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Summary

Work is progressing well on the site as autumn draws to a close – the procurement of work packages is now complete and the final pour of concrete has taken place. In this new and exciting phase of the project, and with all supporting props now removed, our steel contractor, Rowecord, has begun erecting the building frame in readiness for the arrival on site of contractors GIG and Szerelmey who will provide the glass and stone façade for the building. Mechanical and electrical systems and plastering continue to progress in the basement levels. A focus for one of the many outreach projects the site continues to provide inspiration for a group of art students from Camden School for Girls who, together with artist in residence Liam O'Connor, are documenting and recording the changing environment.



The Museum acknowledges the generous support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, who have confirmed a £10 million grant for the WCEC. The HLF's support will provide resources to enable the Museum to expand its innovative outreach and public engagement, and maintain the highest standards of collections care.

Site and design update

All packages for the project have been bought and the final design elements of co-ordination between the trades are nearing completion. Having recently marked 700,000 man hours worked in the site without incident, the project also took part in the European Week of Safety with several site activities and demonstrations available for contractors to take part in during the week.

The site is beginning to take on new character and with its emerging steel structure rising at pace it will soon reach the level of the existing Museum buildings. The last of the concrete has been poured in the site, with the exception of some areas left for logistical purposes. Within the lower basement floors mechanical and electrical services are well advanced with air handling units, fire compression systems and electrical lighting switches being installed. Work is also progressing in the basements and plastering works have now begun.

Off-site visits are continuing to take place to inspect the quality of glass, stone and steel being used for the building. The external façade is an extremely important aspect of the design for the WCEC, and the project team has spent a great deal of time working with the glass cladding contractor GIG and specialist stone contractor Szerelmey. This has involved building a full-sized mock-up of a section of the main façade at GIG's factory in Austria, which includes the cast glass panels that are being provided by Shanghai-based specialist glass manufacturer Kang Yu. A mock-up of the Portland stone panels that will be used to clad the stair towers has also been built at Szerelmey's works in South London.

Top: WCEC Glass Facade.

Below right: WCEC Stone Facade.



Outreach Camden School for Girls project with Liam O'Connor

In October 2012 the project team embarked upon its latest outreach programme working with Year 12 and 13 Art and Design students from Camden School for Girls.

Working with WCEC project artist-in-residence Liam O'Connor, the programme, which will run until March 2013, will aim to broaden the students' experiences of engaging with a working artist and exposing them to his innovative methods of documenting and recording, in this case using a building project as a case study. Each month the students will return to a single spot on site where they can experiment with Liam's technique of overlaying drawings to document the changing site.

By the end of the programme the students will have a complete sketchbook that could be used within their portfolios or inspire a new work. The students work will be displayed in the Museum's Clore Education Centre Foyer from June 2013.

Meet the team



Who to Contact

If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact Louise Fenner on 020 7323 8858 or wcec@britishmuseum.org If you have any questions regarding the activities on site you can also contact Willie Shaw at Mace on 020 8256 9527 or wshaw@macegroup.com

In addition to the design team the Museum's core project team includes from left to right, Louise Fenner, Communications Coordinator, Emma Hayes, Client and Programme Manager, Alun Watkins, Project Manager, Tony Wilson, Project Director, Heidi Weeks, Project Manager, Andrew Burnett, Deputy Director, Christine Bullock, Project Assistant, Alan Finlayson, Building Services Project Manager, Katherine Miller, Information Systems Project Manager.