

PRESS RELEASE
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MAJOR DONATION FROM SACKLER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED FOR LONDON'S NEW DESIGN MUSEUM

The Dr Mortimer & Theresa Sackler Foundation has pledged a generous gift to the new development of the Design Museum it was announced today.

The funds will be used to create a library as part of the museum's new home at the former Commonwealth Institute in Kensington, West London. **The Sackler Library** at the Design Museum will provide a dynamic and welcoming platform for reading and debate, greatly extending the museum's education programme. The contents of the library will focus on design and architecture, providing a unique new cultural resource for London.

Helen Charman, Head of Learning, Design Museum, said '**The Sackler Library** will be an invaluable resource for students, researchers, educators and design professionals seeking to develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of design and its critical role in the world today.'

Plans for the site were today unveiled by Sir Terence Conran, the museum's founder, and Deyan Sudjic, Director of the Design Museum. John Pawson Limited are renovating the interior of the iconic Grade 2* listed building, with the surrounding residential development being designed by Rem Koolhaas for OMA with Chelsfield Partners.

The redevelopment of the Commonwealth Institute building to create the new Design Museum is an £80 million project, which will transform a dormant London icon into the world centre for design and architecture. The new Design Museum will open in 2014.

The Design Museum fundraising target is £44.66 million. With the gift from The Dr. Mortimer & Theresa Sackler Foundation, the museum has secured more than 60% of this target. Other major donations include The Conran Foundation, which has pledged £17 million, The Heritage Lottery Fund which has made a first stage grant towards an application of £4.95 million, The Wolfson Foundation, Sir Siegmund Warburg's Voluntary Settlement, The Hans and Marit Rausing Charitable Trust, The Atkin Foundation and in addition, a further £2.75m has been raised in early stage fundraising from a small number of individual donors.

The Design Museum is a self-funding charity which raises over 90% of its operating budget through ticket sales, sponsorship and retail opportunities. The museum receives a small annual grant from the Department of Culture Media and Sport.

Ends

Notes to Editors

About the Design Museum

The Design Museum is the world's leading museum devoted to architecture and industrial design. It is working to place design at the centre of contemporary culture. It demonstrates both the richness of the creativity to be found in all forms of design, and its importance. The Design Museum is the definitive voice of contemporary design in the UK. Founded in 1989 and currently located in Shad Thames, its work encompasses all elements of design, including product design, graphic design, and fashion. The Design Museum plans to relocate from its current home at Shad Thames to the former Commonwealth Institute building, in Kensington, West London. The project is expected to be completed by 2014. Leading designer John Pawson will convert the interior of the Commonwealth Institute building to create a new home for the Design Museum giving it three times more space in which to show a wider range of exhibitions, showcase its world class collection and extend its learning programme. designmuseum.org

The Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation

The Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation, supports the advancement of the public both in the UK and overseas in the fields of art, science and medical research. The Foundation's emphasis generally is on education and cultural heritage. Amongst major projects funded there are: the reconstruction of the Old Persian galleries at the Louvre, a new ceiling for the Octagon in the Tate Gallery, a soaring escalator at Tate Modern, the renovation to the English Room at the National Gallery, a new Sackler Library in Oxford, replacing the former library of the Ashmolean Museum, and a stunning stained-glass window for the Henry VII Chapel in Westminster Abbey. Other major UK institutions that received significant funding from Mortimer Sackler include Dulwich Picture Gallery, Imperial College, Kew Gardens, the Museum of London, the Natural History Museum, the Royal College of Art, the Old Vic, Royal Ballet School, Royal Opera House, Serpentine Gallery, Shakespeare's Globe Trust, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and the National Gallery of Scotland (The Sackler Sculpture Hall). The Sackler Wing of Galleries at the Royal Academy in London was endowed by his brother Arthur.

About The Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported over 30,000 projects, allocating £4.7billion across the UK. Website: hlf.org.uk

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