





The Team

Auckland Art Gallery owes its success to the commitment of the team involved in its development and also to the power of a design idea that inspired all involved to strive for the extraordinary.

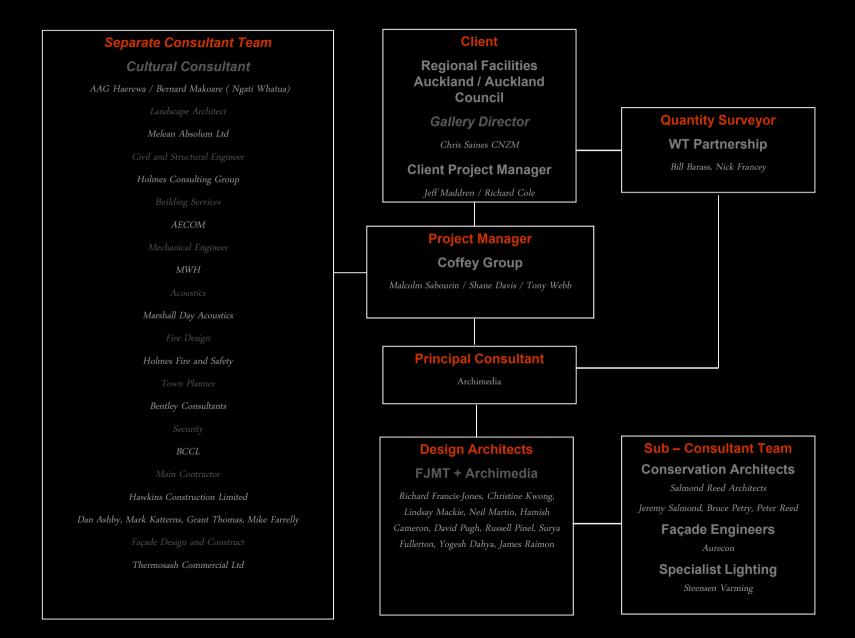
Fund Raising for the \$121m project was progressed on multiple fronts including Central Government (\$31.5m), Auckland Council (\$56m) and the Auckland Art Gallery Foundation, led by John Judge and assisted by Dame Jenny Gibbs and Dale Mace (target \$33.4m).

The Gallery Re-Development had an incomparable advocate in Gallery Director Chris Saines, whose vision, professionalism, eloquence and infectious enthusiasm motivated all involved to surmount the many obstacles the project faced.

I would like to acknowledge again the courage it took for those making decisions to fund this burgeoning undertaking without compromise – an attitude that distinguishes this project from many others in this country.

A project of this duration spans many political cycles and often projects are not opened by those who initiate them. I do not wish to focus too much on individuals, but I do wish to acknowledge the determination of Mayor John Banks, who refused to allow the project to be compromised in any way, and who was a very significant factor in its success.

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The original Gallery and Free Library, which opened in 1887 was the product of an architectural competition won by Melbourne architects, Grainger and D'Ebro.

Our Sydney - based joint venture partner Richard Francis Jones has often commented that despite this Melbourne lineage, the heritage building turned out quite well anyway. I am bound of course to say pretty much the same thing – that despite the involvement of Sydney architects, the new Gallery seems to have turned out pretty well anyway.

There followed a series of additions and re-modelling including the addition of the revolutionary "top - lit" "East Wing" in 1916 and the infilling of spaces between the various major structures that extended over 27 levels.

By the time I was an architecture student in the 1970's, practicing my sketching skills under the tutelage of artist Pat Hanly, the Main Entrance to the Gallery was through the elegantly seductive Edmiston Wing, a mansard – roofed modernist addition by City Architect Ewan Wainscott. It was quite a challenge to contemplate the demolition of this structure, its forecourt and cypress trees and its famous fountain.

Briefing for the re-development project began in 2009 and an international design competition was held in 2004.

The project ended up in the Environment Court and in the process, extended the project duration by almost three years, and as a result added approximately \$9m to its cost.

The Gallery opened in September 2011 after three years of construction.

In 2013, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki was named World Building of the Year at World Architecture Festival in Singapore, the first time a New Zealand building has been awarded this title. It makes one reflect on the Environment Court process and those who fought to prevent the building's realisation and constrain nits vision.

The Gallery has invested in durable materials and construction and we expect it to be around for another century and another architecture competition. $\bar{a} = m + a + i$

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The 11,500m2 stipulated in the brief as a maximum, grew during the design process to in excess of 14,500m2 of GFA – a 26% increase. This increase in area, achieved by greater excavation and the insertion of a mezzanine floor achieved significant benefit for the Gallery but also extended the budget and created much greater complexity.

Around the time of the new millennium, the role of the art museum changed dramatically.

Architecture was reinforced as a signifier for cultural capital and museums and other cultural institutions began to diversify their functions and lend their cultural legitimacy to state and corporate interests and also to programmes of urban renewal.

Architecture as spectacular sculptural object emerged.



But did this spectacular sculpture belong to its context?

FJMT+Archimedia's aspiration was to create a purely local architecture that expressed the identity of Aucklanders and New Zealanders, which responded specifically to this place, and which could only have occurred at this particular time.

We acknowledged the cultural agenda for the city and the country and so a fine balance had to be found – spectacular enough to satisfy the potential to enhance the institution internationally, and to promote Auckland and New Zealand on the global stage – yet still completely authentic and derived from the local – from people, place and time.

The new building is characterised by a series of fine 'tree-like' canopies that define and cover the entry forecourt, atrium and gallery areas.

These light, profiled forms are inspired by the adjacent canopy of pohutukawa trees and 'hover' over the stone walls and terraces that reinterpret the natural topography of the site.

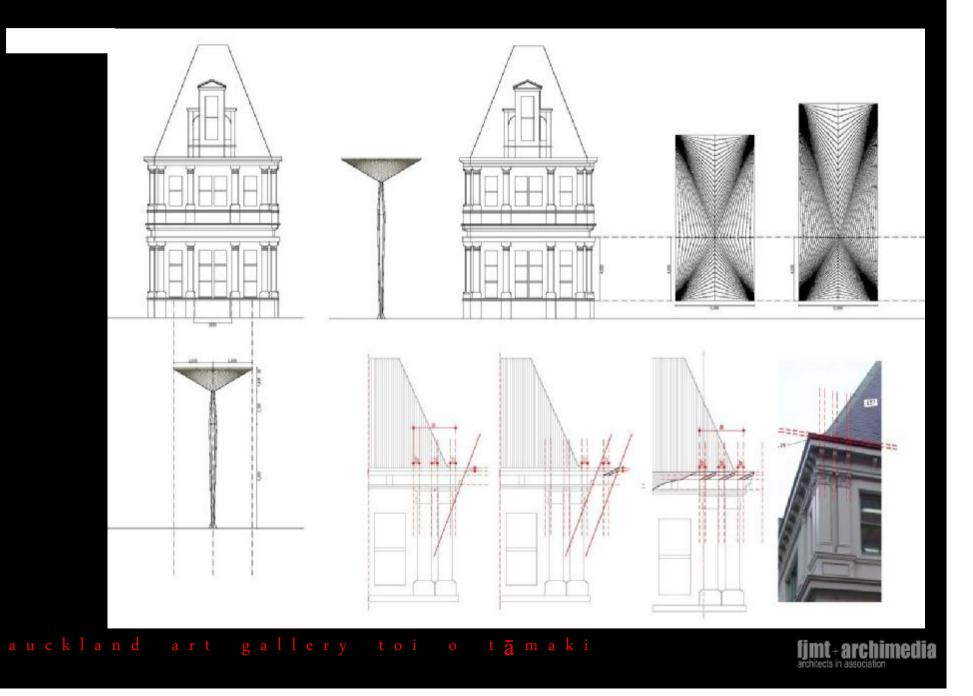
The canopies are assembled from carefully selected Kauri, profiled into precise geometric patterns and supported on slender and tapering shafts. They represent the pinnacle of craftsmanship fundamental to the creation of art.

These emblematic forms give the Gallery with a unique identity that is inspired by the natural landscape of the site and an architectural vocabulary so different from the adjacent heritage structures that they do not compete with each other, they complement each other.

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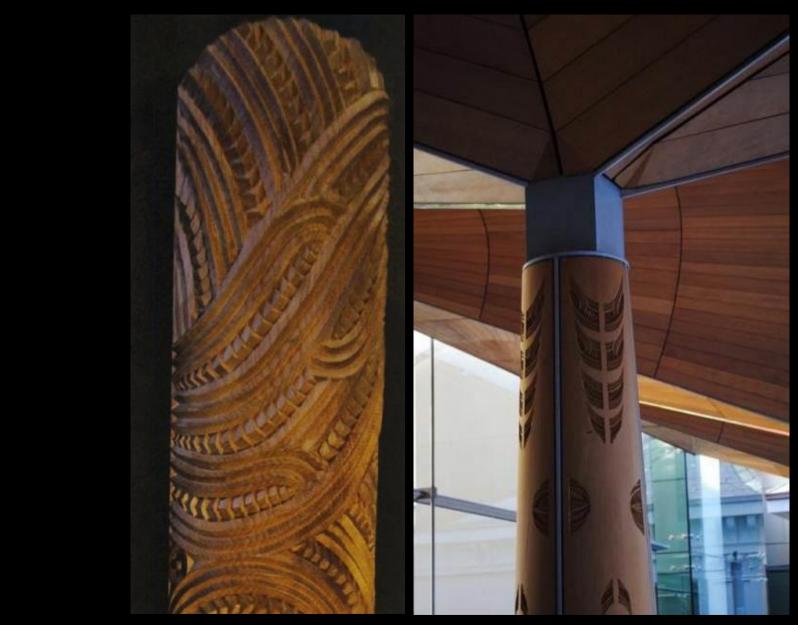




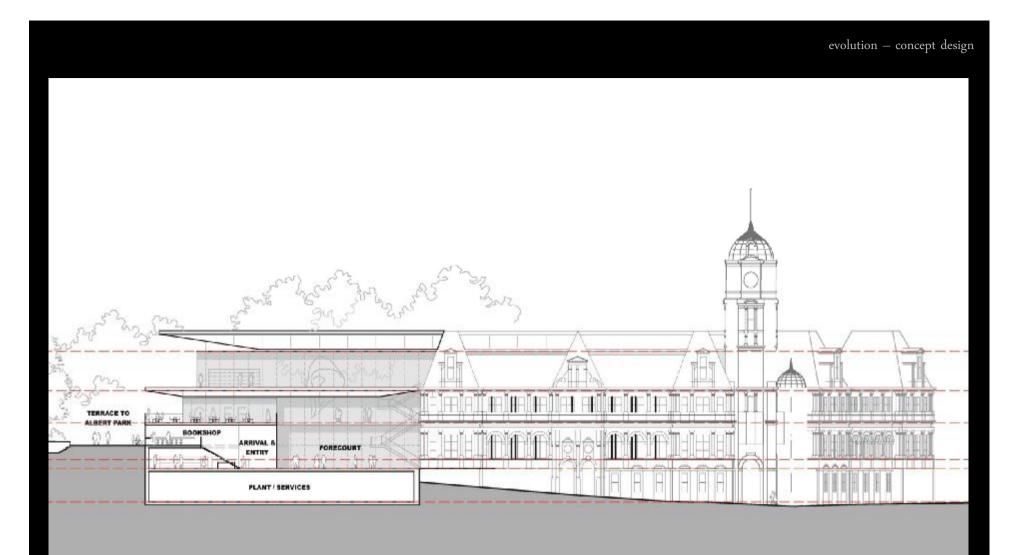
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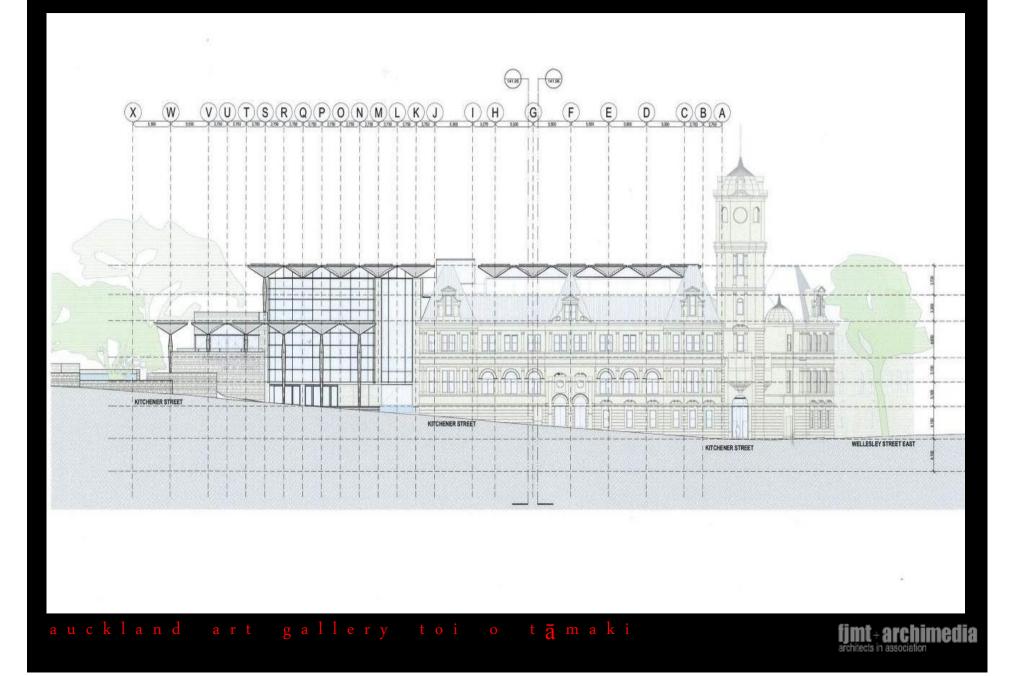




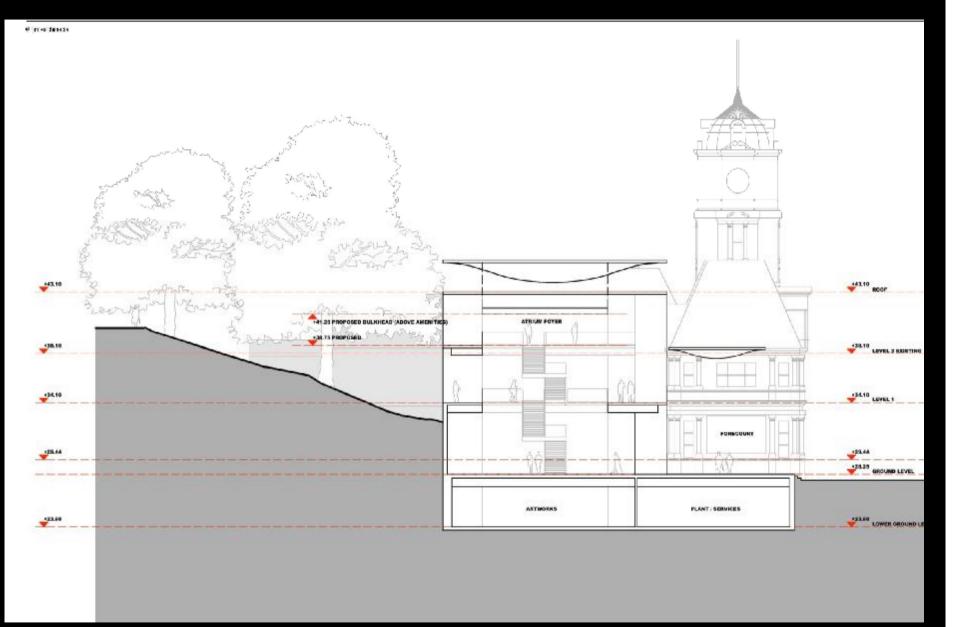




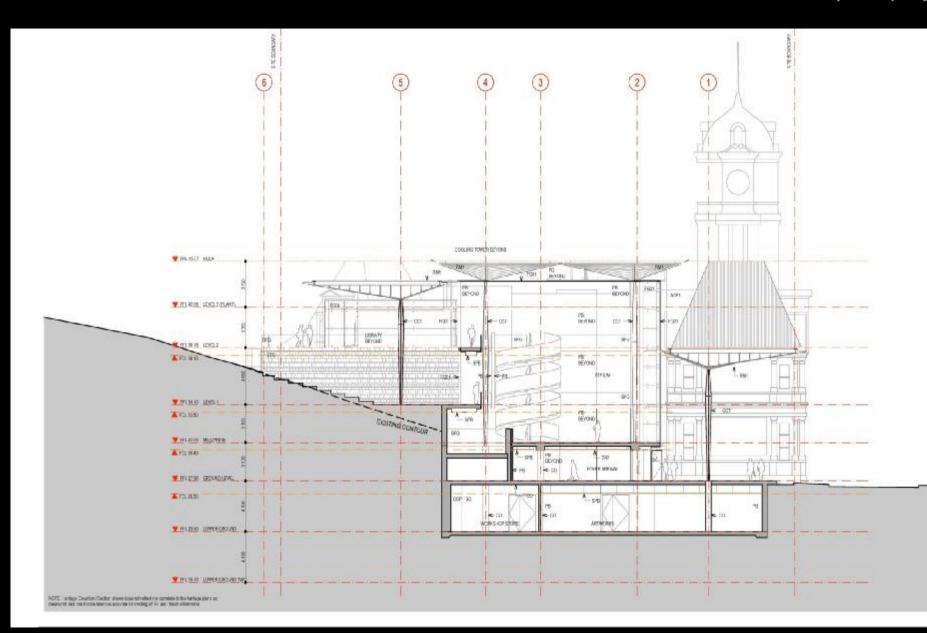
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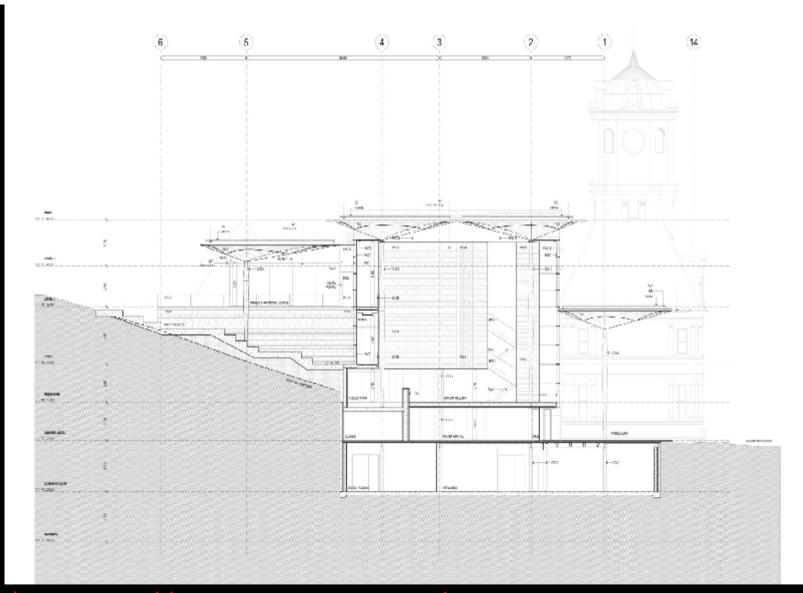
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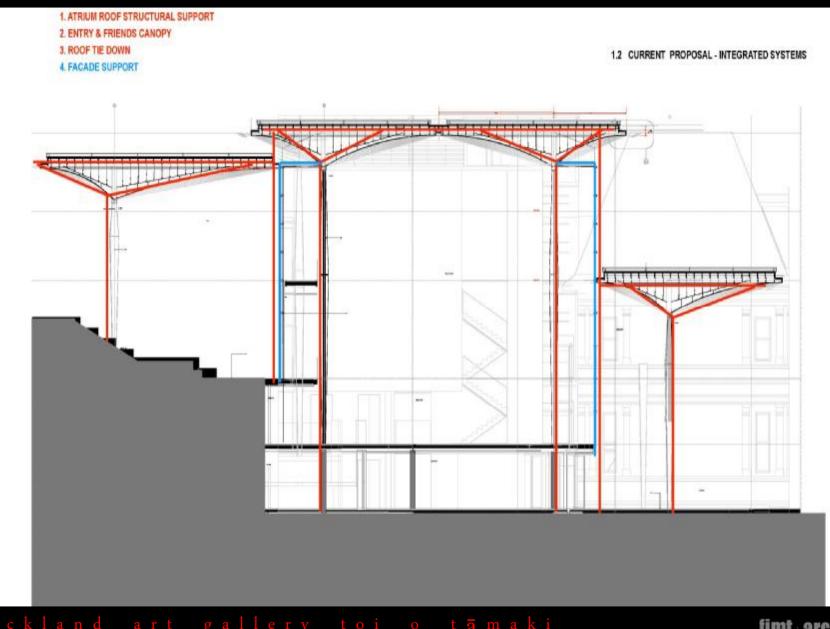


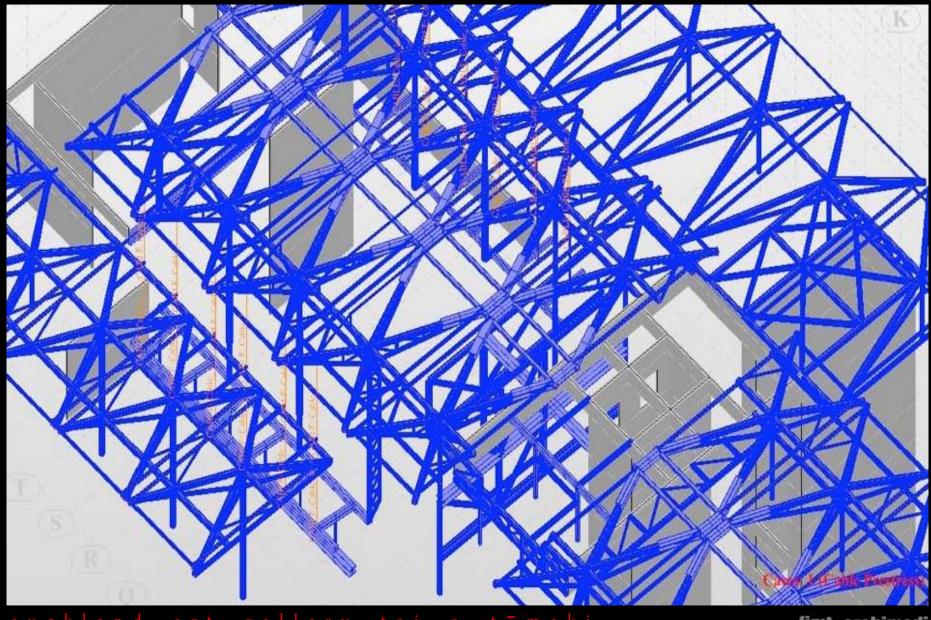
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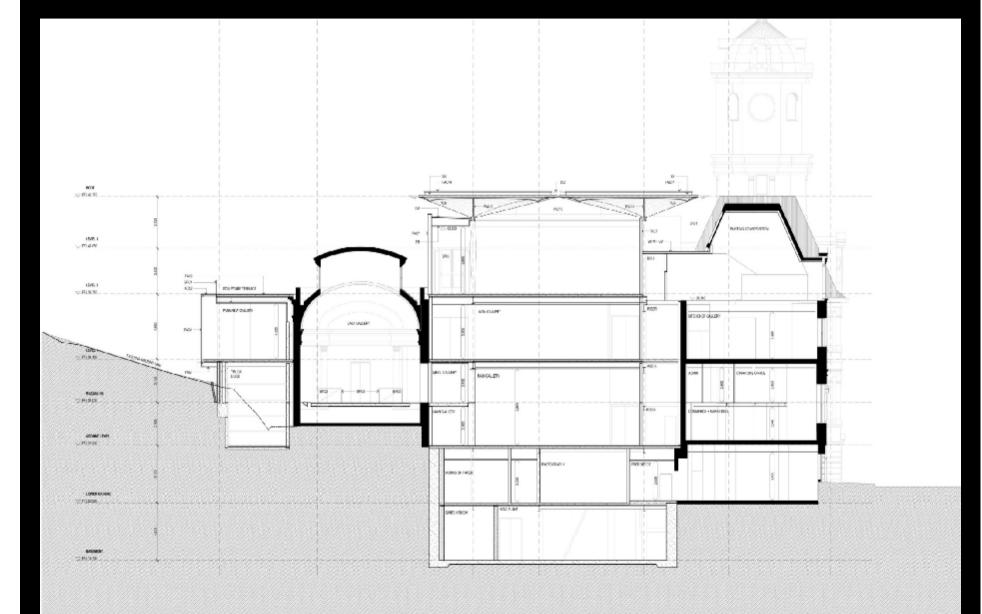








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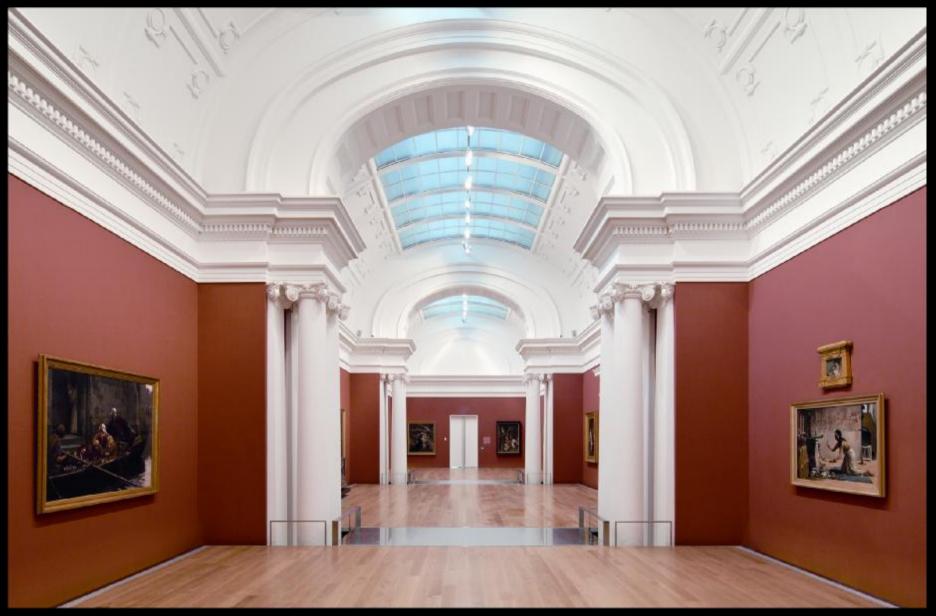








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