

Spring/summer 2012

For more information, visit britishmuseum.org/wcec



Summary

One of the main elements of the new building will be an impressive, double-height, temporary exhibitions gallery. This space will enable the Museum to display objects of a size and scale which were impossible to accommodate in the past. An important milestone was reached in May when the first section of the exhibition gallery concrete floor slab was poured. This not only marked the beginning of the formation of this exciting space but was also the first sign of the building emerging above ground. We look forward to seeing the above ground construction progress in the coming months.



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.

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Site update

Work continues to progress well in the site with PJ Carey remaining the main site contractor. The excavation has progressed to schedule with approximately 3,900 lorry loads of excavated material removed from the site so far. The excavation for the three-level basement is now largely complete and the remaining groundwork is now focused in the area of the new truck lift. The installation of the basement floor slabs and walls continues at various levels across the site. Electrical, mechanical and steelwork packages will commence throughout the period from July to October along with the installation of block work to form the walls for the interior spaces.

The project team has been working with LOCOG and the London Borough of Camden regarding traffic restrictions on Malet Street and Montague Place during the Olympic period. It is important that we keep activity in the site running to schedule during this busy time and careful planning has been needed to ensure minimal disruption for all. The Considerate Contractor award scheme continues to place the project in the top 5% of projects in the UK.



Design update

The design team continues to progress detailed elements of the building's design – this includes the external façades, the structural steelwork, building services and the truck lift.

Façade mock-ups have been made by glass and stone contractors GIG and Szerelmey which have for the first time given a real sense of how the exterior of the building will appear. We're very excited by the results!

Work has begun to form the connections between the existing and new buildings. Most of these are back of house but you may have noticed the hoarding in place at the north-west corner of the Great Court. This has been installed to allow openings to be made from the Great Court. It will be this route that visitors will take to access the new temporary exhibitions gallery.

Work on the design of the interiors continues to develop. This includes both the office and common areas, as well as the more technical spaces. A significant proportion of the building comprises 'technical' areas – science laboratories, conservation studios, exhibition workshops and object packing areas. Many of these areas have detailed requirements and specifications that need careful planning. The interior designers have been working with the core design team to ensure all elements are fully integrated.

Who to contact

If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact Heidi Weeks on 020 7323 8713.

Visits to the site can be arranged by contacting Chris Bullock on 020 7323 8622.

If you have any questions regarding the activity on site, you can also contact Martin Field at Mace on 020 8256 9525.

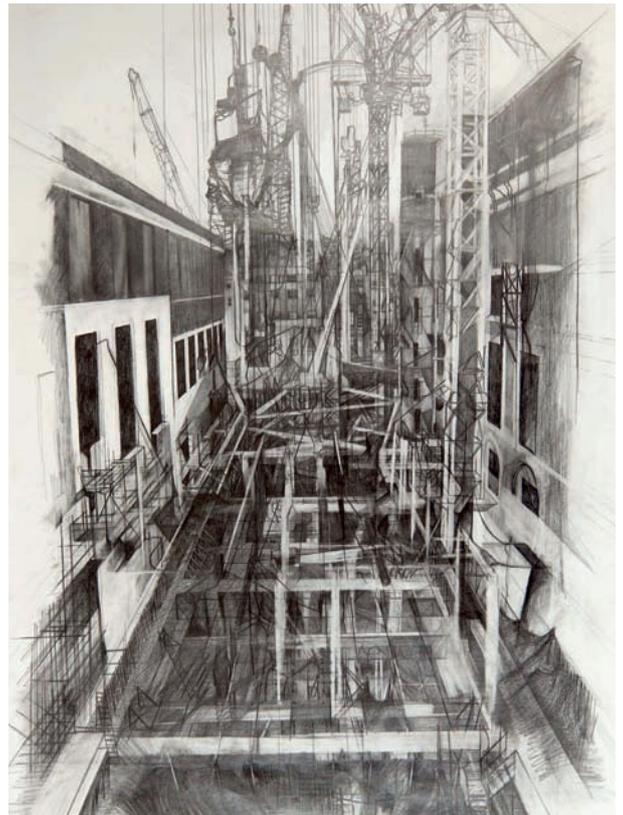


Artist in residence and outreach projects

Since September 2012 the WCEC project has been working with a Year 12 class of BTEC art students from South Camden Community School.

The students have been working with project artist in residence Liam O'Connor to explore different ways of responding to urban life and change. Through a combination of classroom sessions at school, visits to the WCEC site and work in the Museum's Samsung Digital Discovery Centre, students have explored with Liam the methods and techniques he uses to record change and transformation of space and objects – such as photograms, rubbings, etchings, photography and digital techniques, as well as the more familiar media of drawing and painting.

The Museum has been delighted to have had this opportunity to work with South Camden Community School, part of an ongoing programme of outreach activities planned during this construction project. A selection of the students' work will be on display in the foyers of the Museum's Clore Education Centre during July, alongside recent work produced by Liam.



Above left: basement levels.

Above right: students from South Camden Community School.

Right: artwork by Liam O'Connor.