



# The Boston Convention and Exhibition Center

Contemporary Architecture

415 Summer Street, Boston MA

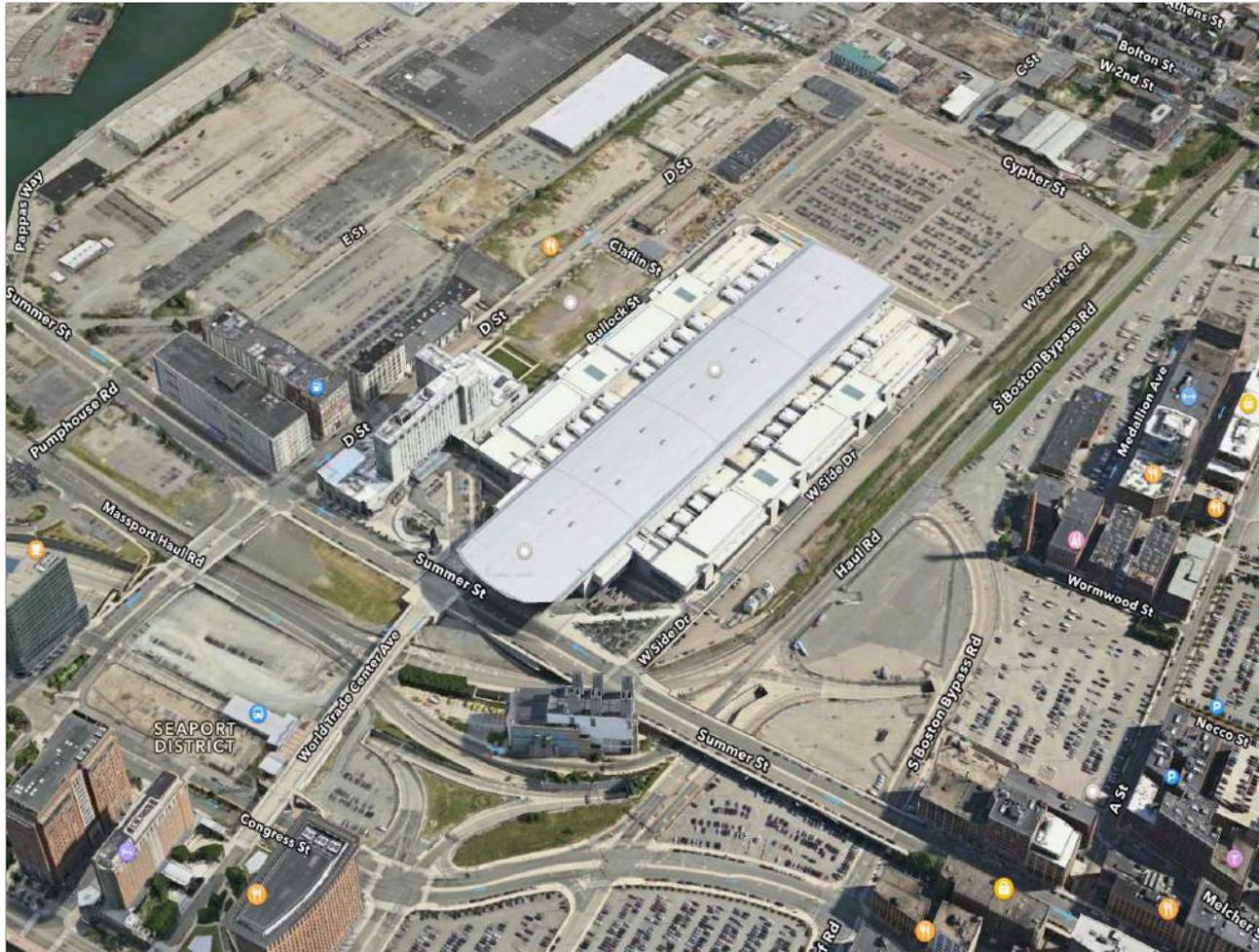
**Rafael Viñoly Architects**

2.7M sq.ft.

2004

[www.massconvention.org](http://www.massconvention.org)

Sean M. Reis



## Location and Context

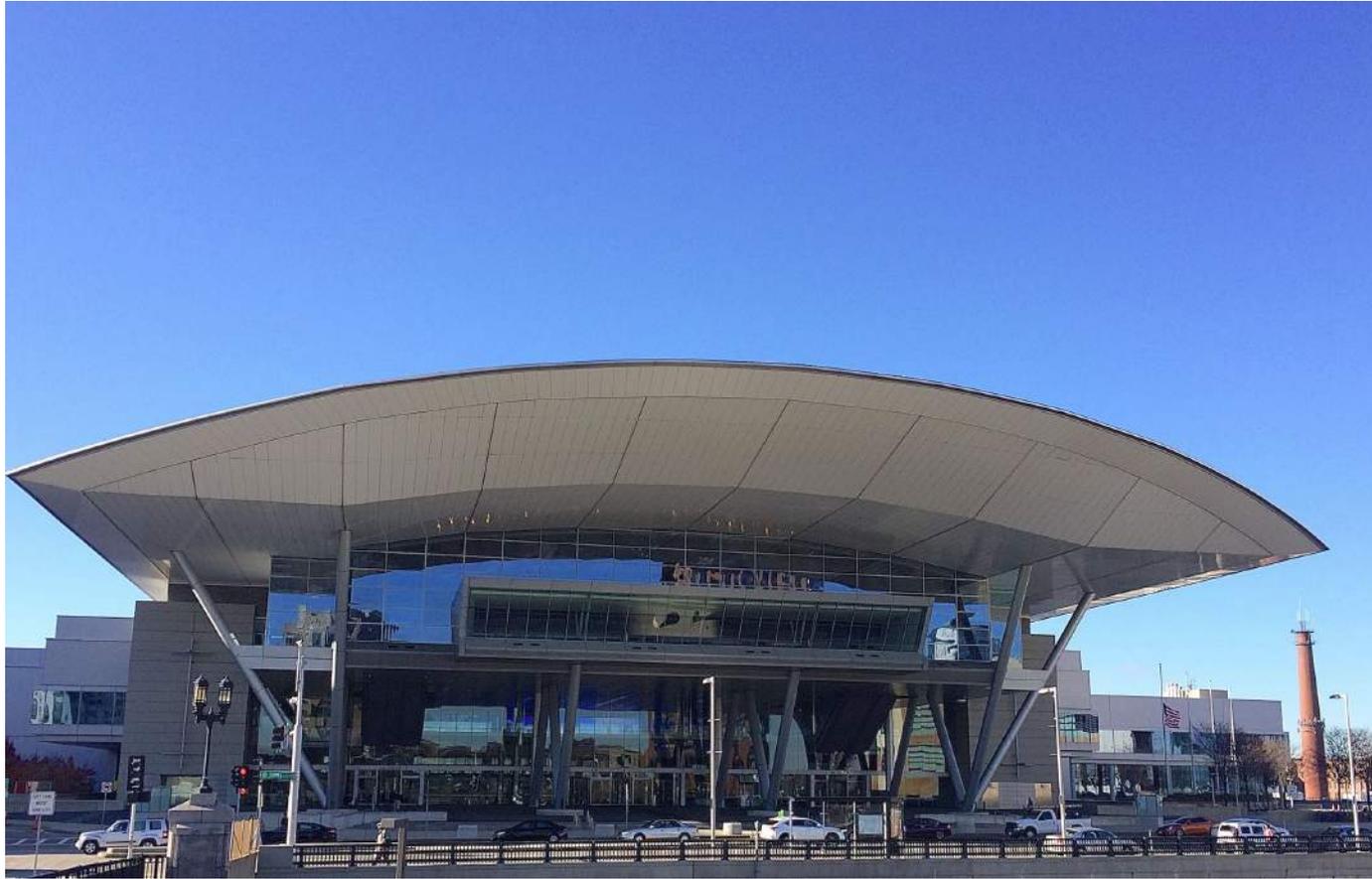
The Boston Convention Center is one of the largest exhibition centers in New England. It is located on Summer Street near the continually developing South Boston Waterfront. Other well-known hubs in the vicinity include the World Trade Center and Logan International Airport, a vital connection for the center. The MBTA provides direct access to the convention center from South Station and the airport. This important landmark in the historic seaport district of Boston, Massachusetts provides exhibitors with over 515,000 sq ft. of open exhibition space.



**History** - The new Convention Center was a solution to the shortage of exhibition space in Boston in the 1990s for large shows and venues. Around 1997, the BCEC acquired 60 acres of land in the Seaport district for the construction of the convention center. The project soon broke ground and first opened its doors to the public in June of 2004. New hotels were erected nearby for accommodations.



**Program** - The BCEC was designed by Rafael Viñoly Architects in conjunction with HNTB Companies of Boston. The Convention Center is comprised of over 2.7 million sq. ft. of enclosed floor space. This includes a 515,000 sq.ft. exhibit hall broken into three sections, 165,000 sq.ft. of meeting rooms, and a modern 41,000 sq.ft. ballroom.



## Architecture and Features

As described by Rafael Viñoly Architects, the Boston Convention Center's design is very unique and original. It differs from typical box-shaped convention centers with limited natural lighting. The most predominant feature is the long sweeping roof that projects over Summer Street. The cantilever acts as the Center's focal point, drawing visitors to the main entrance. The 2,000-foot long building also features numerous complex elements that include the siphonic roof drainage system along with special seismic design and materials.