

For discussion on  
12 May 2014

## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON HOME AFFAIRS**

### **Expansion and Renovation of the Hong Kong Museum of Art**

#### **PURPOSE**

This paper invites Members' support for the proposed expansion and renovation of the Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMA).

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. In October 2010, the Government announced a package of measures to enhance the accountability, operation and services of public museums under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). One of the measures was to set up a Museum Advisory Panel (MAP), comprising museum experts, academics, marketing professionals and community leaders, for each of the art, history and science streams of museums. The three MAPs provide advice on the respective museums' positioning and strategies for business development, programming, branding, marketing and community involvement. In considering the positioning of the HKMA, the Art Museum Advisory Panel (AMAP) advised that there was an urgent need to upgrade and expand the aging facilities of the HKMA to enhance its capacity in promoting Hong Kong art and facilitate its long-term development as one of the important art museums in the region.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

3. Having regard to the AMAP's recommendation, the Government proceeds to plan for the expansion and renovation of the HKMA. Following detailed discussions at the AMAP and extensive consultation with the art sector and the community, LCSD proposes that the project should seek to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) To expand the exhibition space of the HKMA and upgrade its existing facilities with a view to strengthening its positioning in the promotion of Hong Kong art and in showcasing the best of antiquarian and classical art from the Mainland and other parts of the world; and
- (b) To enhance the accessibility and visibility of the HKMA so as to better connect the museum with its surrounding and to revitalize it as a prominent cultural landmark in Tsim Sha Tsui (TST) waterfront.

## **PROJECT SCOPE**

4. The project will increase the exhibition space of the HKMA by over 40% and upgrade its existing facilities to modern-day standards, foster a stronger interaction and connection between the indoor and outdoor facilities of the HKMA, and improve the accessibility, visibility and user-friendliness of the museum and its ancillary facilities. Specifically, the project will:

### Exhibition Galleries

- (a) provide two new galleries, one on the rooftop (900 square meters ( $\text{m}^2$ )), and one in a new annex block with double-ceiling height ( $1\,400\text{ m}^2$ );
- (b) convert the existing reception lobby on the first floor into a multi-function hall ( $700\text{ m}^2$ ) for holding thematic exhibitions and cultural events;
- (c) refurbish and refit four existing galleries on the second, third and fourth floors to upgrade the exhibition facilities;

### Ancillary Facilities

- (d) relocate the reception lobby from the first floor to the ground floor with a canopy entrance to enhance the visibility and accessibility of the museum;
- (e) relocate and upgrade the museum restaurant and bookshop to provide quality food and beverage as well as merchandizing services;

- (f) refurbish the curatorial office and other supporting facilities, e.g. loading bay, Building Management Office, security room, etc.;
- (g) convert the existing gallery on the first floor into a collection store;

#### External Facilities and Open Space

- (h) re-clad the entire museum façades with modern architectural features;
- (i) provide four entrances to enable visitors to access the museum from different directions;
- (j) provide a new staircase from the ground floor to the new entrance on the first floor facing the waterfront to capture the intensive flow of pedestrians between the Avenue of Stars and Hong Kong Cultural Centre (HKCC) Piazza;
- (k) re-design the open space surrounding the museum into an “Art Corridor” to enable greater interaction between the indoor and outdoor spaces; and
- (l) develop a new signage system with a unique visual identity and branding.

The site plan is at **Enclosure 1**. The floor plans and a sectional plan are at **Enclosures 2 to 6**. Artist’s impressions of the building are at **Enclosure 7**. Site photos depicting existing views of the HKMA are at **Enclosure 8**.

### **JUSTIFICATIONS**

5. The HKMA at TST was opened in 1991. No major renovation has been carried out since its opening and most of the facilities are aging and fall short of the modern-day requirements. For instance, the existing gallery ceiling height is too low to accommodate large scale works and is not spacious enough for displaying large contemporary artwork items. The availability of new and refurbished gallery space will strengthen the HKMA’s capacity to stage more world-class art exhibitions and to promote local art. Details of the project and their benefits are elaborated in the ensuing paragraphs.

## **(A) Expansion and Upgrading of Museum Facilities**

6. In recent years, the major museums of LCSD including HKMA have undergone a phase of strong growth and rapid development, as evidenced by the increasing number and scale of the exhibitions presented as well as a 36% increase in the number of visitors from 4.5 million in 2010 to 6.13 million in 2013. From 2010 to 2013, the HKMA has organized six blockbuster exhibitions, five of which<sup>1</sup> have taken up more than one exhibition gallery. At present, the HKMA provides a total of 7 080 m<sup>2</sup> gallery space to feature its own collections and present thematic exhibitions. Due to the insufficient space in the museum, permanent galleries have been converted temporarily to feature thematic blockbuster exhibitions, thus affecting the permanent display of the works of local artists. To create more exhibition space, it is proposed to add a new annex block and a rooftop gallery to the museum building, and to convert the reception lobby on the first floor into a multi-function hall for holding exhibitions and other functions, thereby increasing the exhibition space by 42%, from 7 080 m<sup>2</sup> to 10 073 m<sup>2</sup>, comprising two new galleries and a multi-function hall as set out in paragraph 4(a) and (b) above.

7. The existing HKMA building uses the same materials and colour scheme as those of the HKCC Complex. Such design has the unintended effect of subsuming the HKMA as part of the HKCC Complex, thus compromising the identity and visibility of the museum. The AMAP holds a strong view that the colour scheme of the museum walls should be changed to project a unique and iconic image for the museum. To enhance its visibility, accessibility, customer orientation and branding, we propose to facelift the museum architecturally and aesthetically by adopting a new façade cladding system compatible with the new features and additions of the future HKMA. Moreover, a transparent building design comprising a reception lobby with a glass corridor, glazed façade at the annex block building, a glazed façade for the new rooftop gallery and a glass façade at the southern side of the main building, will be adopted. The glass façade will also open up the public lobbies on the second, third and fourth floor of the main building, offering an unobstructed view of the harbour on these floors. These features, together with the artistic installations on the museum façades, will enable the renovated HKMA to stand out on the waterfront, thereby

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<sup>1</sup> They include 'Hong Kong Contemporary Art Biennial Awards 2009' (May - August 2010), 'Imperishable Affection: The Art of Feng Zikai' (May - October 2012), 'Andy Warhol: 15 Minutes Eternal' (December 2012 - April 2013), 'The Origin of Dao: New Dimensions in Chinese Contemporary Art' (May - August 2013) and 'Hong Kong Contemporary Art Awards 2012' (July 2013 - July 2014).



creating a unique identity when viewed from the Salisbury Road and the other side of the Victoria Harbour.

8. The existing café and bookshop, located on the first floor of HKMA, are not easily accessible by the public and are underutilized. Overseas experience suggests that the provision of quality food and beverages at a museum is highly beneficial to its brand building, better serves its visitors and enhances vibrancy of the museum and its vicinity. To this end, we will improve the accessibility of the restaurant by providing a new and separate entrance to the first floor. Customers will be able to enjoy the fabulous view of the harbour through its glazed façade. The alfresco dining facilities of the café on the ground floor will also enhance the vibrancy of the waterfront, while the bookshop, which will be relocated to the ground floor, will provide museum related merchandise and souvenirs befitting the image of HKMA.

### **(B) Sharpening the Museum's Focus on Hong Kong Art**

9. The prime purpose of the expansion project is to sharpen the HKMA's positioning and focus on Hong Kong art, and to enhance its capacity in supporting local art and artists. These objectives will be achieved through the following measures:

#### Hong Kong Art Gallery

10. The Hong Kong Art Gallery, which was redeployed in the late 1990's for the increasing number of thematic exhibitions, will be re-instated for staging exhibitions on Hong Kong art. Solo exhibitions for renowned Hong Kong artists will be organized on a regular basis to showcase their achievements.

#### Hong Kong Contemporary Art Gallery

11. A new Hong Kong Contemporary Art Gallery will be provided to feature contemporary Hong Kong art exhibitions in collaboration with guest curators, artists, art groups and organizations using fresh curatorial perspectives, dynamic interactions and inspirations.

#### New Annex Gallery

12. A new, 9-meter high gallery will be provided on the ground floor of the new annex block building for staging contemporary art exhibitions

featuring works of Hong Kong artists with an experimental orientation. Monumental contemporary artworks that require double ceiling height space can be accommodated in this Gallery, which is going to be very different from the traditional white-cube gallery space. Moreover, the museum will collaborate with local emerging artists to create thematic and interactive exhibitions to connect art with daily life.

### Art Corridor

13. The existing Piazza in front of the HKMA will be transformed into an extension of the museum display, which will form part of an open art corridor leading from the Art Square in Salisbury Garden (opened in February 2014) to the HKCC Piazza, where Hong Kong artists' works will be displayed on a rotational basis. The public open space adjacent to the museum will evolve into a prime venue for various forms of cultural events including mini-concerts, performances, public art, interactive art and cultural programmes, spectacles and a rendezvous for the local and art communities.

### **(C) Enhancing Accessibility and Visibility**

14. Upon completion of the project, the HKMA will have a total of four entrances for the public to access the museum from different directions, thereby enhancing the accessibility of HKMA and the people flow at the TST waterfront. As mentioned in paragraph 7 above, a transparent building design will be adopted to enable the renovated HKMA to stand out on the waterfront and increase its visibility when viewed from Salisbury Road and the other side of the harbour. The Art Corridor, together with the Art Square in Salisbury Garden, will provide an active open space for arts and cultural events and enhance the vibrancy of the waterfront. Finally, the at-grade pedestrian crossing on Salisbury Road (linking the Peninsula Hotel and the Hong Kong Space Museum), to be reinstated in mid-2014<sup>2</sup>, will greatly enhance the connectivity between Nathan Road/Salisbury Road and the HKMA/the waterfront. The location of the at-grade pedestrian crossing is shown at **Enclosure 9**.

15. The harbour view commanded by the restaurant, the alfresco dining facilities of the café, together with the lively exhibitions and activities to be held at the annex building after normal museum hours, will enliven the atmosphere of the TST waterfront and increase its

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<sup>2</sup> The new pedestrian crossing will be completed under a project steered by the Transport Department.

vibrancy in the evening.

16. The HKMA expansion and renovation project will form part of LCSD's longer term plan to revitalize its cultural and leisure facilities on the TST waterfront, subject to resources availability. The envisaged holistic revitalization of the TST waterfront would also cover the eastern part of the Salisbury Garden and the Avenue of Stars, and the renovation of HKCC and its piazzas in the longer run. Collaboration with other stakeholders such as the private sector, is expected to be necessary in order to re-shape the TST waterfront into a vibrant cultural and tourist destination in Hong Kong.

17. The enhanced programming of the HKMA with more world-class exhibitions and displays of local art talents' works will not only draw the people of Hong Kong but also many visitors from around the world. Coupled with its new iconic outlook and the renovated open spaces in its surrounding, the HKMA will become a cultural attraction and provide alternative experience for the museum visitors.

## **MUSEUM PROGRAMMES DURING CLOSURE**

18. To ensure that the renovation works can be completed within the shortest possible period, the HKMA will be closed for about three years during which its collections and staff will be relocated off-site. During the renovation period, the museum will continue with its business and activities in other venues and through online and offline forums to maintain its presence and connection with the public.

19. To continue with the effort to promote Hong Kong art and artists during its closure, the HKMA has reserved the Exhibition Gallery of the Heritage Discovery Centre in Kowloon Park for staging exhibitions, talks and discussions on Hong Kong art. Besides, it will use other exhibition venues managed by LCSD, such as those at the Hong Kong City Hall and Hong Kong Central Library, to showcase the HKMA's collections on Hong Kong art. The HKMA will be able to maintain its presence at the TST waterfront by displaying artworks of local artists at the Art Square in the Salisbury Garden.

20. The opportunity will also be taken by the HKMA staff to reach out to the community more systematically and frequently, and to strengthen its audience building efforts. Specifically, the HKMA will organise more art appreciation and art learning programmes in schools

and the community during its closure. It will present innovative educational programmes by engaging docents and art educators to give art talks and workshops in schools to deepen students' knowledge of art. The museum's website will be used to launch online interactive or animated art appreciation programmes in collaboration with educational institutions.

21. The HKMA plans to set up a Hong Kong Art Research Portal in collaboration with local tertiary and research institutions to take stock of existing researches on Hong Kong art and to join up the relevant databases through a common archival index to facilitate public access. The HKMA will also conduct a series of researches on the Hong Kong art history and share the results with the public and researchers through forums, publications, online databases, etc. The research output will also provide a solid foundation for formulating the programming and collection directions on Hong Kong art upon the re-opening of the museum.

## **INTERFACE WITH M+**

22. The positioning of the expanded HKMA would not duplicate or compete with M+, the museum being developed on the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). Taking into consideration the views expressed by the AMAP and the stakeholders in the art community, the key differences in the positioning of the HKMA and M+ are as follows:

- (a) M+ focuses on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century visual culture, encompassing art, architecture, design and moving image, while the HKMA covers a much longer time period in art history, ranging from the classical to the contemporary period. In terms of genres, the HKMA showcases traditional paintings and calligraphies, historical pictures and antiquities. For instance, the HKMA has permanent galleries dedicated to rotating exhibitions on its collection of Chinese antiquities, traditional Chinese paintings and calligraphy, historical pictures as well as its Xubaizhai collection, a rich body of ancient Chinese paintings from the Ming and Yuan Dynasties. Through collaboration with private collectors and overseas museums, the HKMA presents thematic exhibitions on classical works and masterpieces of the antiquarian to modern period from around the world, like ancient Egyptian art, Impressionism, cultural relics from the Mainland and around the world, many of which are dated before 20th and

21st century;

- (b) M+ collects and presents Hong Kong art with a target to document the past, inform the present and contribute to the future of visual culture within an ever more interconnected global landscape, while the HKMA targets at presenting the historical development of Hong Kong art in its own right and in the context of Hong Kong's art development; and
  - (c) M+ positions itself as a world class museum that develops content from a Hong Kong perspective, with a global vision, extending out towards the rest of the Mainland, Asia and beyond, while the HKMA positions itself as an important regional museum with a Hong Kong focus complemented by international artistic trends and dialogues.
23. Representatives from both the Home Affairs Bureau and LCSD sit on the Museum Committee of the WKCD Authority, which is responsible for overseeing the development, management and operation of M+. In addition, the M+ team and the management of the LCSD museums have been maintaining close dialogue to coordinate on the loaning of collections between the museums and to avoid unnecessary repetition in collecting or competition for acquiring the same artworks through exchanging information on their respective collections and acquisition proposals. The teams will continue to coordinate on the theme, period and activities of future museum exhibitions and further explore cooperation initiatives with a view to fostering the development of visual culture in Hong Kong.
24. Subject to the Finance Committee (FC)'s approval, the expansion and renovation of the HKMA will take place between end 2014 and end 2017, while M+ will be under construction for opening by end 2017. In this regard, the AMAP and the local art community are firmly of the view that there is a great urgency for the HKMA to upgrade and expand the facilities of the HKMA to enable it to fulfill its mission of promoting and supporting Hong Kong art. LCSD will continue to maintain close liaison with the WKCD Authority to ensure that the positioning and programming of the HKMA and M+ are complementary.

## **PROJECT ESTIMATE AND TIME SCHEDULE**

25. The estimated cost of the project is \$889 million in money-of-the-day price. We plan to make a submission to the Public Works Sub-Committee (PWSC) and FC of LegCo in June 2014 for funding approval. Subject to FC's funding approval, construction works will commence in end 2014. It is expected that the works will be completed in late 2017.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

26. The AMAP has discussed the proposed project at various meetings in 2011, 2013 and 2014 respectively. Members expressed strong support for the project, and urged for its early implementation. LCSD has also consulted the District Facilities Management Committee of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council and the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing of the Harbourfront Commission in 2013 and 2014. They all supported the proposal. We also submitted an application to the Town Planning Board (TPB) for the minor relaxation of the building height restriction of HKMA on 9 July 2013. The TPB granted the approval on 27 September 2013 subject to the conditions that comments from TPB should be incorporated into the development proposal (e.g. landscape and fire service proposals).

27. In early 2014, a series of consultation meetings were conducted to gauge the views of various stakeholders in the art community on the architectural design and closure programme plan for the HKMA. LCSD's Museum Expert Advisers and representatives of art organizations, art and academic institutions and art spaces have also been consulted. There was strong support for the project.

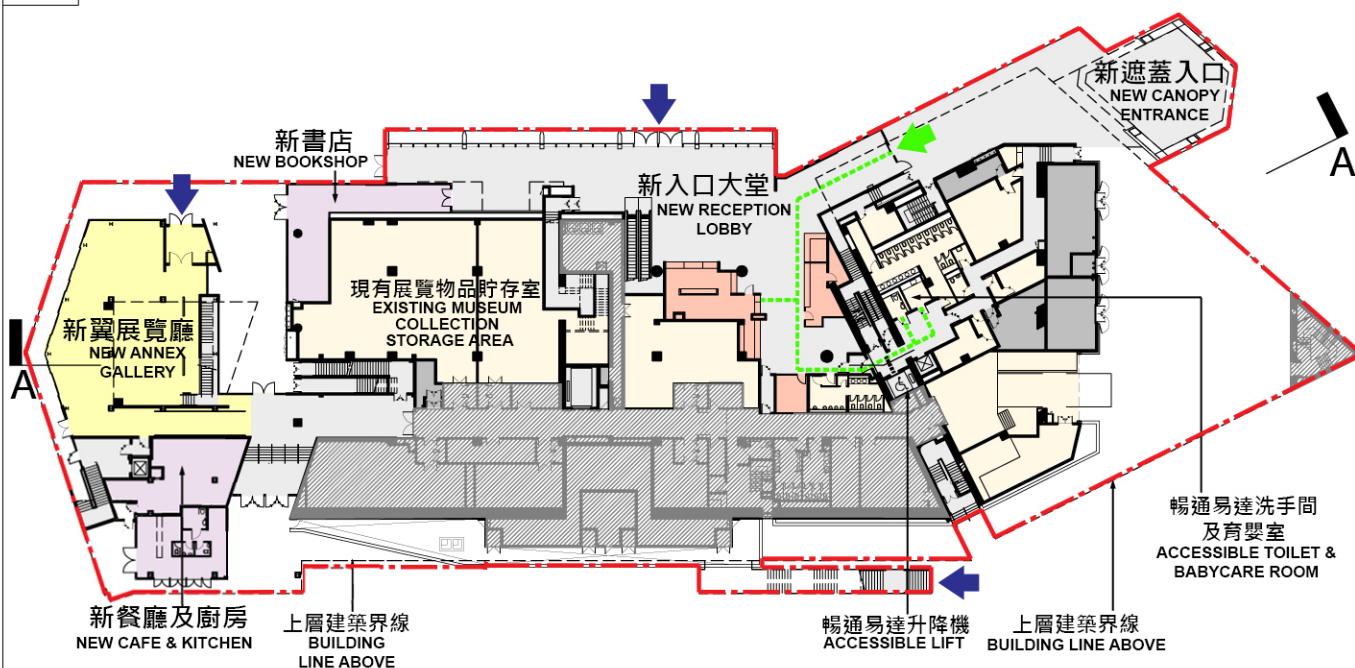
## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

28. Members are invited to note and support the proposed expansion and renovation of the HKMA. The proposal will be submitted to the PWSC and FC in June 2014 for consideration.

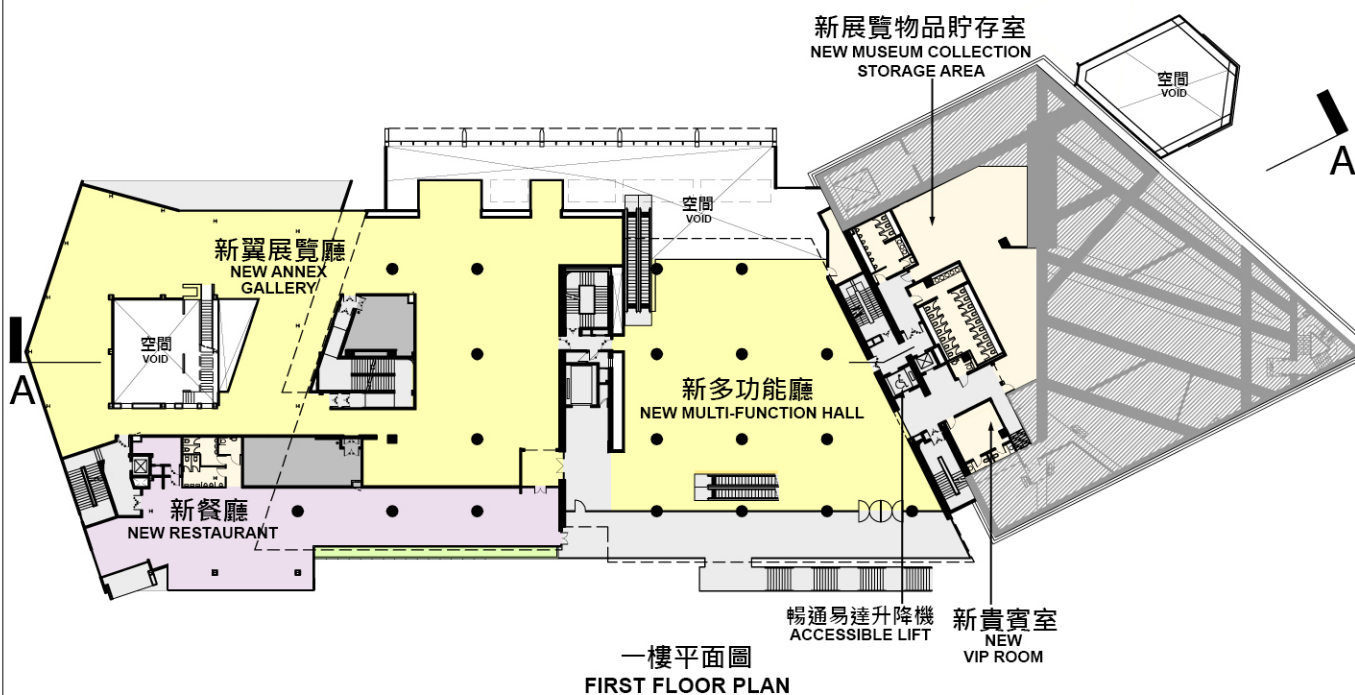
Home Affairs Bureau  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
April 2014







地下平面圖  
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



一樓平面圖  
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

圖例 LEGEND

展覽廳 / 多功能廳 GALLERY / MULTI-FUNCTION HALL	通道 / 大堂 CIRCULATION / LOBBY	玻璃簷篷 GLASS CANOPY	工地界線 SITE BOUNDARY
貯存室 / 廁所 STORE ROOM / TOILET	機房 PLANT ROOM	行人出入口 PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE/ EXIT	
餐廳 / 書店 RESTAURANT / BOOKSHOP	綠化平台 LANDSCAPED DECK	無障礙出入口 BARRIER-FREE ENTRANCE/ EXIT	
職員專用範圍 AREA FOR STAFF	非改建範圍 NON-RENOVATED AREA	無障礙通道 BARRIER-FREE ACCESS	

8m 0 16m

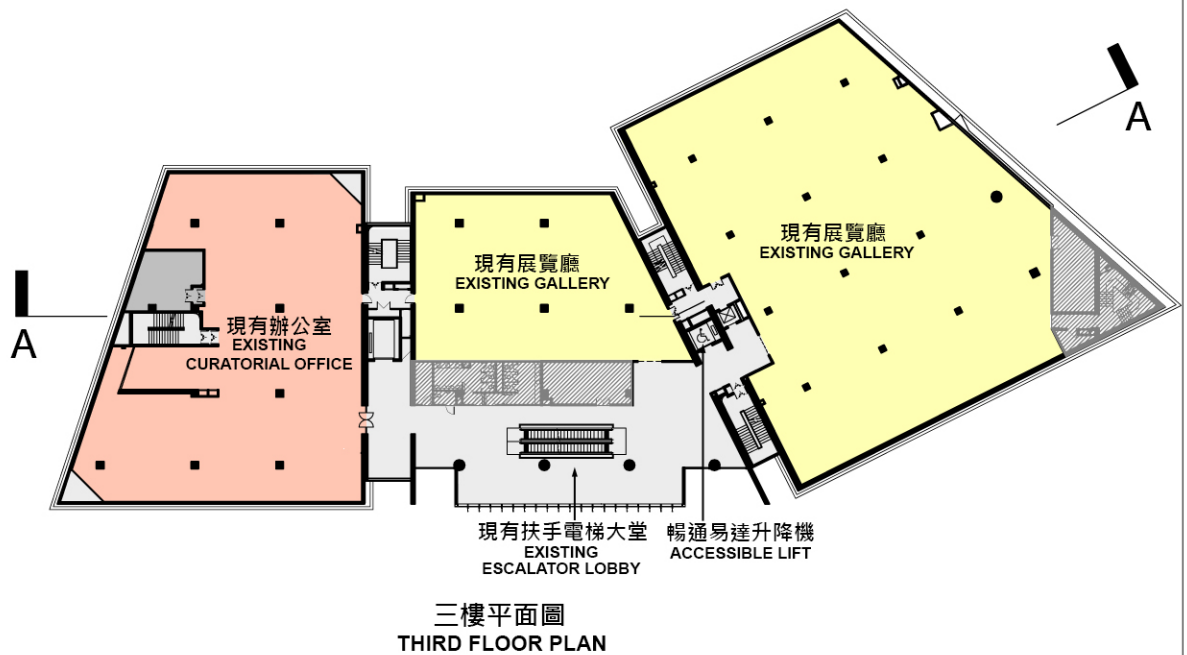
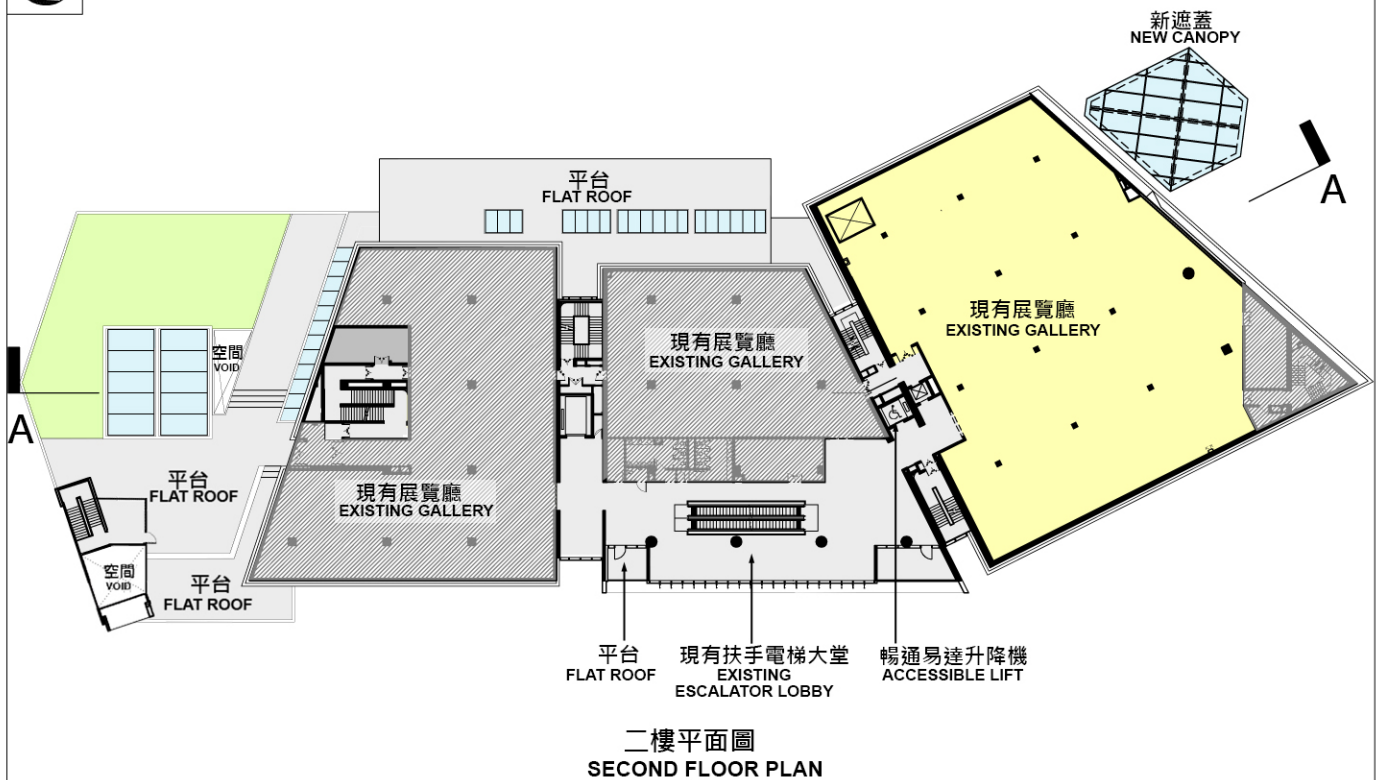
地下及一樓平面圖  
GROUND FLOOR  
PLAN & FIRST  
FLOOR PLAN

66RE  
香港藝術館擴建及修繕工程  
EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF  
THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART



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SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT 建築署





## 圖例 LEGEND

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 展覽廳<br>GALLERY                    | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 天窗 / 玻璃簷篷<br>SKYLIGHT / GLASS CANOPY   |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 職員專用範圍<br>AREA FOR STAFF          | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 綠化平台<br>LANDSCAPED DECK   |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgrey; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 通道 / 大堂<br>CIRCULATION / LOBBY | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background: repeating-linear-gradient(45deg, transparent, transparent 2px, black 2px, black 4px); border: 1px solid black;"></span> 非改建範圍<br>NON-RENOVATED AREA |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: darkgrey; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 機房<br>PLANT ROOM                |  |

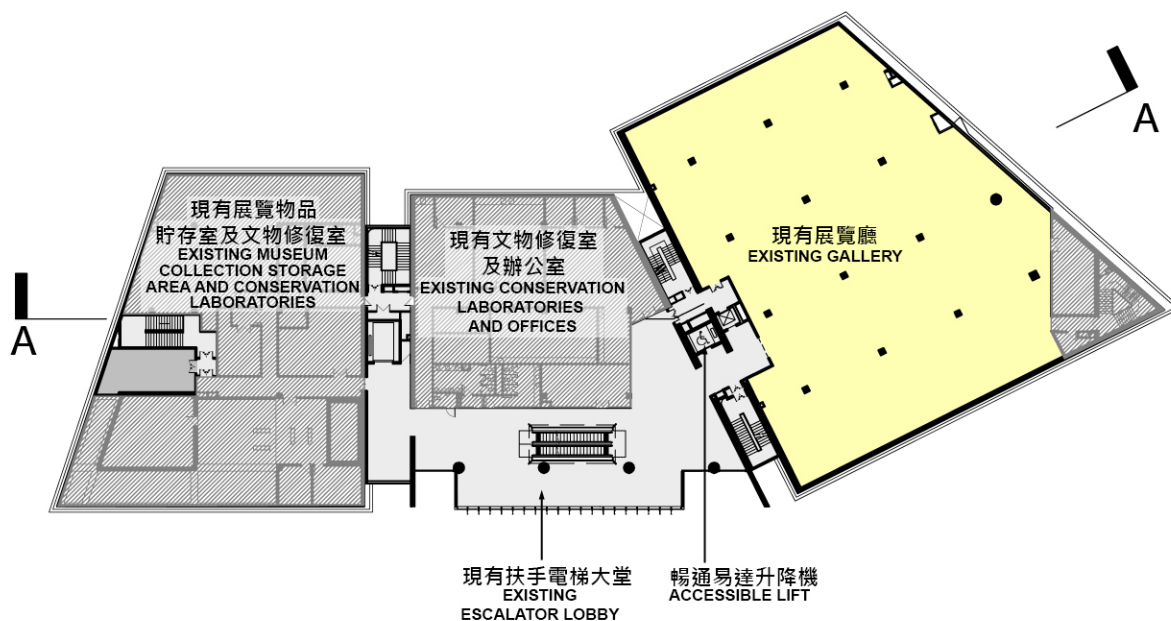
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二樓及三樓平面圖  
SECOND FLOOR  
PLAN & THIRD  
FLOOR PLAN

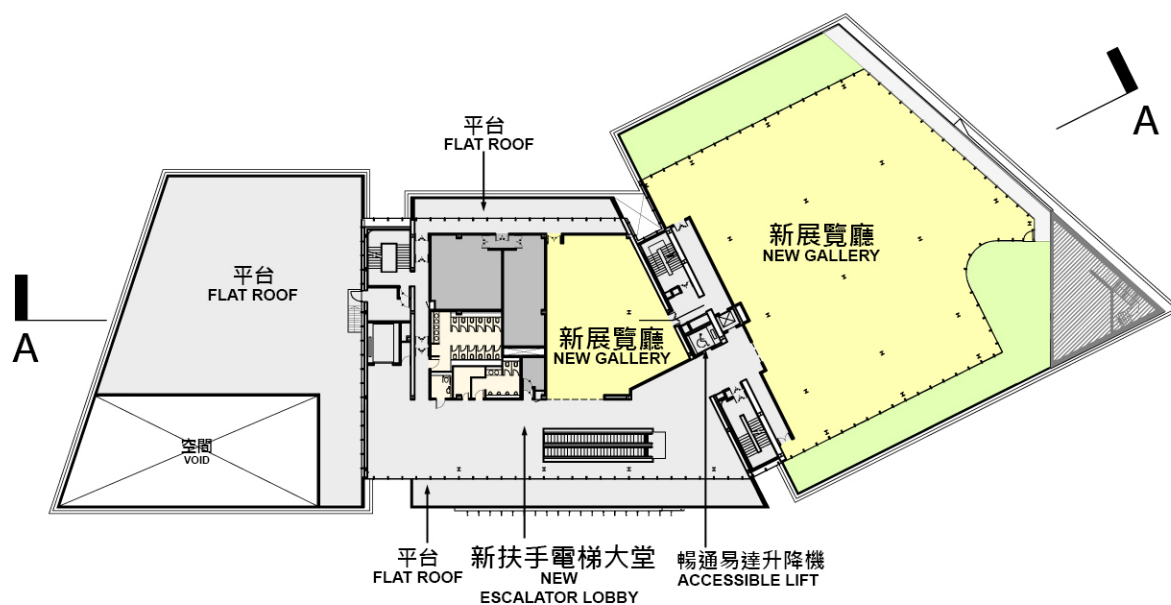
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香港藝術館擴建及修繕工程  
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四樓平面圖  
FOURTH FLOOR PLAN



五樓平面圖  
FIFTH FLOOR PLAN

圖例 LEGEND

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 展覽廳<br>GALLERY                  | 綠化平台<br>LANDSCAPED DECK     |
| 貯存室 / 廁所<br>STORE ROOM / TOILET | 非改建範圍<br>NON-RENOVATED AREA |
| 通道 / 大堂<br>CIRCULATION / LOBBY  |                             |
| 機房<br>PLANT ROOM                |                             |

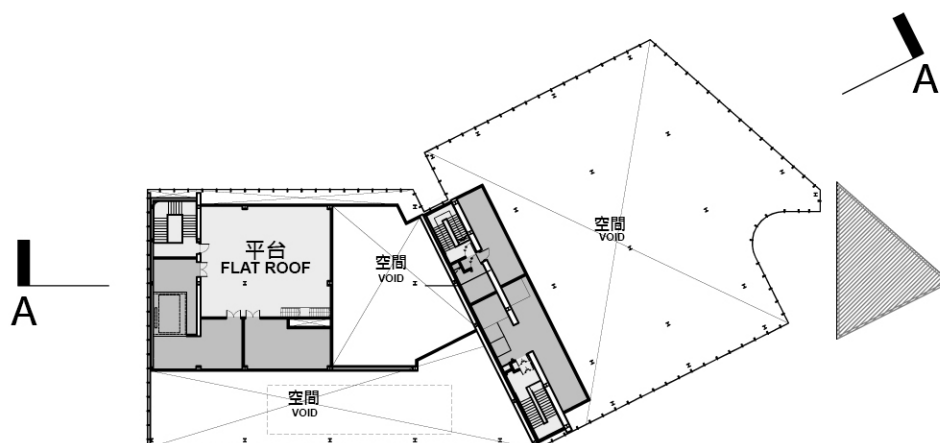
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四樓及五樓平面圖  
FOURTH FLOOR  
PLAN & FIFTH  
FLOOR PLAN

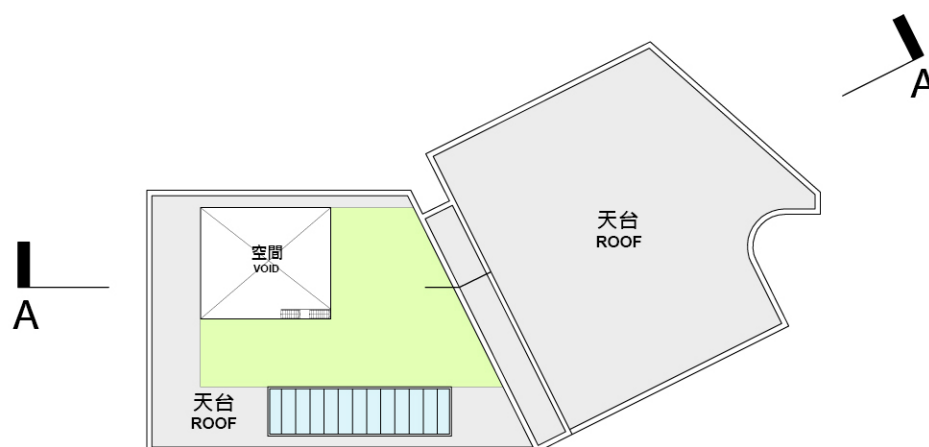
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五樓閣樓平面圖  
FIFTH MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN



天台平面圖  
ROOF FLOOR PLAN

圖例 LEGEND

- 通道 / 大堂  
CIRCULATION / LOBBY
- 機房  
PLANT ROOM
- 綠化平台  
LANDSCAPED DECK
- 天窗  
SKYLIGHT

- 非改建範圍  
NON-RENOVATED AREA

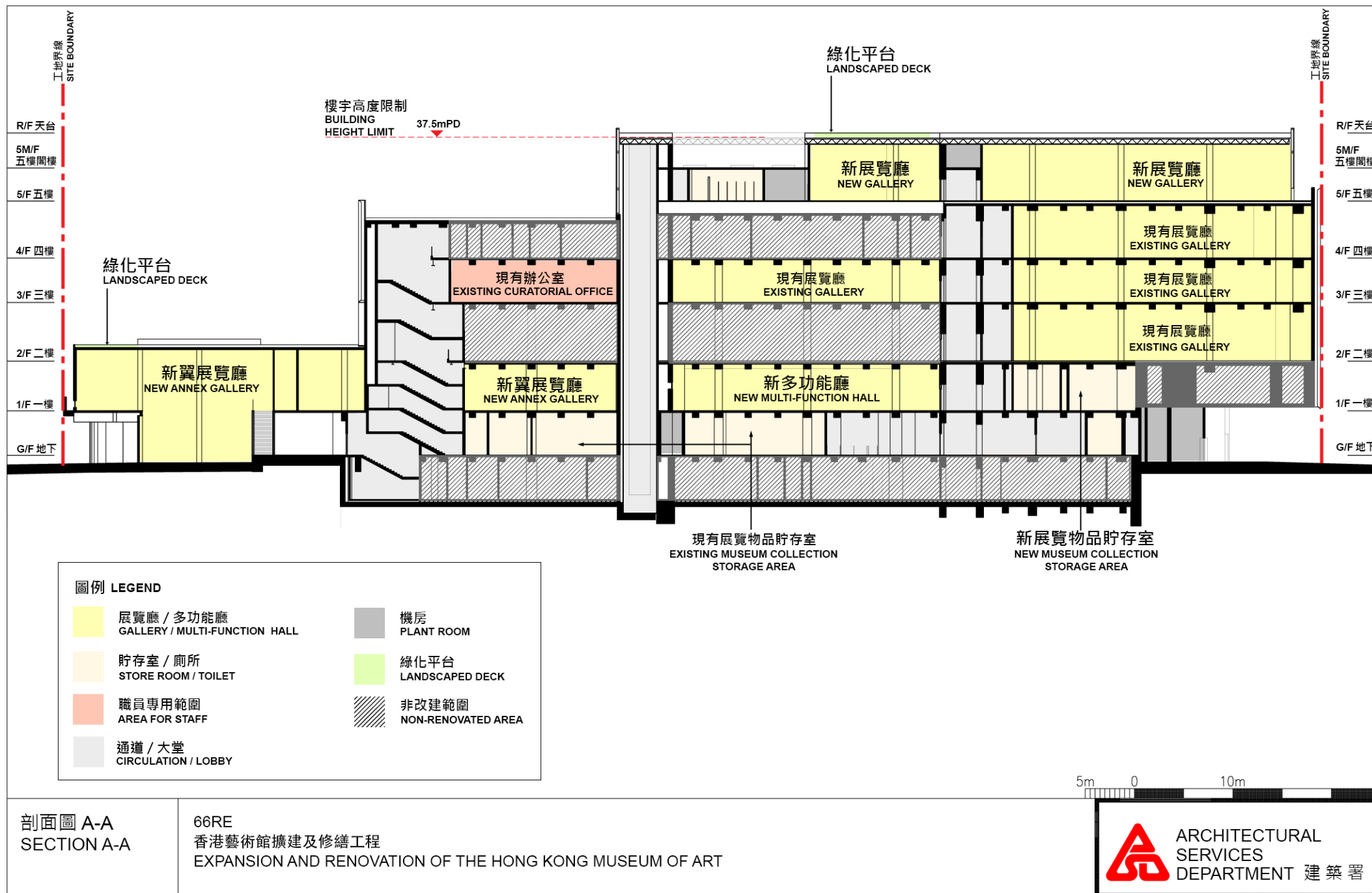
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五樓閣樓及天台平面圖  
FIFTH MEZZANINE  
FLOOR PLAN &  
ROOF FLOOR PLAN

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從東南面望向藝術館的構思透視圖  
PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM SOUTH EASTERN DIRECTION (ARTIST'S IMPRESSION)



從西南面望向藝術館的構思透視圖  
PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM SOUTH WESTERN DIRECTION (ARTIST'S IMPRESSION)

構思圖  
ARTIST'S  
IMPRESSIONS

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從東南面望向藝術館現貌

VIEW FROM SOUTH EASTERN DIRECTION (EXISTING MUSEUM)



從西南面望向藝術館現貌

VIEW FROM SOUTH WESTERN DIRECTION (EXISTING MUSEUM)

香港藝術館現貌照片  
SITE PHOTOS DEPICTING  
EXISTING VIEWS OF HONG  
KONG MUSEUM OF ART

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## 圖例 LEGEND

||||| 新設置地面行人過路處  
NEW AT-GRADE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

||||| 現有行人過路處  
EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

--- 工地界線  
SITE BOUNDARY

✱ 尖沙咀 / 尖東港鐵站出口  
TSIM SHA TSUI / EAST TSIM  
SHA TSUI MTR STATION EXIT

30m 0 60m

新設置地面行人過路處  
NEW AT-GRADE  
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

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