painted white to give the area an even brighter feel, like a sun-drenched summer day. The faux shoreline is 50 feet wide and the ocean is made up of nearly one million recyclable translucent plastic balls.

Visitors to the museum are permitted to play in the ocean representation, enjoy the view on a beach chair overlooking the plastic-ball water, play beach-related games, and grab something to eat and drink at the snack bar.

BEACH project co-designer Alex Mustonen of Snarkitecture told the USA Today about what his company's goals were for the museum exhibition:

"The work that we're creating seeks to do a number of things, one of which is to make architecture do the unexpected. We wanted to create something that was widely accessible for citizens and visitors. The idea of creating something unexpected but also familiar draws upon forms and elements that are recognizable."

The official Twitter account of the AIGA shared several stunning images of the BEACH:

Get to the National Building Museum fast, though, as the exhibition is truly a summer special that will close its doors on September 7. Admission is first come, first serve, but tickets can be purchased online.

[Work Zone Cam](#) provided construction [time-lapse footage](#) of the project's construction:

