



V&A FuturePlan

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The final stages of the V&A's second phase of restoration and redesign known as 'FuturePlan' are now underway as the AL_A-designed Exhibition Road Building Project takes shape ready for opening in 2017. FuturePlan aims to create beautiful and contemporary new settings for the V&A's outstanding collections while restoring much of the building's original architecture and improving visitors' experience of the Museum.

Other highlights of phase two have included Europe 1600-1815, housing highlights from the Museum's unrivalled collection of 17th- and 18th-century European art and design, the creation of a furniture gallery, providing for the first time a permanent home for the V&A's extensive furniture collection and a new gallery to display the historic collections of photography up to the mid-20th century in a former study space.

The Exhibition Road Building Project will achieve the long term aims of phase two of FuturePlan by creating a large, subterranean gallery space, the world's first porcelain courtyard, and a new entrance to the Museum on Exhibition Road, linking the V&A to the neighbouring museums. This will all be set within the beautiful historical facades on the west side of the V&A's Grade 1 listed buildings, which have never before been on public view.

The first phase of FuturePlan began with the British Galleries which opened in 2001 and was finished in 2009 with the opening of the Medieval & Renaissance Galleries. During this phase, the V&A completed 43 projects, transformed 26,500 square metres and reclaimed 3,000 square metres of back of house space for galleries and public areas. To realise this, the V&A worked with over 50 architectural, design and engineering practices and raised £120 million from private donors and funding bodies including substantial grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Museum has also had a three-fold rise in visitors since FuturePlan began.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Exhibition Road Project

Designers – Amanda Levete Architects (AL_A)

Scheduled to open – 2017

The Exhibition Road project will create a new purpose-built underground gallery for the V&A's internationally renowned exhibitions, a magnificent courtyard space and a new

entrance from the recently landscaped Exhibition Road on the west side of the Museum. The scheme will transform a previously inaccessible back-of-house space into an open courtyard for installations, events and a café which, by revising the existing screen designed by Sir Aston Webb, will create a new relationship between the heart of the V&A and Exhibition Road. The large, uninterrupted major exhibition space will allow the V&A to significantly improve the way it designs and presents its world class exhibition programme.

More than £47 million of the £49.5 million required for the project has been raised thanks to the generosity of The Monument Trust, The Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation, The Headley Trust, The Blavatnik Family Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other generous donors including Peter Williams and Heather Acton and the Friends of the V&A.

Main Shop

Architectural shortlist: Ab Rogers; Brinkworth; Edge; Friends & Co; Jamie Fobert and MPA (winner to be announced in June)

Scheduled to open – 2017

The V&A main shop will be redesigned to provide a flexible and dynamic retail space with better connections to surrounding galleries and circulation areas. Sitting at the heart of the Museum, the shop will introduce a contemporary approach to retail that will facilitate closer connections between cultural and commercial activities.

Members' Room

Designers – Carmody Groarke

Scheduled to open - 2017

The Members' Room is being relocated to a flexible and atmospheric space on the fourth floor of the Museum which will overlook the courtyard being created as part of the Exhibition Road project. The new space will reflect the spirit of the Museum and cater to the needs of its growing membership base which has more than trebled in the last five years and who will have exclusive access to its programming and events.

The Members' Room is funded by The Friends of the V&A

Gallery 46 and 46a - Cast Courts

The V&A's Cast Courts are two of the Museum's largest and dramatic spaces, housing important casts of works that date as far back as Ancient Rome. Highlights include Trajan's Column, the Pórtico de la Gloria from the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, and pieces by many of the most celebrated Italian Renaissance sculptors. In 2014 the East Court reopened as the Weston Cast Court after a full refurbishment. Earlier this year we entered the second phase of the project, which will see the renewal of the West Court and Central Gallery to complete the refurbishment work, and ensure the Cast Courts remain the most important national and international centre for the enjoyment, understanding and study of plaster casts.

Enamels Gallery

The V&A holds one of the finest collections of enamels on metal in the world, including objects from the medieval period to the present with examples made both in Asia and in Europe. The new Enamels Gallery will provide an opportunity to bring together and explain a wide range of enamelling styles and techniques and will reveal the superb work made worldwide by artists and crafts-workers over a period of more than one thousand years. It will be situated in the south-east corner of the Museum alongside the Glass Galleries and below the Ceramics Galleries.

FUTUREFUND

The V&A is raising an endowment fund - FutureFund, to ensure its audiences continue to benefit from its collections and programmes. FutureFund has been boosted with a £5 million challenge grant from The Catalyst: Endowments Fund, as part of a scheme jointly funded by the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). To ensure the grant can be claimed, the V&A must raise an additional £15 million towards FutureFund by 2016. This is part of a long term vision to preserve the V&A's permanent collections and safeguard core curatorial, conservation and research activities by raising £100 million over the next 20 years.

COMPLETED PHASE 2 PROJECTS

Ceramics Study Galleries

Designers – OPERA Amsterdam

Project Completed – June 2010

The Ceramics Study Galleries present 26,500 objects from the Museum's unrivalled study collections in new displays over four galleries. Evoking a 'behind-the-scenes' feel, the galleries provide an encyclopaedia of the entire history of ceramic production from 30,000 BC to the present day. As part of the project, the entire collection has been photographed and catalogued, providing unprecedented online access. A new study centre allows visitors to consult a curator or to closely inspect specific pieces. The galleries complement and complete the V&A Ceramics Galleries, which opened to wide acclaim in September 2009. The Ceramics Study Galleries have been funded thanks to a substantial gift from The Curtain Foundation. The British Pottery Gallery has been funded by Sir Harry Djanogly CBE.

Exhibition Road Façade Clean

Consultants – DRB (London) Ltd. In conjunction with Adriel Consultancy

Project Completed – October 2010

Working with building restoration and conservation specialists the V&A cleaned its façades stretching along Exhibition Road. This specialist project enhanced the incredibly ornate decoration, particularly of the Henry Cole Wing, and revealed the architectural grandeur of the building. It is part of the V&A's contribution to the redevelopment of Exhibition Road.

The project was funded by generous donations from a number of supporters including The Wolfson Foundation, The Zochonis Charitable Trust and The Basil Samuel Charitable Trust.

Sculpture 1300-1600

Designers – V&A Design

Project Completed – November 2010

Around 50 of the V&A's finest examples of religious sculptures dating from c. 1300 to 1600 are displayed in refurbished day lit galleries running along the east side of the John Madejski Garden. The refurbishment has enhanced and restored the existing architectural details and revealed the original mosaic floor to create a simple and elegant setting for large sculptures on open display complemented by smaller devotional sculptures in glass cases and 15 stained glass panels from the early 16th century. Many of the sculptures are of painted wood and retain some of their original colour. These galleries complete the suite of sculpture galleries on the ground floor of the Museum.

The Sculpture 1300-1600 Galleries have been made possible thanks to the DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund.

The Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre

Designers – V&A Design with Pippa Nissen Studio

Project Completed – March 2011

The V&A's magnificent Victorian lecture theatre underwent sensitive restoration. Originally completed in 1869, it forms part of the V&A's Grade I listed building status. The lecture theatre was re-decorated at high level with new walnut veneered acoustic panelling below. The raked seating was made more comfortable with new seating pads. A new acoustic ceiling, upgraded lighting and AV equipment was installed. The reopening of the Lecture Theatre was marked with a public talk by leading British architect, David Chipperfield.

The Lecture Theatre has been made possible thanks to the American Friends of the V&A through the generosity of Lydia and Manfred Gorvy.

Photographs Gallery

Designers – V&A Design

Project Completed – December 2011

The V&A started collecting photography in 1856 and was the first museum to collect photography as an art form. It now holds the UK's national collection of art photography which is one of the largest and most important in the world. A new gallery to display the historic collections of photography up to the mid-20th century has been created on the first floor of the Museum in a former study space. Architectural details have been restored, including ten magnificent semicircular paintings, commissioned in the 1860s as part of the original decorative scheme, to illustrate the principles of art education and show the highest achievements from the history of art. The new gallery extends the display space available for photographs and complements the existing ground floor gallery which is now used to show displays of contemporary photography.

Fashion Gallery

Designers – 6a Architects

Project Completed – May 2012

The V&A's fashion gallery is one of the most popular in the Museum and the collection is used as constant inspiration to designers such as Vivienne Westwood, Paul Smith, Manolo Blahnik and Christian Lacroix. It reopened with a completely re-curated display of more than 100 outfits to reflect the quality and breadth of the V&A's collection. The project reinstated the gallery's original architectural design as a spectacular Edwardian domed court with large alcoves, architectural columns and ornate mosaic flooring, to provide a sense of grandeur, ambience and light. The project enhanced the features of the domed ceiling with a new lighting scheme and the gallery has been fully redecorated, the mosaic floor exposed and restored, and the original grand entrances and vistas reopened to reveal the dramatic scale and architecture of the gallery. The mezzanine gallery has also been reclaimed for displays of fashion and textiles, adding over 400 square metres of display space.

Dr Susan Weber Gallery – the new furniture gallery

Designers – NORD Architecture

Project Completed – December 2012

The Dr Susan Weber Gallery provides, for the first time, a permanent home for the V&A's internationally renowned furniture collection. It displays outstanding pieces of British and European furniture from the Middle Ages to the present, as well as examples of Asian furniture with most of the 200 pieces on open display. It aims to tell the story of 600 years of furniture production, exploring a range of materials and techniques, from cabinet-making to digital fabrication. It is the last space to be refurbished on the top floor of the Aston Webb galleries. Throughout FuturePlan, the museum has endeavoured to reduce its carbon footprint and the intelligent design of the Furniture Gallery means minimal power consumption is necessary to control the gallery's conditions. For the first time ever at the V&A, digital labels have been used with a touch-screen interface to provide additional content and context for each object in the gallery.

This gallery has been supported by the American Friends of the V&A through the generosity of Dr. Susan Weber

The Clothworkers' Centre for Textile and Fashion Study and Conservation

Designers – Haworth Tompkins Architects

Project Completed – October 2013

The V&A has created a Textile and Fashion Study and Conservation Centre at Blythe House, for the care, study and enjoyment of textiles and fashion. The V&A holds one of the most important collections of fashion and textiles in the world, with around 59,000 items ranging from archaeological textiles to contemporary haute couture. Based at Blythe House in Kensington Olympia, the centre brings the V&A's extensive textiles and fashion collection together under one roof for the first time. It provides modern storage, a conservation centre and a public Study Centre and Seminar Room offering visitors and

researchers increased access and improved facilities to study and enjoy this important collection. The main entrance of Blythe House was also reinstated to create a more welcoming street presence and new reception area.

The Clothworkers' Centre for the Study and Conservation of Textiles and Fashion has been made possible thanks to the generosity of The Clothworkers' Foundation with significant further support from many other donors.

The Weston Cast Court

Designers – Metaphor Design and Architecture

Project Completed – November 2014

The refurbished Italian Cast Court is the first phase in the renovation of the Museum's vast, day-lit courts. First opened in 1873, the Cast Courts were purpose built to house one of the most comprehensive collections of casts of post-classical European sculpture. 24 metres in height, the two galleries house some of the V&A's largest objects and are among the most popular in the Museum. Collecting plaster cast reproductions and electrotypes reached the height of popularity in the mid to late 19th-century when few people could afford to travel abroad. The renovation of the gallery enabled new study and conservation of the collection which has furthered understanding of how the casts were formed and the workshops where the sculptures were made. The conservation work has also included extensive research into the original decorative architectural scheme of the gallery. Research completed by Crick Smith, working with Julian Harrap and Metaphor architects, reinstated a decorative scheme that pays tribute to the Cast Court's original colours, architectural details and finishes. The 19th-century ceramic tiled floor was also restored and repairs to the glazed roof, ceiling and walls have returned the court to its original splendour.

The Court was named in recognition of The Garfield Weston Foundation's longstanding and generous support of the V&A. With further support from The Henry Moore Foundation, Patricia Wengraf Ltd., The Salomon Oppenheimer Philanthropic Foundation, and Sam Fogg.

Toshiba Gallery of Japanese Art

Designers – V&A Design

Project Completed – November 2015

Originally opened in December 1986, the Toshiba Gallery of Japanese Art was the first major gallery of Japanese art in the UK. It was designed to showcase highlights of the V&A's internationally important collection of Japanese art and design, which the Museum has built up since it was founded in 1852. The refurbished gallery showcases around 550 works in a newly curated series of displays, including over 30 more recent acquisitions. The gallery illustrates the extraordinary craftsmanship and artistic creativity of Japan from the sixth century to the present day through displays of swords and armour, lacquer, ceramics, cloisonné enamels, textiles and dress, inrō and netsuke, paintings, prints and illustrated books. The lighting, graphics and display case interiors have been updated and the gallery reconfigured to give space to modern and contemporary objects such as interior design, product design, electronics, photography, graphics and fashion – both high-end and kawaii street.

With thanks to the continuing generosity of the Toshiba Corporation

Europe 1600-1815

Designers – ZMMA

Project Completed – December 2015

Europe 1600-1815 has seen the complete redisplay and reinterpretation of seven galleries dedicated to the arts of living in Europe between 1600 and 1815. In its prominent position next to the V&A's grand entrance, Europe 1600-1815 continues the story of art and design that begins in the award-winning Medieval & Renaissance galleries and completes the restoration of the entire front wing of the Museum. On display are nearly 1,100 objects including spectacular examples of textiles and fashion, painting and sculpture, ceramics and glass, furniture and metalwork, prints and books created by Europe's finest artists and craftsmen of the 17th and 18th centuries for the period's most important figures, including Louis XIV, Marie Antoinette, Catherine the Great and Charles I. The project has seen the complete removal of the interior cladding added in the 1970s and reclaimed back of house storage space. The combined effect enlarges the galleries by almost a third to 1,550 square metres. Natural light has been returned to the spaces with previously obscured windows uncovered. Environmental controls have been upgraded to provide sustainable and stable conditions for the collection and new state-of-the-art cases that meet modern environmental and security requirements have been installed.

Europe 1600-1815 has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the children of Her Highness Sheikha Amna Bint Mohammed Al Thani, the Friends of the V&A, The Selz Foundation, Würth Group, The Wolfson Foundation, Dr Genevieve Davies, William Loschert, the J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust and many other private individuals and trusts.

For further PRESS information about FuturePlan please contact the V&A Press Office on 0207 942 2502 or email press.office@vam.ac.uk