

MUSEO DE LA INDEPENDENCIA

CASA DEL FLORERO

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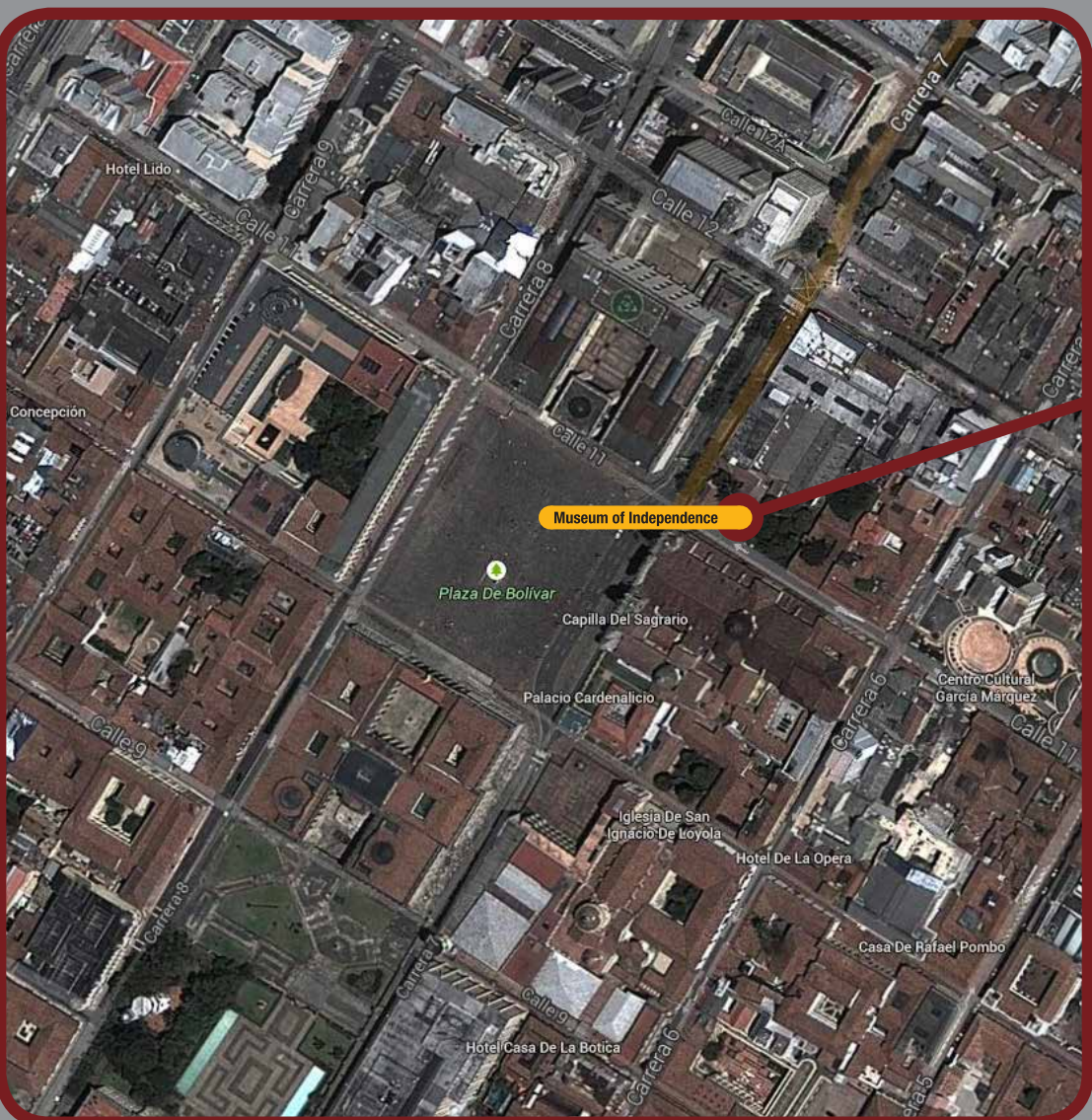
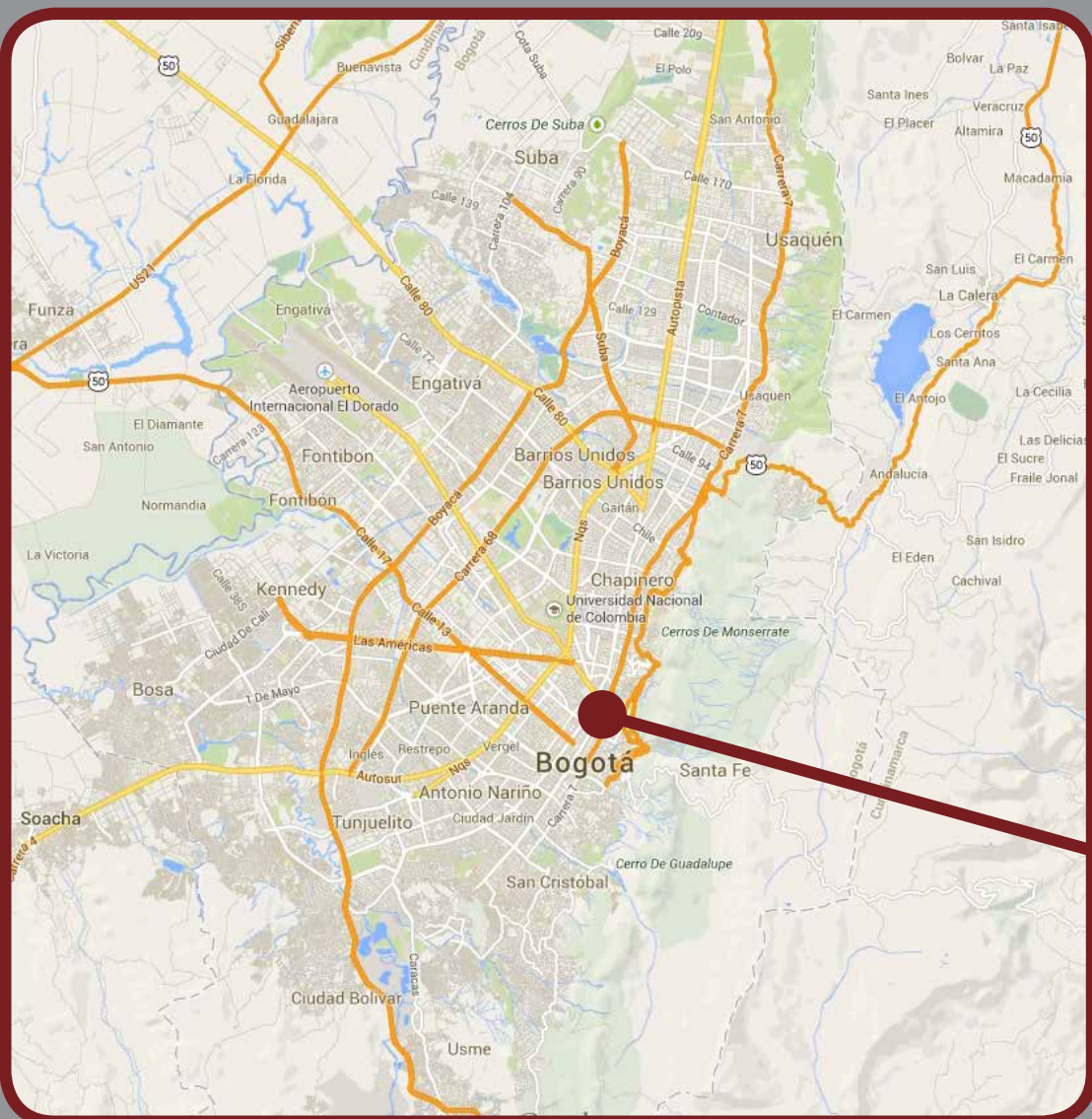


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Collections Management: Racing against the clock

Norma Juliana Jiménez
AIC Annual meeting, San Francisco - California. May 2014



The museum was created in 1960 by the Colombian Academy of History with donations from other museums and private collections. The diverse collections reflect a wide variety of subjects relating to the historical context of the Independence of Colombia from Spain.

Within the framework of the Bicentennial Celebration of the Independence of Colombia in 2010, the Museum was completely renovated in a record time. The project focused on the conservation of the collection, the building restoration and the renovation of exhibitions with a new museology concept. Starting in 2000 the museum focused in the visitor's interests through a series of participatory actions, exhibitions and interactive educational events.

The renovation project was initially estimated for 18 months, including all preventive conservation actions required to properly preserve the collection. Due to economic and political constrains, the conservation plan to prepare the entire collection and move it to temporary storage was cut from six to only three months. The museum was closed during this period and the hallways and some exhibition rooms were adapted as temporary conservation labs. A team of seven conservators and four assistants had to focus on preventive strategies to be able to manipulate 4,470 objects in reduced spaces.

In July 2010, the collection was moved back to renewed exhibition spaces. Newly designed cases and lighting were installed to allow for a permanent display of a

large selection of the collection, creating a new image to the public. Some exhibition cases were assembled in record time (1 week). A multidisciplinary team (conservators, architects, designers, and technicians) worked simultaneously to develop the exhibiting plan in a short time. The numerous staff had to work carefully in very small rooms.

This year, a new Conservation plan for the museum has been developed. It is divided in two main areas: Preventive conservation and Conservation treatments (including both the collection and the building). We also monitor the museum's environment with new equipment measuring RH and T, and an Integrated Pest Management Program was developed and implemented.

The opening of the renewed Museum on July 20, 2010 was part of the bicentennial celebrations of the Colombian Independence. It now has an innovative and contemporary look that represents a new way of experiencing history for museums in Colombia.

During this project, it was necessary to make quick and practical conservation decisions in order to minimize the risks to the collection while completing the project in record time. In spite of the time constrains and many other difficulties, best practices were adopted by the museum staff resulting in a very safe and efficient move and re-installation of the collection.

Inventory and conservation



Packaging and transportation



Restauration and setting up



The results

2010

