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PRESS FILE

Refurbishment of the Groeningemuseum



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Musea Brugge invests in the Groeningemuseum, one of its key museum locations. The aim is twofold: to increase visitor comfort and to present the works of art as attractively as possible. In January-February-March 2020, the refurbishing of the entrance hall and the halls will be carried out in phases. This project fits in with Musea Brugge's wish to refurbish a number of locations in the coming decade with a great deal of attention for the visitors. The Gruuthusemuseum, which reopened to the public on May 23rd after the large-scale renovation, is the leading example.

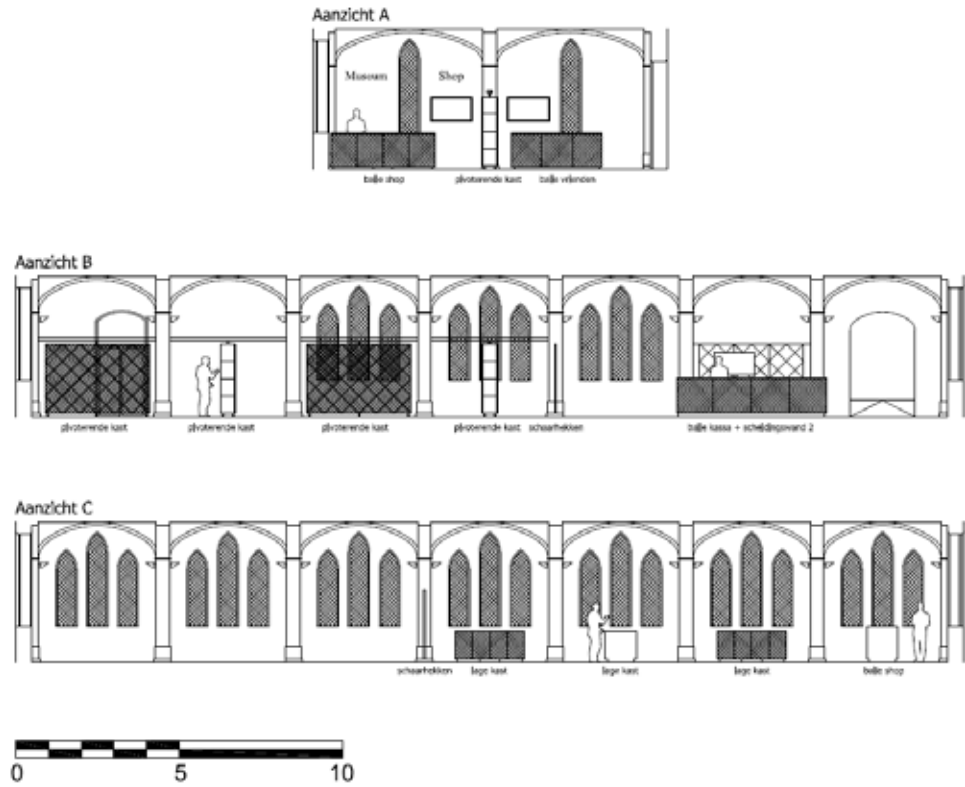
The Groeningemuseum exhibits and conserves a collection of paintings of national and international importance in a building from the 1930s. Approximately 100,000 international visitors come to the museum every year to view these works. In order to welcome them warmly, the adjoining Xaverius chapel, which serves as entrance hall, will be tackled. Business director Jonathan Nowakowski explains: "The 19th-century Xaverius Chapel is a splendid space, which does not really blink out today. By creating an open space that accommodates the shop and the cash desk, we want to give visitors a warm welcome that will be continued throughout the rest of the museum". The Bruges scenographer Koen Bovée works closely together with the young architect Jason Slabbynck for the design of the entrance hall. The chapel's characteristic stained-glass windows are the source of inspiration for the furniture.

However, the greatest challenge of the refurbishment is in the rooms. The variety of the collection, with unique works of art from the late fourteenth century to the twentieth century, makes each room different to decorate. "During the refurbishment in the beginning of 2020, all the works of art will be taken away and the chronological route will be reversed. New fresh colours will be added to the walls and the floor will be renewed. The fragile works of the Flemish primitives will also be given a new hanging system and will be fitted with special museum safety glass by TrueVue." according to Anne van Oosterwijk. Alderman Blontrock and museum director Till-Holger Borchert complement: "We attach great importance to the experience of our visitors at our museum locations. That's why we are adding many rest points, where visitors can take time to enjoy the works of art. In addition to the audio guide, we have also chosen to further expand the provision of information. Each object will be given a more in-depth text in the new display.

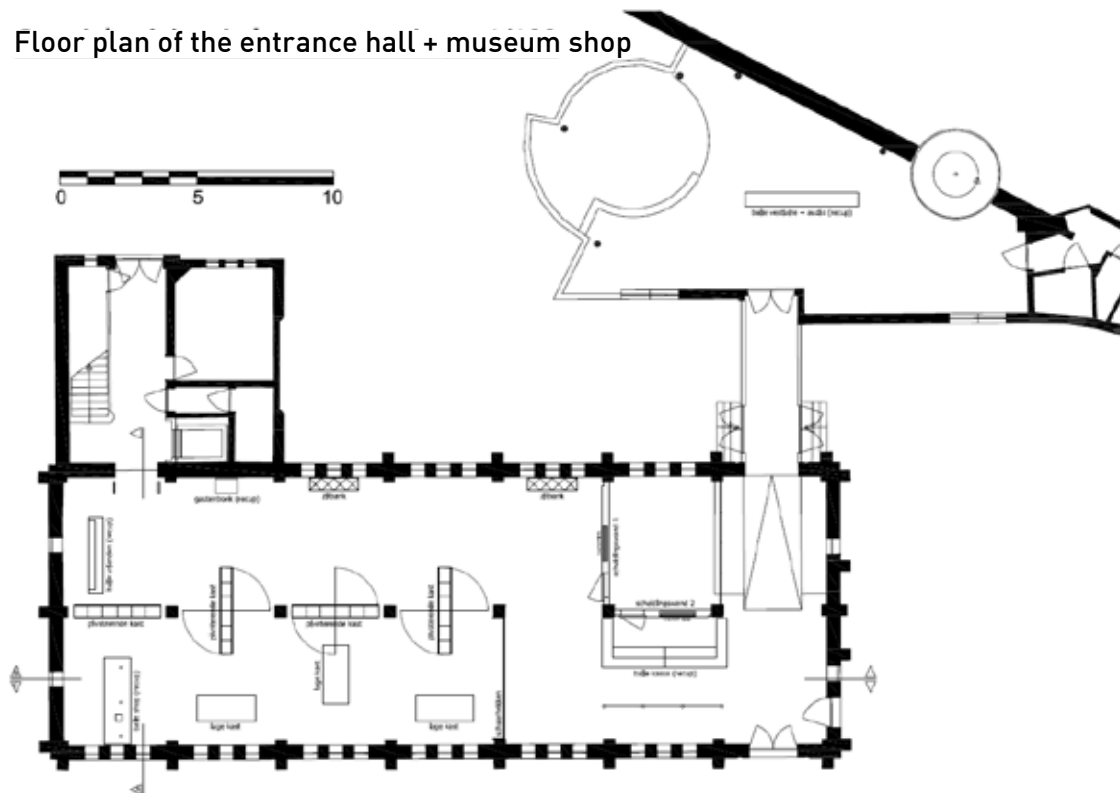
In order to realise this redevelopment, the Groeningemuseum will be completely closed from 20 to 31 January 2020. Between 6 January and 12 March 2020, a number of rooms will always be closed. The Flemish primitives will be permanently on display (with the exception of the period of complete closure).

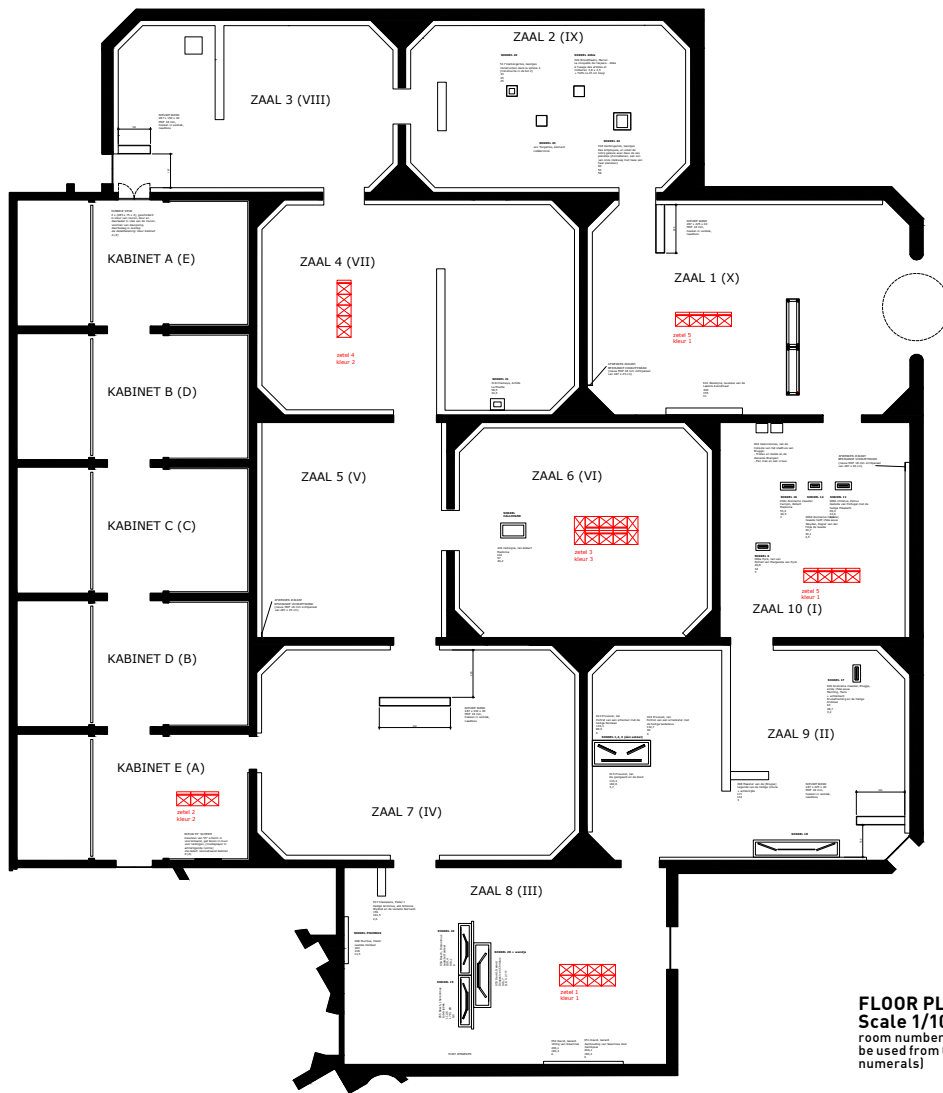
More about the refurbishment

Views of the entrance hall + museum shop



Floor plan of the entrance hall + museum shop





**FLOOR PLAN GROENINGEMUSEUM
Scale 1/100**

room numbers as they are today, in brackets the room numbers that will be used from 01.02.2020 onwards (to avoid confusion, these are in Roman numerals)

Adaptations to the content:

- Reversing the course
- Spreading the number of crowd-pullers
- 2 halls for neoclassicism
- Room 1 (X) becomes a semi-permanent room
- More artworks placed in 3D
- All Flemish primitives get new glass/acrylate and suspension system

IMAGES IN HIGH RESOLUTION

Images to promote this exhibition/museum can be downloaded via the following link:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/museabrugge/albums>

Please mention the correct credits to be found with each photo.

MORE INFO

All arrangements can be made via the press officer of Musea Brugge,
sarah.bauwens@brugge.be or t +32 50 44 87 08.

Press visits to the exhibitions are possible with an appointment: see under the heading 'pers' (press) on the website www.museabrugge.be.

The press file can be consulted online, and texts can be copied via www.museabrugge.be, under the heading 'pers'.

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Thank you for your cooperation and interest.

Vrienden van Musea Brugge thank their special benefactors

