

The International Spy Museum

Washington DC



Combining an irresistible subject with a state-of-the-art presentation, the International Spy Museum immerses visitors within the complex world of global espionage. Located in the heart of Washington DC, the museum is authoritative in content, engaging in context, and a whole lot of fun to experience.

One of the few for-profit museums in Washington DC, the exhibit has had lines out the door since opening in 2002. The Spy Museum clearly demonstrates that profit-making exhibit can be informative, educational, and visually stunning. The museum is a memorable experience for secret agent wannabes of all ages.



The museum seamlessly blends theatrical and architectural lighting through several major themes: from recreated locations—like the Berlin Tunnel and WWII foxholes—to more abstract styles of presentation such as the 60's themed “Spy Culture” exhibit. The variety of staging styles echoes the complexity of the espionage world, which runs the gamut from the mundane to the thrilling.

The museum has won over 25 awards in a variety of fields including outstanding achievement in museum presentation, architectural renovation, creativity, media, interior design, and more.

Spy brims with modern technology. Automated lighting fixtures, LEDs, black lights, mirrored fixtures and fiber optics are all part of over 10,000 lighting cues triggered each day. 18 separate cues lists run simultaneously, responding to show control and visitor input to create a truly interactive visitor experience.



Architect: SmithGroup
 Exhibit Design: Gallagher & Associates
 Completed: 2002

Note: Lighting designed by Available Light's Ted Mather with Anita Jorgensen of MJLD.