

V&A EAST COLLECTION & RESEARCH CENTRE, LONDON



LOCATION: QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK, LONDON

CLIENT: V&A

COMMENCED: 2018

SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE

SECTOR: ARTS & CULTURE

LEAD ARCHITECT: DILLER SCOFIDIO + RENFRO

EXECUTIVE ARCHITECT: AUSTIN-SMITH:LORD

STRUCTURES: ARUP

SERVICES: ARUP

COST CONSULTANT: GARDINER & THEOBALD

The new V&A Collection and Research Centre seeks to reinvent the idea of a museum store. With a design led by New York-based practice Diller Scofidio + Renfro (and supported by Austin-Smith:Lord), the Collection and Research Centre will bring treasures out of storage and into public view for the first time in generations.

The Collections and Research Centre will be located within the Here East building in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London's East End and will open in 2023. It will be a purpose-built home for 250,000 objects and an additional 917 archives from the V&A's collection of fashion, textiles, furniture, theatre and performance, metalwork, ceramics, glass, sculpture, architecture, paintings and product design.

The V&A East project, comprising the Collections and Research Centre and a new museum at Stratford Waterfront designed by O'Donnell + Tuomey, will revolutionise how the V&A's world-leading collection of art, design and performance are accessed, explored and experienced. V&A East will also host a unique and unprecedented partnership between the V&A and the Smithsonian Institution - the largest museum and research complex in the world.



Visitors will be invited on a behind-the-scenes journey that uncovers and demonstrates how and why objects are collected, how they are cared for, conserved and researched and how they help make sense of our past, present and future as part of exhibitions and public programmes.

A central public collection hall will turn the storage inside out. A rich array of objects will be on display for visitors to explore - from some of the smallest curiosities in the collection to the largest and most significant rooms and building fragments.

Highlights include Frank Lloyd Wright's 1930s office for Edgar J Kaufmann Jr. - a unique and complete 20th-century plywood interior - and a 15th-century marquetry ceiling from the now destroyed Altamira Palace near Toledo, Spain, which will be resurrected within the centre as a real architectural element above a new public space for displays and events.

Further spaces within the Centre will host pop-up displays, workshops, performances and screenings alongside live encounters

with the museum's work - from conservation and research to exhibition preparation. This new model builds on the continued success of The Clothworkers' Centre for the Study and Conservation of Textiles and Fashion located at Blythe House in West London where the V&A's collection is currently stored.

A dedicated viewing gallery will be created to showcase a changing display of rarely-seen large rolled objects from the V&A's extraordinary collection of theatre stage cloths, carpets, textiles, tapestries and paintings, including a 15-metre-wide theatrical backcloth designed by Natalia Goncharova for the 1926 Ballets Russes London production of Stravinsky's Firebird.