

V&A FuturePlan Update 2014

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Over the last 13 years the V&A has completed more than 50 building projects and transformed around 40,000 square metres of the Museum. It has worked with some of the UK's most innovative architects, designers and engineers to create beautiful and contemporary new settings for the V&A's outstanding collections while renewing and restoring much of the building's original architecture and improving the visitors' experience.

To realise this, the V&A has raised more than £166 million from private donors and funding bodies including substantial grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Over the same period the Museum has achieved a three-fold rise in visitors from less than a million in 2000 to record attendance of 3,290,500 to the South Kensington site in 2013.

Work is on-going and this year the V&A will complete of a suite of seven galleries that tell the story of European art and design from 1600 to 1800. The £12.5 million project offers the V&A the opportunity to re-examine its superb Baroque and Rococo collections and present them with new interpretation in contemporary galleries.

The main construction work for the V&A's Exhibition Road Building Project will also commence early this year. Enabling work to divert services within the site has been completed and the Aston Webb screen has been temporarily removed by conservation specialists to allow access for building. It is expected that construction will be complete by the end of 2016 to open to the public in 2017. Over £36 million has already been raised towards a target of £49.5 million.

The galleries currently used for exhibitions were not originally intended for this purpose and, in their present configuration, conceal some of the finest 19th-century interiors in the Museum. The Exhibition Road development will, in time, enable the V&A to refurbish the historic courts and release space for new displays from the permanent collections.

Martin Roth, V&A Director, said: *"The V&A is currently enjoying more visitors than ever before. Our FuturePlan developments are vital in sustaining increasing audience numbers and keeping the Museum relevant for the future. 2014 is an exciting year for us as we will see significant development of the Exhibition Road Building Project and the completion of a major suite of galleries for Europe 1600-1800, whilst keeping the rest of the Museum open and as vibrant as ever."*

LIVE PROJECTS

Italian Cast Court, Gallery 46B

Scheduled to open – November 2014

First opened in 1873, the Cast Courts are among the most popular galleries in the V&A and house some of the Museum's largest and most loved objects, such as the 5.5 metre high cast of Michelangelo's *David*. Starting with the Italian Cast Court, the double height, day-lit gallery is being restored to its original splendour and the displays modernised. The Victorian decorative scheme is being reinstated based on research by Julian Harrap Architects and Metaphor Architects to enhance the architectural details of the gallery. The tiled floor is being restored and areas of damage to the roof, ceiling and walls are being repaired. New research and conservation work on the casts is taking place.

The refurbishment of the Italian Cast Court has been made possible with the support of The Garfield Weston Foundation

Europe 1600-1800

Designers – ZMMA

Scheduled to open – December 2014

Europe 1600-1800 will see the complete redesign and redisplay of seven galleries containing some of the most magnificent and elaborate works of art and design in the V&A collections. On display will be 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 taste makers, including Louis XIV, Marie Antoinette and Catherine the Great. Some displays will suggest the grandeur of court interiors for which the larger and more elaborate pieces were made, others will recreate surviving period rooms and evoke more intimate interiors. Around 1,100 objects will explore European art and design between 1600 and 1800, continuing the displays in the V&A's award-winning Medieval & Renaissance Galleries and completing the restoration of the entire front wing of the Museum.

The Europe 1600-1800 galleries are being made possible thanks to a generous £4.75m lead grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund with further support from many other Trusts, Foundations and individuals.

Exhibition Road Building Project

Designers – AL_A: Amanda Levete Architects

Scheduled to open – 2017

The Exhibition Road building project will create a large, underground exhibition gallery which will transform the way the Museum presents its internationally renowned exhibitions. An open courtyard and improved entrance into the Museum will be created at street level. This will be set within the beautiful, historic facades of the V&A's Grade I listed buildings which have never before been on public view. The new courtyard will house a café and be used for installations and events. The Exhibition Road project will also release much needed space in the Museum and allow the magnificent Victorian courts, currently used for temporary exhibitions, to be restored and to house displays drawn from the V&A's permanent collections.

Early support of the project has been given by The Monument Trust, The Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation, The Headley Trust, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Heritage Lottery Fund and other donors.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

The Clothworkers' Centre for the Study and Conservation of Textiles and Fashion

Designers – Haworth Tompkins Architects

Project Completed – October 2013

The V&A has created a new centre for the study, enjoyment and care of its outstanding textiles and fashion collections. Housing over 104,000 objects ranging from small archaeological textile fragments from Egypt to enormous tapestries created for medieval European palaces; and from the latest creations by leading contemporary designers to hoop petticoats from the 1740s, the Clothworkers' Centre offers the best possible access to the V&A's reserve collections of textiles and fashion for the many researchers, students and enthusiasts who use them every year. Based at Blythe House in Kensington Olympia, the Centre provides modern storage, improved conservation studios and a new public Study Centre and Seminar Room. The main entrance of Blythe House has been reinstated and a new reception area has been created to offer a more welcoming arrival.

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.

Dr Susan Weber Gallery for furniture

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 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 Victoria and Albert Museum through the generosity of Dr. Susan Weber

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 and students. 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 has 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 ceiling has a new lighting scheme, 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 changing displays of fashion and textiles, adding over 400 square metres of display space.

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 the medium 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. This new gallery displays the historic collections of photography up to the mid-20th century and 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 changing displays of contemporary photography.

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 has undergone sensitive restoration. Originally completed in 1869, it forms part of the V&A's Grade I listed building status. The lecture theatre has been re-decorated at high level with new walnut veneered acoustic panelling below. The raked seating has been made more comfortable with new seating pads. A new acoustic ceiling, upgraded lighting and AV equipment has been 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.

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 have been newly 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.

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 has cleaned its façades stretching along Exhibition Road. This specialist project has 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.

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 encyclopedia 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 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.

Medieval and Renaissance Galleries

Designers – MUMA

Completion Date – December 2009

The new Medieval and Renaissance Galleries are the V&A's largest project since the British Galleries opened in 2001. Ten new galleries occupies an entire wing of the Museum showing some of the V&A's most remarkable treasures including the Becket Casket, the notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci and magnificent Renaissance sculpture by Italian masters Giambologna and Donatello. 1800 objects have been redisplayed to explore the period 300 AD to 1600. The new displays are the first to tell the story of European art and design from the fall of the Roman Empire to the end of the Renaissance period.

The Medieval and Renaissance Galleries were made possible thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Paul and Jill Ruddock, The Monument Trust, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation, Edwin and Susan Davies OBE, The American Friends of the V&A through the generosity of Robert H. Smith, The Hintze Family Charitable Foundation, The Selz Foundation, The Bonita Trust, The Foyle Foundation and the generosity of many other donors.

Ceramics Galleries

Designer – Stanton Williams

Phase 1 Completion Date – September 2009

For the first time in 100 years the V&A redisplayed its ceramics collection, the greatest and most comprehensive in the world. Extensive galleries tell the story of world ceramics with 3000 objects on display from the earliest Chinese porcelain to contemporary ceramic design. A central gallery shows masterpieces dating from as far back as 2500 BC, highlighting the links between the world's great ceramic traditions. There is a gallery examining ceramic production including a workshop area for demonstrations and workshops and a part reconstruction of the studio of Dame Lucie

Rie, one of the greatest potters of the 20th century. Four further galleries look at contemporary ceramics, 20th-century studio ceramics, factory ceramics and architectural ceramics. There is also an area for temporary displays.

Funded by a lead donation from the Headley Trust and the Rt Hon Sir Timothy Sainsbury, together with very generous support from the American Friends of the V&A through the generosity of Lydia and Manfred Gorvy, DCMS/Wolfson Museum and Galleries Improvement Fund and other private donors.

The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Galleries

Designer – V&A Design, Celine Dalcher

Project Completed June 2009

Galleries adjacent to the V&A's Silver Galleries show highlights from The Gilbert Collection, one of the most important collections ever gifted to Britain. Previously shown at Somerset House, the extraordinary collection reflects Sir Gilbert's passion for craftsmanship and fascination with collecting works previously owned by important historic figures including Catherine the Great of Russia, Frederick the Great of Prussia, Louis XV and Napoleon. The new displays show around 400 pieces with a focus on 16th-19th century silver, micromosaics, pietre dure, enamelled portrait miniatures and gold boxes. Highlights include brilliantly jewelled boxes made for Frederick the Great and a magnificent Augsburg clock from the early 18th-century.

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Gallery

Designer – V&A Design, Mike Malham

Project Completed April 2009

A new gallery of Asian Buddhist sculpture displays around 60 sculptures from the Museum's world class collections. Created by anonymous master craftsmen between 200 AD and 1850, the works on display demonstrate the many ways in which the Buddha has been represented in the arts of Asia. The sculptures are arranged in a day-lit gallery adjacent to the John Madejski Garden. Geographic groupings demonstrate the diversity of artistic expression across India, Sri Lanka, the Himalayas, Burma, Thailand, China and Japan.

Theatre and Performance Galleries

Designer – V&A Design, Line Lund

Project Completed March 2009

The Theatre and Performance Galleries explore all performance types from theatre and ballet to pantomime and rock music. More than 250 objects from the V&A's collections are on display including a first folio of Shakespeare's plays compiled in 1623, costumes and sets from award winning productions, a guitar Pete Townshend smashed during a 1970s performance with *The Who* and the original 1957 poster for *Look Back in Anger* at the Royal Court. Specially commissioned films of playwrights, directors and actors include interviews with Michael Frayn and Sir Peter Hall. The galleries present the

collections in a fresh way, focusing on the process of production and performance from initial conception and design to opening night. Set models, stage props, costumes, original posters, paintings and photographs are on show, representing live performance in Britain over the last 350 years.

Sackler Centre for arts education at the V&A

Designer – Softroom

Project Completed September 2008

The V&A's Sackler Centre for arts education gives visitors the opportunity to learn from, and work with some of the UK's most talented designers and teachers, to develop their own skills and participate in workshops, talks and debates, festivals, conferences and courses. It is the Museum's centre for creative practice and one of the most innovative museum education facilities in the UK. It has a digital studio, an auditorium, design and practical art studios and wireless technology throughout. Based across two floors of the Henry Cole Wing on Exhibition Road, the Sackler Centre more than doubles the education space at the V&A. The Centre has its own entrance enabling it to open outside normal museum hours and function as a separate arts centre and venue for events.

The William and Judith Bollinger Jewellery Gallery

Designer – Eva Jiricna Architects

Project Completed May 2008

A four-year renovation and redesign transformed the presentation of the V&A's jewellery collection, one of the finest and most comprehensive in the world. Over 3,500 jewels tell the story of jewellery from 2000 BC to the present. On display are jewels from the courts of Elizabeth I and Catherine the Great and the famous Beauharnais Emeralds given by Napoleon to his adopted daughter. Jewels by the great houses of Boucheron, Chaumet and Cartier, including Lady Mountbatten's tutti frutti bandeau are also on show. Artist jewellers from Lalique and C.R. Ashbee to Wendy Ramshaw and Peter Chang, reflect the 20th century and the present day.

The Porter Gallery

Designer – Block Architecture

Project Completed November 2007

Following the success of the V&A's first contemporary gallery, the Museum created a new gallery next to the Grand Entrance devoted to temporary exhibitions of contemporary work, including fashion, photography and design.

Café

Designers – MUMA

Project Completed October 2006

This project relocated the café from its position in the Henry Cole Wing to the original Victorian purpose-built refreshment rooms of the V&A – The Morris, Gamble and Poynter Rooms situated on the north side of the Garden. The café now has the facility to open out into the John Madejski Garden during the summer months.

The Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art

Designer – Softroom

Project Completed July 2006

The V&A holds one of the world's most significant collections of art works made in the Islamic Middle East. A three-year renovation and redesign created a new home for over 400 objects, including ceramics, textiles, carpets, metalwork, glass and woodwork, dating from the great days of the Islamic caliphate of the 8th and 9th centuries to the years preceding the First World War. The area covered stretches from Spain in the west to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in the east. The central focus of the Gallery is the Ardabil carpet, the world's oldest dated carpet, and one of the largest and most historically important in the world.

The Dorothy and Michael Hintze Sculpture Gallery

Designer – Eva Jiricna

Phase 1 Completed March 2006; Phase 2 completed March 2007

The V&A holds the most comprehensive collection of post-classical European sculpture in the world. Some of the greatest works of sculpture made for British patrons and collectors, and by sculptors working in Britain, are now shown in three spacious galleries on the south side of the garden. They include works by Canova, Bernini, Rysbrack and Roubiliac. The galleries are filled with daylight coming in from the windows and doors and have views of the garden. The linoleum has been removed from the floors, revealing the original Victorian mosaic. Two further galleries show the V&A's important collection of Rodin sculptures and other British and French sculpture from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, illustrating the vital influence of French sculptors on their British counterparts during this period.

Central Hall Shop

Designer – Eva Jiricna

Project Completed March 2006

The relocation of the shop close to the garden allows the former space it occupied to be used for temporary exhibitions. It makes a clear central route leading from the Grand Entrance to the new John Madejski Garden.

Sacred Silver and Stained Glass Galleries

Designers – John Ronayne and Wendy Ramshaw

Project Completed November 2005

The gallery of church silver and stained glass contains pieces from the national collection of silver, from spectacular medieval reliquaries to austere contemporary chalices. Flanking the gallery on both sides are displays of stained glass dating from the 12th century to the present day. The displays make full use of the light flooding these western facing rooms to illuminate both stained glass and silver.

The John Madejski Garden

Designer – Kim Wilkie

Project Completed July 2005

Kim Wilkie designed a peaceful, elegant garden within the V&A's 19th-century Italianate terracotta courtyard. A stone-paved, slightly sunken ellipse is at the centre of the design, surrounded by curving steps and water jets. The space can be used as a performance area or flooded to create a pool. The surrounding garden features lawns, paving, glass planters and trees. The Garden has the flexibility to transform into a scene for display, theatre, and events with a café area for visitors.

Changing Displays Gallery

Designer – V&A Design, Mike Malham

Project Completed May 2005

This gallery houses temporary displays of sculpture, metalwork, ceramics and glass. Displays shown in this gallery have included *European Bronzes*; and *Beyond the Maker's Mark: Paul de Lamerie Silver in the Cahn Collection*.

The International Music and Art Foundation Portrait Miniatures Gallery

Designer – Casson Mann

Project Completed March 2005

This gallery forms a continuation of the Paintings Galleries to show works from the V&A's collection of portrait miniatures. The gallery tells the story of the portrait miniature in Britain, from its first appearance in the 1520s, at the court of Henry VIII, to the height of its popularity in the early 19th-century. Portrait miniatures were painted to be viewed closely so are displayed in specially designed cases to enable visitors to appreciate the fine detailing.

The Julie and Robert Breckman Prints and Drawings Gallery

Designer – Casson Mann

Project Completed March 2005

The V&A holds around 500,000 works from the Renaissance to the present day in its prints collection. The gallery, set within the suite of Paintings Galleries, contains regularly changing displays drawn from this collection and includes recent acquisitions made with the support of the Julie and Robert Breckman Print Fund.

The Märit Rausing Contemporary Glass Gallery

Designer – Penny Richards and Pringle, Richards, Sharratt Architects

Project Completed December 2004

The V&A has become a leader in contemporary glass studies since the opening of its glass gallery in 1994 (also designed by Penny Richards). The new Märit Rausing Gallery enables the Museum to show its growing collection in a dedicated and contemporary setting with changing displays presenting the full collection and new acquisitions.

Members' Room

Designer – Softroom

Project Completed November 2004

The Members' Room has a contemporary, relaxed feel for V&A members to enjoy. It features refreshment facilities and offers a quiet space in which to meet or work.

Metalware

The Belinda Gentle Gallery

Designer – V&A Design, Mike Malham

Project Completed November 2004

The metalware gallery shows over 200 pieces from the Museum's collections of brass, pewter and cutlery dating from 1400 to the present day. Rare archaeological finds of medieval dining pewter, 18th-century brass tobacco boxes and spectacular, semi-abstract, contemporary pieces are on view in changing displays.

V&A/RIBA Reading Rooms and Stores

Designer – Wright & Wright

Project Completed November 2004

Part of the V&A's Henry Cole Wing has been refurbished to provide Reading Rooms for RIBA's drawings and manuscripts collection which, since November 2004, has been housed at the V&A. A Print Room, offices and stores for RIBA have also been created in the Museum.

Architecture Gallery

Designer – Gareth Hoskins

Project Completed November 2004

This gallery is the first permanent architecture gallery in the UK. It features highlights from the RIBA and V&A collections of drawings, models, photographs and architectural fragments as well as important loans. The gallery has been designed as an introduction to architecture and displays 180 exhibits from across the ages featuring some of the world's most famous architects and buildings. Highlights include a capital from the Pantheon, drawings by Palladio, Vanburgh, Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe and a computer fly-through of Zaha Hadid's Phaeno Science Centre in Germany.

Gilbert Bayes Sculpture Gallery

Designer – Eva Jiricna

Project Completed October 2004

The Gilbert Bayes Sculpture Gallery explores the materials and techniques of European sculpture with around 650 objects on display including some of the V&A's best modelled sculpture and cast sculpture from Giambologna to Rodin. The gallery is in a space which was originally an open arcade. It had been closed since the 1950s and was opened again to reveal the original Victorian tiled floor and decorative scheme of the ceiling. One of the major benefits of opening the arcade is the extensive view of the Cast Courts below and the opportunity to see the larger casts close up, particularly Trajan's Column.

Exhibition Road Tunnel

Designer – Eva Jiricna

Project Completed September 2004

The tunnel was reopened after a closure of 35 years and now links the V&A to the public subway that runs from South Kensington underground station to the three museums in the area. The tunnel provides the Museum with a new entrance where contemporary commissions can be displayed and gives visitors a third route of access into the V&A. The main design features are a new glass and steel staircase, a blue glass resin floor, and restoration of original wall tiles, steel and ironwork.

The Edwin and Susan Davies Paintings Galleries

Designer – V&A Design, Line Lund

Project Completed November 2003

The new paintings galleries are situated in the original top-lit galleries of the V&A dating from 1859. The suite of five galleries brings together Constable's revolutionary oil sketches, donated to the V&A by the artist's daughter, with landscapes by Turner and Gainsborough, and famous works by Blake, Landseer and Millais. One gallery is

devoted entirely to the collection of Constantine Ionides and another is devoted to works from the national collection of watercolours held at the V&A.

Grand Entrance

Designer – (Dome) Eva Jiricna; (Steps) Pringle, Richards, Sharratt Architects

Project Completed August 2003

The Grand Entrance Hall, or Dome, is now a bright, elegant space that provides visitors with the principal introduction to the Museum. Architect Eva Jiricna restored the original 19th-century architectural features and provided an entrance that reflects the V&A's purpose as a design museum. It is the start of a new visitor route through the centre of the Museum to the garden. The Grand Entrance exterior was re-modelled in 2001 by building paved ramps on either side of enlarged steps and inserting new doors into existing openings. The scheme provides a more generous entrance and allows easier access to the Museum from the Cromwell Road. The steps won an environmental award from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Photography Gallery

Designer – V&A, Mike Malham

Project Completed May 2003

The photography gallery is located next to the main exhibition halls and has a rotating programme of displays. These are drawn from the national collection of photography which contains more than 500,000 images and is held by the V&A. The displays also feature loans and acquisitions.

The Whiteley Silver Galleries

Designer – John Ronayne

Project Completed November 2002

The silver collections are displayed in some of the V&A's most decorative galleries, with painted ceilings, ceramic columns and gilded cornicing. The restored galleries recapture the magnificence of the original galleries of 1869. The V&A holds the national collection of English silver and a greater range of objects in silver than any other public collection worldwide. The Silver Galleries set these objects in their artistic, social, historical and geographical context. On display are more than 3,500 objects ranging from 1400 to the present day. Among the treasures are the Ashburnham centrepiece from the mid-18th century and an 18th-century ewer and basin created by great French silversmith Elie Pacot, which once belonged to Britain's great military leader John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough.

Original Contemporary Gallery (new contemporary gallery opened in 2007)

Designers – Gareth Hoskins Architects

Project Completed April 2002

The gallery played a central role in establishing the V&A's programme of contemporary exhibitions and events. It opened with *Milan in a Van*, bringing new designs direct from the Milan Furniture Fair to the V&A. This gallery has now become part of the Medieval & Renaissance Galleries and contemporary exhibitions have been relocated to the Porter Gallery.

British Galleries

Designers – CassonMann and David Mlinaric

Project Completed November 2001

The British Galleries were the V&A's largest transformation project in over half a century. They combine modern displays, accurately furnished period rooms and the latest technology to aid interpretation. Beautiful settings reflect the richness of the exhibits. The British Galleries 1500-1900 present the most comprehensive survey of British culture, style and taste in the UK from the reign of Henry VIII to that of Queen Victoria. The 3,000 historical treasures tell the story of British design with displays of the very best of furniture, textiles, dress, ceramics, glass, jewellery, silver, prints, paintings and sculpture from throughout the British Isles.

The British Galleries were made possible by generous gifts from The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Clore Duffield Foundation, Mr and Mrs Edwin Davies OBE, Sir Harry Djanogly CBE, The Monument Trust, The Wolfson Foundation with significant further support from many other donors.

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

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