

Totem Hall at Sitka National Historical Park

Sitka, AK



The enduring power of totem poles

The visitor center in the Sitka National Historical Park preserves a diverse collection of totem poles created by southeast Alaska Native cultures. With support from the project architects, AldrichPears worked with the National Parks Service to renew and reinvigorate the center's interpretive experience.

APA re-designed the existing building to better display and store Sitka's totem pole collection. APA showcased the poles on tiered, rockwork platforms in front of a large, ocean-view photomural. This dramatic presentation creates a dynamic exhibit layout that sets the totem poles in a natural context. APA also created indoor and outdoor interpretive signage to complement the exhibit environment. Throughout, graphic panels interpret the history of the totem pole collection and the process of creating and restoring the poles.

