

# THE HUNTERIAN



## The Hunterian at Kelvin Hall

Re-defining the University Museum for the 21st Century



University  
of Glasgow



# The Hunterian – one of Scotland’s greatest cultural assets

**T**he Hunterian, with over 1.3 million objects in its collections, is one of the world’s leading university museums and galleries. A cultural asset with international reach, The Hunterian supports the University in delivering excellent research, in providing an excellent student experience and in extending its global reach and reputation.

In partnership with Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Life and the National Library of Scotland, the University of Glasgow is now transforming one of Glasgow’s landmark buildings, Kelvin Hall, into a centre of excellence for the study of historic collections and visual arts with those of The Hunterian at its very heart.

**Front cover (clockwise from top left):**

Hunterian Museum main hall, c. 1891.  
Allan Ramsay, *William Hunter*, c. 1764.  
Charles Rennie Mackintosh, *The Little Bay, Port Vendres*, 1927.  
Artist’s impression of the new Kelvin Hall.  
Specimen of Azurite.  
William Stuart, *Interior of the first Hunterian Museum with the statue of James Watt*, c. 1850.

**Opposite (clockwise from top left):**

Ferdinand Verbiest, *Chinese Map of the World* (detail), c. 1674.  
George Stubbs, *The Moose*, 1770.  
Frontage of the first Hunterian Museum of 1807, c. 1870.  
William Hunter’s surgical instruments.  
Birds’ eggs.

# The Hunterian Collections

O

**ur collections** are a tangible and internationally renowned legacy of the Enlightenment. Hunterian founder, Dr William Hunter, was a man of science, art and letters. Working at the epicentre of eighteenth century intellectual circles, Hunter used his wealth and networks to create one of the most important natural science and cultural collections of his day. Successive generations have added to them significantly, with new acquisitions supporting the development of the University of Glasgow as one of the world's major centres for collections based research and teaching. Today The Hunterian collections include scientific instruments used by James Watt, Joseph Lister and Lord Kelvin; outstanding Roman artefacts from the Antonine Wall; major natural and life sciences holdings; Hunter's extensive anatomical teaching collection; one of the world's greatest numismatic collections; impressive ethnographic objects from Captain Cook's Pacific voyages and a major art collection including the world's largest permanent display of the work of James McNeill Whistler, the largest single holding of the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and The Mackintosh House, the reassembled interiors from his Glasgow home.

**Opposite (clockwise from top left):**  
Science Showcase display, Hunterian Museum.  
Dire Wolf skeleton.  
Jemima Blackburn, *Moving the Contents of the Old College Museum*, 1870.  
Interior of the old Kelvin Hall.  
Roman drain cover, c. 142-43 AD.



## Kelvin Hall

K

**elvin Hall** was first built in 1901 for the Glasgow International Exhibition at Kelvingrove Park. A wooden structure, it burned down in 1925. The Kelvin Hall we know today was designed by Scottish Architect Thomas Gilchrist Gilmour and built in 1926/27. Over the years it has staged international exhibitions and sports meetings, been the home of a Christmas Carnival and Circus and the location of Glasgow's Transport Museum. With the opening in recent years of the Emirates sports Arena and Riverside Museum, housing the City's transport collections, Kelvin Hall is now being redeveloped for the cultural heritage needs of the twenty-first century.

# The Hunterian at Kelvin Hall



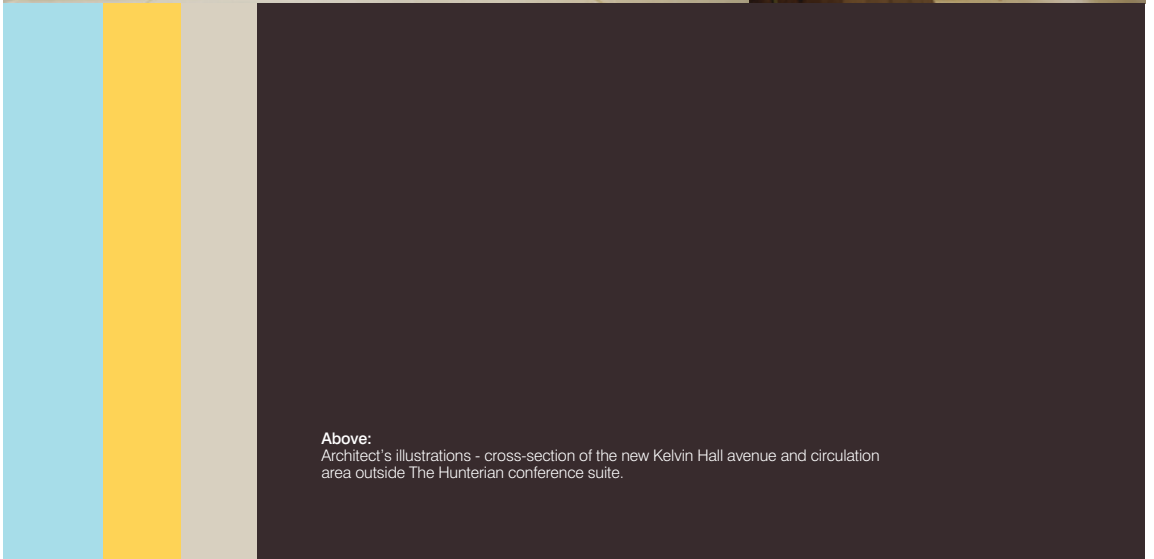
Above:  
Artist's impression of the new Kelvin Hall



# S

**ince opening** its doors to the public in 1807 as one of the first purpose built museums in the world and the oldest in Scotland, The Hunterian has been changing and evolving. The succession of relocations from London to Glasgow at the beginning of the nineteenth century, from the centre of the city to the new University of Glasgow campus on Gilmorehill in 1870, together with the multiple venue developments of the twentieth century, have all enabled greater use of collections for research, teaching and learning. Kelvin Hall, the next stage of our evolution, provides exciting opportunities for new growth and change. The planned Hunterian facilities and co-location of university, civic and national cultural heritage partners at Kelvin Hall will not only forge new academic and educational practice around historic collections, but also create a new cultural destination for Scotland and the UK.





**Above:**  
Architect's illustrations - cross-section of the new Kelvin Hall avenue and circulation area outside The Hunterian conference suite.





# Kelvin Hall – Phase 1

**F**unding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the partners has been secured to create centralised storage for more than one million of The Hunterian's study objects and specimens. This will serve a purpose-designed Collections Study Centre, fostering innovative object-based research, teaching and learning for a wide educational audience. An expanded and trans-disciplinary collections-based curriculum, combining innovation in curatorial theory and practice, will be delivered in state-of-the-art teaching and conference suites. A new academy for cultural and heritage skills will offer next-generation and in-service training, together with continuing professional development to the museum and cultural heritage sectors, nationally and internationally.

To develop collaborative research activity and public programming around multiple collections, The Hunterian is partnering in the Kelvin Hall development with Glasgow Museums, which will house more than 400,000 history, archaeology, ethnographic and design objects at Kelvin Hall, including the Mackintosh tearooms; and with the Scottish Screen Archive of the National Library for Scotland, with its 100 years of Scottish history on film and video. The site will also be shared with a Glasgow Club, which will continue to offer sports facilities.

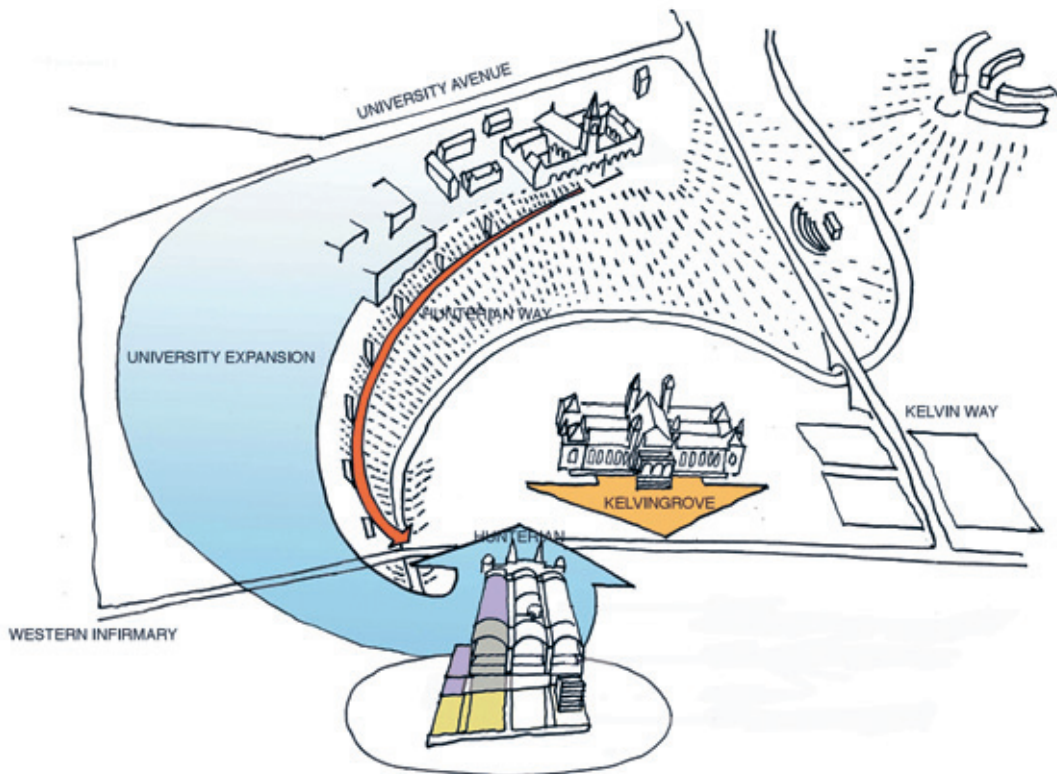
The Hunterian's existing public galleries (Museums, Art Gallery and The Mackintosh House) will remain on the University campus where they are currently. Kelvin Hall Phase 1 will open at the end of 2016.

## Phase 2 – the longer term vision

**T**he partners are currently considering options, subject to further fundraising, to create new public exhibition and visual arts spaces at Kelvin Hall in a second phase of development. Kelvin Hall Phase 2 would provide the opportunity to connect the centralised storage and the Collections Study Centre with expanded exhibition galleries in a new Hunterian at Kelvin Hall. Exploiting the street presence of its new location, The Hunterian would be re-established as a leading Glasgow visitor attraction offering a considerably enriched visitor and student experience. Co-location of the new Hunterian with expanded facilities for the University's Special Collections and Archives, would create a vibrant research and learning environment for staff, students and visiting scholars. The longer term vision for Kelvin Hall is to create one of the world's leading centres for the study of historic and visual culture.

With Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum opposite and Riverside Museum nearby, Kelvin Hall offers the opportunity to build a new cultural quarter in the west end of the city of Glasgow. Kelvin Hall Phase 2 would enable the partners to stage international exhibitions and create a world class multiple museum attraction. For the University of Glasgow the close alignment of Kelvin Hall and the Western Infirmary expansion will form a gateway to the new University and cement the 'Campus in the City' vision.





**Opposite:**

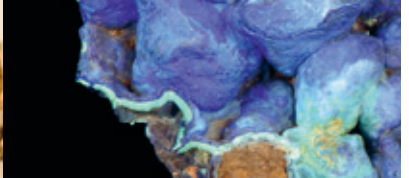
Object handling in the Hunterian Museum.  
 Antonine Wall display, Hunterian Museum.

**Above:**

The new Kelvin Hall in relation to Kelvingrove and the University of Glasgow campus.

**Back cover (clockwise from top left):**

Lord Kelvin's Binnacle Compass Bowl, c. 1876.  
 The present day Hunterian Museum.  
 Hunterian Museum entrance hall, c.1891.  
 Peter Paul Rubens, *Head of an Old Man*, c. 1609 -10.  
 Specimen of Azurite.  
 Working with scientific instruments in the Hunterian Museum.  
 Architect's impression of the new Kelvin Hall corridor.



# The Hunterian

University of Glasgow  
Gilbert Scott Building  
University Avenue  
Glasgow  
G12 8QQ

[www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian)

Design by [www.cactushq.com](http://www.cactushq.com). © The Hunterian, University of Glasgow.  
The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401

