

on the road

Remembering the future

Tech comes to life at Seattle's newly expanded museum.

Walk in front of the sparkling blue wall in **Living Computers: Museum and Labs** and, on-screen, flowers sprout from your shadow. Surprises come often and easily at the Seattle museum, a 31,500-square-foot tech wonderland where visitors can play with a suite of gadgets, from a 1963 Teletype machine to a brand-new Dash robot. The center's simple credo? "Most museums put glass in front of their stuff. We put a chair."

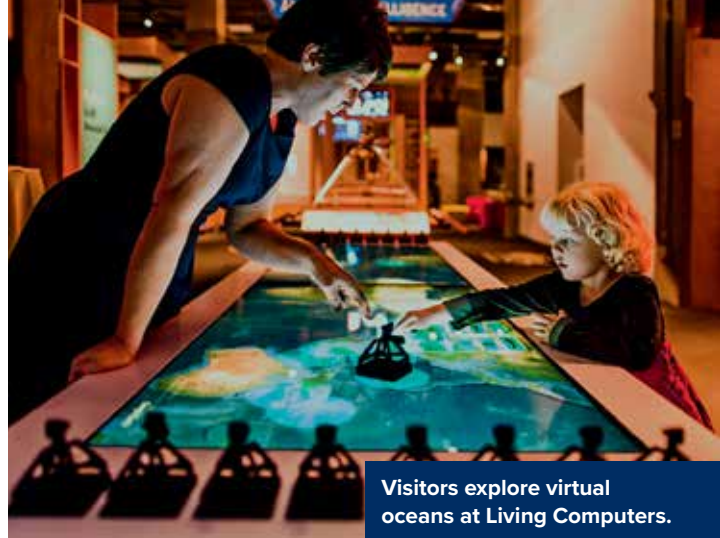
It's a very apt philosophy at a place that was designed for tinkerers by the chief tinkerer himself, Paul Allen. The

Microsoft cofounder wanted to allow the public to interact with vintage computers while honoring early computer engineers' achievements for posterity. From that notion, Living Computers was born in 2012. Four years later, the institution added labs and a fleet of forward-looking exhibits on robotics, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality.

These days, visitors can time-travel. Upstairs, they can step into an air-conditioned room to marvel at the world's only operating CDC 6500, an

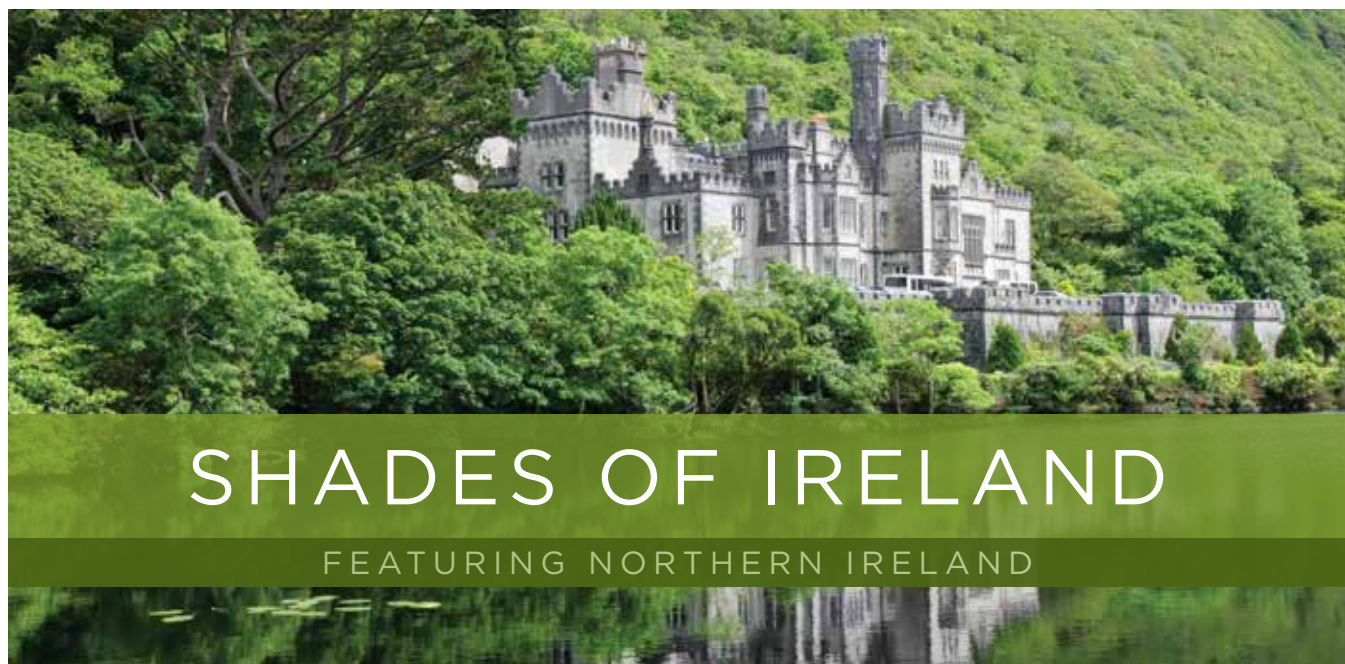
8.3-ton supercomputer hand-wired in 1967, which can process commands from remote users around the country. Across the room, Mac devotees can play with an original Apple 1. Downstairs, the build-your-own-robot exhibit beckons DIY types, while aspiring artists head straight to the Bob Ross station to create digital masterworks in Paint while watching episodes of—what else?—*The Joy of Painting*, with Bob Ross.

—megan mcrea



Visitors explore virtual oceans at Living Computers.

COURTESY, LIVING COMPUTERS: MUSEUM AND LABS



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