Raymond D. Nasher: namesake and founder of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University

Art and culture is really a major part of a person’s life, totally throughout their life, in other words, it’s the aesthetic, and it’s the educational and it’s the whole aspect of feeling and a part of one’s family and their children the growth and relationship to art is such an important part of the whole existence of one’s life, from birth to death.” — Raymond D. Nasher

Well it begins back at the time I was in school here, back in the early ‘40s and I wrote a column “Time to Think” for the Duke Chronicle which indicated that I thought cultural life in the university should be improved and thought that a museum would be very important. And that was some 60 years ago.”
— Raymond D. Nasher

“We interviewed many of the great architects in the world, and after interviewing all of them we felt that Rafael Vinoly would be wonderful for a university museum here at Duke. He had done a wonderful job at Princeton with their athletic facilities and programs; he did a superb building in the center of Tokyo, and he was doing very innovative things — the jazz center at Lincoln Center, the Philadelphia Symphony Hall. So we felt he had an exposure and an understanding of the nature of what we wanted to do.” — Raymond D. Nasher