

American Museum of Natural History

Hall of Human Origins

Location	New York, New York	Size	10,000 square feet
Architect	Perkins Eastman	Cost	\$8 million
Services	MEP/FP	Completed	2007



Kohler Ronan was retained to perform MEP/FP services for the Anne and Bernard Spitzer Hall of Human Origins. This permanent, state-of-the-art, interactive gallery demanded careful coordination with the project team consultants in order to incorporate acoustical, specialty lighting, and environmental requirements. As much of the ductwork was exposed within this space, minimizing noise production, attempting to conceal HVAC and other mechanical systems, along with electrical components, sprinklers, and the like, were primary challenges. Via low velocity air flow through ductwork, the proper selection of materials, and optimal placement of systems, we were able to meet the functional requirements of the exhibit hall without detracting from its aesthetics. Additionally, a full complement of fire suppression coverage was provided with connections to the existing building infrastructure.

The scheduling and scope of this project necessitated that the adjacent Meteorite Hall (also a project of Kohler Ronan) be undisturbed and fully operational throughout construction of the Hall of Human Origins. This gallery remains a popular one with the museum's countless daily visitors.



Images: © Paül Rivera