

ARTS COUNCIL AWARDS DESIGN MUSEUM £3M

The Design Museum is very pleased to announce that it has been successful in its application to the Arts Council for a £3m grant towards the £80m capital project to build the new Design Museum at the former Commonwealth Institute in Kensington.

Leading designer John Pawson will convert the interior of the Commonwealth Institute building to create a new home for the museum giving it three times more space in which to show a wider range of exhibitions, showcase its world class collection and significantly extend its learning programme. The Design Museum is set to open in Kensington in 2016.

Design Museum Director Deyan Sudjic said: 'This award is a hugely significant contribution towards the building of the new Design Museum, and a great endorsement of the importance of design in our cultural landscape. We are absolutely delighted with the news, which comes at a very important time for the museum as we continue to fundraise for the project.'

Joyce Wilson, Area Director, London, Arts Council England, said: 'We are pleased to be able to support the Design Museum at such an exciting time in its development, which also coincides with it joining the National portfolio in April this year. The creation of a new museum in Kensington will provide a larger, improved space for showing the work of emerging designers alongside permanent collection displays, temporary exhibitions and an innovative learning programme.'

The Design Museum is a charity that generates over 95 percent of its running costs from admissions, membership, trading, donations and sponsors.

The museum will remain in its current Shad Thames location until summer 2016. Forthcoming exhibitions include Designs of the Year 2015, opening 25 March and Life on Foot: Camper at the Design Museum, opening 13 May.

Ends

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The **Design Museum** is building the world's leading museum devoted to architecture and design, its work encompasses all elements of design, including fashion, product and graphic design. Since it opened its doors in 1989 the museum has displayed everything from an AK-47 to the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding dress. It has staged over 100 exhibitions, welcomed over five million visitors and showcased the work of some of the world's most celebrated designers including Thomas Heatherwick, Paul Smith, Zaha Hadid, Jonathan Ive, Miuccia Prada, Frank Gehry, Eileen Gray and Dieter Rams. designmuseum.org | newdesignmuseum.tumblr.com