

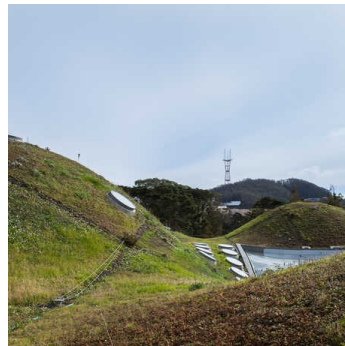
Living Roof



Rolling hills and fields cover 87% of our rooftop, offering a home to local wildlife while keeping the Academy green in more ways than one.

Our living roof is more than beautiful—it's the heart of the Academy. Weather stations on the roof monitor wind, rain, and changes in temperature to help inform the building's automated systems and skylights, keeping rainforest temps just right, the interior piazza cool and comfortable, and natural light streaming to the exhibits below.

Edged by solar panels, the roof's seven hills are lined with 50,000 porous, biodegradable vegetation trays made from tree sap and coconut husks. An estimated 1.7 million plants fill the trays, their roots interlocking to create an extraordinary oasis for birds, insects, people, and other creatures.



The Power of Green

The Living Roof provides excellent insulation (reducing energy needs for heating and cooling), captures 100% of excess storm water (preventing runoff from carrying pollutants into the ecosystem), and transforms carbon dioxide into oxygen—just for starters.

Experience the Wonder

Visit an aquarium, planetarium, rainforest, and natural history museum—all under one living roof.

[Buy Tickets](#)

See what's not on display.

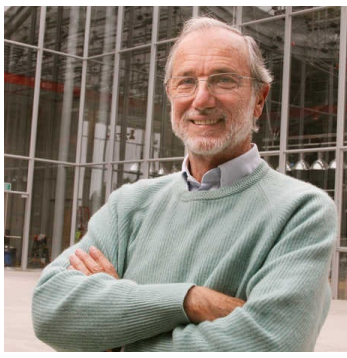
Academy secrets, served daily. Only on Behind-the-Scenes Tours.



[Go Behind-the-Scenes](#)

Our Green Building

The Academy is the world's first Double Platinum [LEED](#)-certified museum, and the largest Double Platinum building on the planet. Explore our ongoing efforts to make



Renzo Piano

Architect Renzo Piano's vision for the Academy is perhaps most perfectly expressed by the living roof. The goal, as he described it, was to "lift up a piece of the park and put a building under" — to blend seamlessly into Golden Gate's natural setting.



An Outdoor Classroom

From stargazing and eclipse watches to close investigations of the much-smaller world of bees, the Living Roof offers a range of programs and learning opportunities that offer new ways to experience the natural world.



Fields of Flowers

Native plants such as beach strawberry, California fuchsia, and dudleyas provide much-needed habitat and food for birds, bees, butterflies, and other beneficial animals—and add up to the densest concentration of native wildflowers in San Francisco.

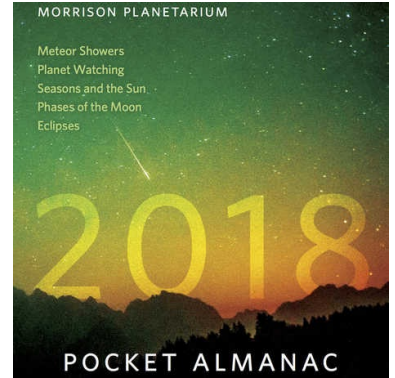
[See complete species list](#)

our building—and our practices—more sustainable every day.

[Behind the walls](#)

2018 Pocket Almanac

Download the Morrison Planetarium's [2018 Pocket Almanac](#) to stay up-to-date on eclipses, meteor showers, satellite spottings, and more.



Roof-Related Science



[Academy Roof Research](#)

What kind of insects are attracted to the native plants on the Academy's living roof?



[Biodiversity Hotspot Case Study: California](#)

California's endemic plant species support a rich, diverse group of native and visiting organisms.



[Electric Bees](#)

New research proves that opposites attract: Bees are positively charged; flowers are negatively charged.

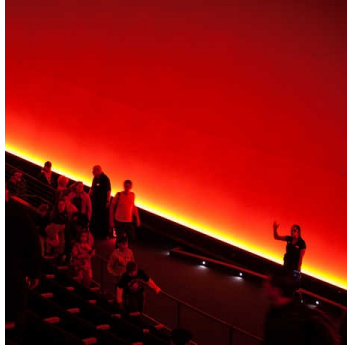
So Much to See

Explore exhibits and discovery spaces in our planetarium, aquarium, and natural history museum—all under one living roof.



[Naturalist Center](#)

Get hands-on at the Naturalist Center with real specimens, hundreds of books and films, and interactive games.



[Morrison Planetarium](#)

Our 75-foot, all-digital dome displays one of the most accurate and immersive Universes ever created.



[Osher Rainforest](#)

Step inside a living four-story rainforest, home to free-flying tropical butterflies and birds.