

museum

Decorative Arts & History

National Museum of Ireland

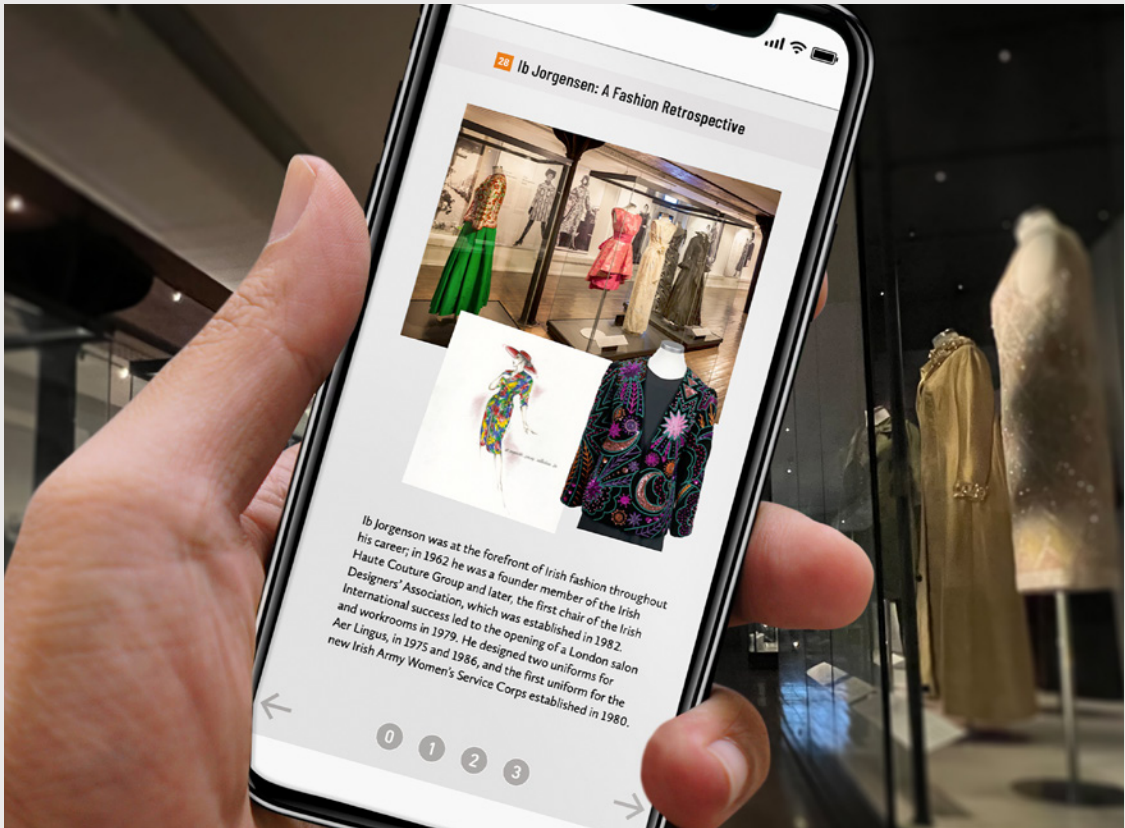
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Museum Floorplan

English Language



How to use this Gallery Guide



Welcome to our interactive museum floorplan and exhibition guide. Easily explore the exhibits by selecting your preferred destination from the floorplan directories provided on the following pages.

Instantly navigate to any exhibition or room via the individually numbered floorplans (0, 1, 2, 3).

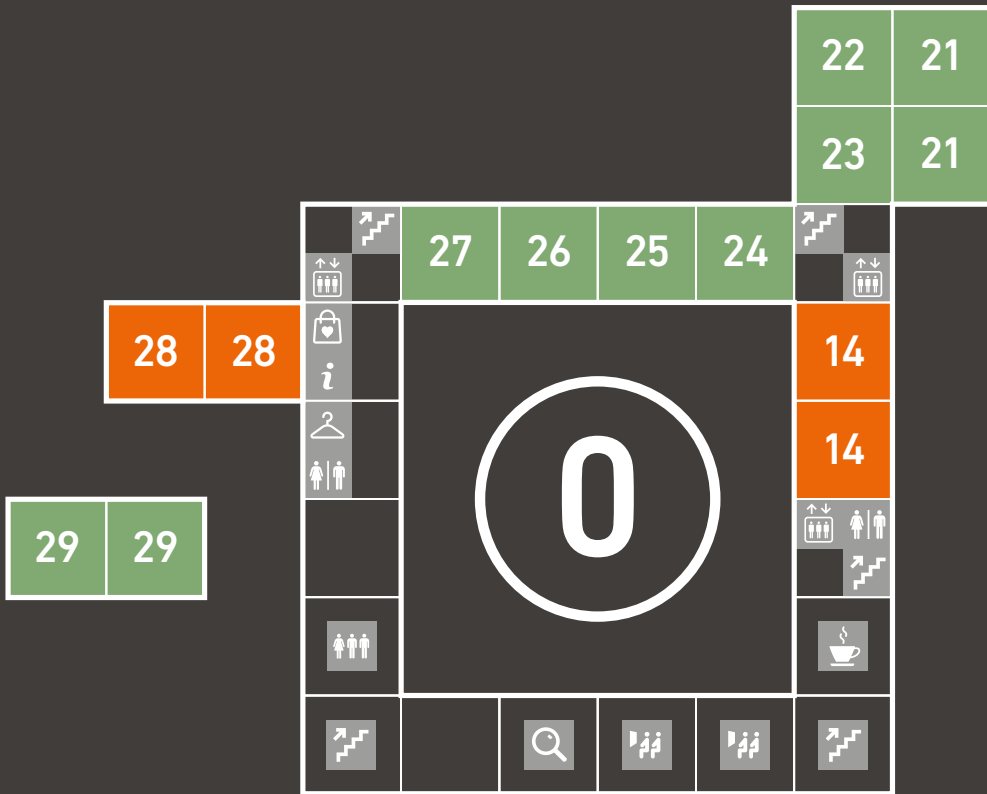
Click the numbered buttons on the floorplan itself or select the exhibition in the menu list.

Clicking the left or right arrows at the base provides a sequential, room-by-room guide.

Enjoy your enlightening journey of discovery!



Exhibition Galleries



NOTE:
Plans not
to scale.

0 Ground Floor

14 What's in Store?

24 Barracks Life Room

25 26 Recovered Voices 1914 - 1915

27 Imaging Conflict

28 we make our own histories

29 Asgard

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Toilets

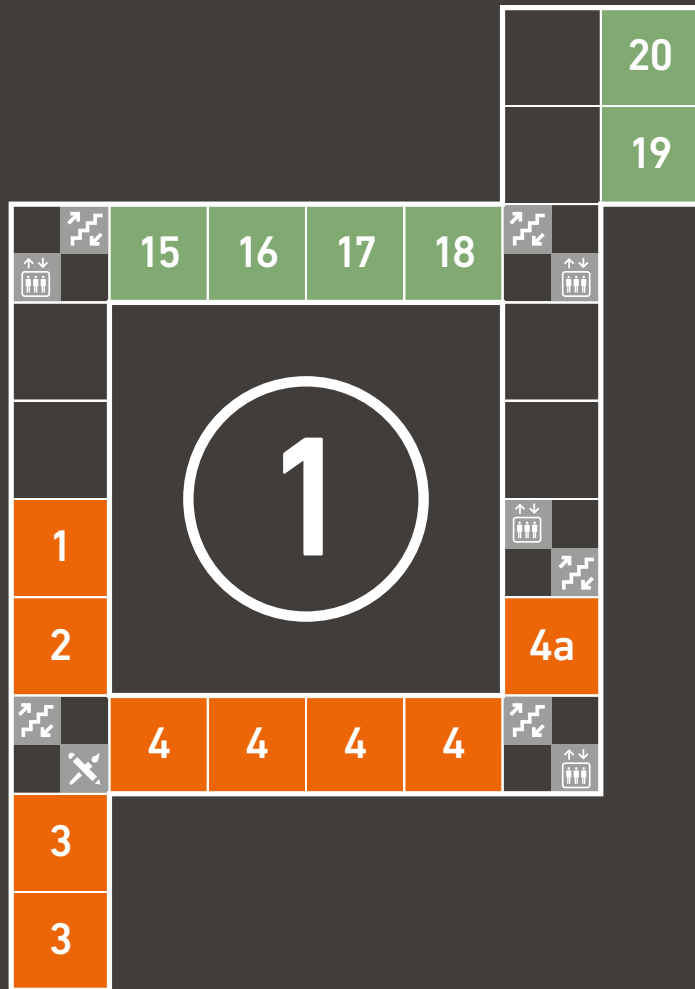
Gift Shop

Cloakroom

Café



Exhibition Galleries



NOTE:
Plans not
to scale.

1

First Floor

4a The Palatine Room

4 Irish Silver

3 Airgead - Irish Coins & Currency

2 Out of Storage - Lower Gallery

1 Curator's Choice

Engage and Learn

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23 Soldiers and Chiefs



Exhibition Galleries



NOTE:
Plans not
to scale.

2

Second Floor

10 GAA: People, Objects and Stories

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8 Out of Storage - Upper Gallery

7 Alison Lowry: (A)Dressing Our Hidden Truths

5 6 Four Centuries of Furnishings



Exhibition Galleries



NOTE:
Plans not
to scale.



Third Floor

- 13a** Albert Bender Exhibition
- 13** Irish Country Furniture
- 12** The Way We Wore
- 11** Eileen Gray 1878 - 1976



14 What's in Store?



‘What’s in Store?’ is a visible storage display, making over 16,000 objects from Museum’s decorative arts collections accessible to the public in one space.

For the first time in the Museum’s history the public have the chance to get behind the scenes to explore a working museum collection.



24 Barracks Life Room



The Barracks Life Room is an interactive discovery area in the Museum's Soldiers & Chiefs exhibition.

Explore how soldiers lived in the 19th and 20th centuries through detailed reconstructed beds, artefacts, try-on uniforms, and interactive games.





The Stories of the Irish at War, 1914-15

Detailing the stories of 21 Irish men and women, this exhibition uses original objects and interactive material to illustrate the human impact of the war on their lives.



27 Imaging Conflict



This exhibition explores the role of photography during Ireland's revolutionary decade, at home and abroad.

Imaging Conflict displays 150 images and 5 original photograph books from the National Museum of Ireland's collection relating to the Irish revolutionary era of 1913 – 1923, as well as images of Irishmen and women in conflicts overseas. The majority of the images have not been on display publicly before.





What does Irish culture and identity look like one hundred years after the formation of the state?

We explore this question in the exhibition "*we make our own histories*". Artist Anthony Haughey's residency from 2021 to 2024 culminates in this display, featuring collaborative artworks with over 500 individuals from Ireland, inspired by the museum's collections, examining how we understand emerging cultural identities.





This exhibition tells the story of the iconic yacht and its many incarnations, from her building in 1905 by Colin Archer, the celebrated Norwegian naval architect, through to her pivotal role in the 1914 Howth gun-running and her later use as Ireland's first national sail-training vessel.



4a The Palatine Room



This refurbished ballroom will impress your guests with its generous proportions, natural daylight and historical features - from the striking herringbone parquet wood floor, original stone fireplaces to the 6-meter high decorative ceiling cornicing.

Experience the impressive panorama offered by ten towering 2.6m sash windows, providing captivating views of the lush gardens to the east or the grandeur of our remarkable courtyard, Clarke Square – a truly awe-inspiring landmark in Dublin City.

The Palatine Room is a stunning location to host a wide variety of events. This first floor room is accessed by a period cantilever staircase, and offers private bathrooms and kitchen.



4 Irish Silver



One of the largest collections of Irish Silver in the world, this exhibition traces the development of the silversmith's craft from the early 17th century to the 20th century.

It addresses the evolution of design and examines the mining, assaying and crafting of the precious metal.



3 Airgead - Irish Coins & Currency

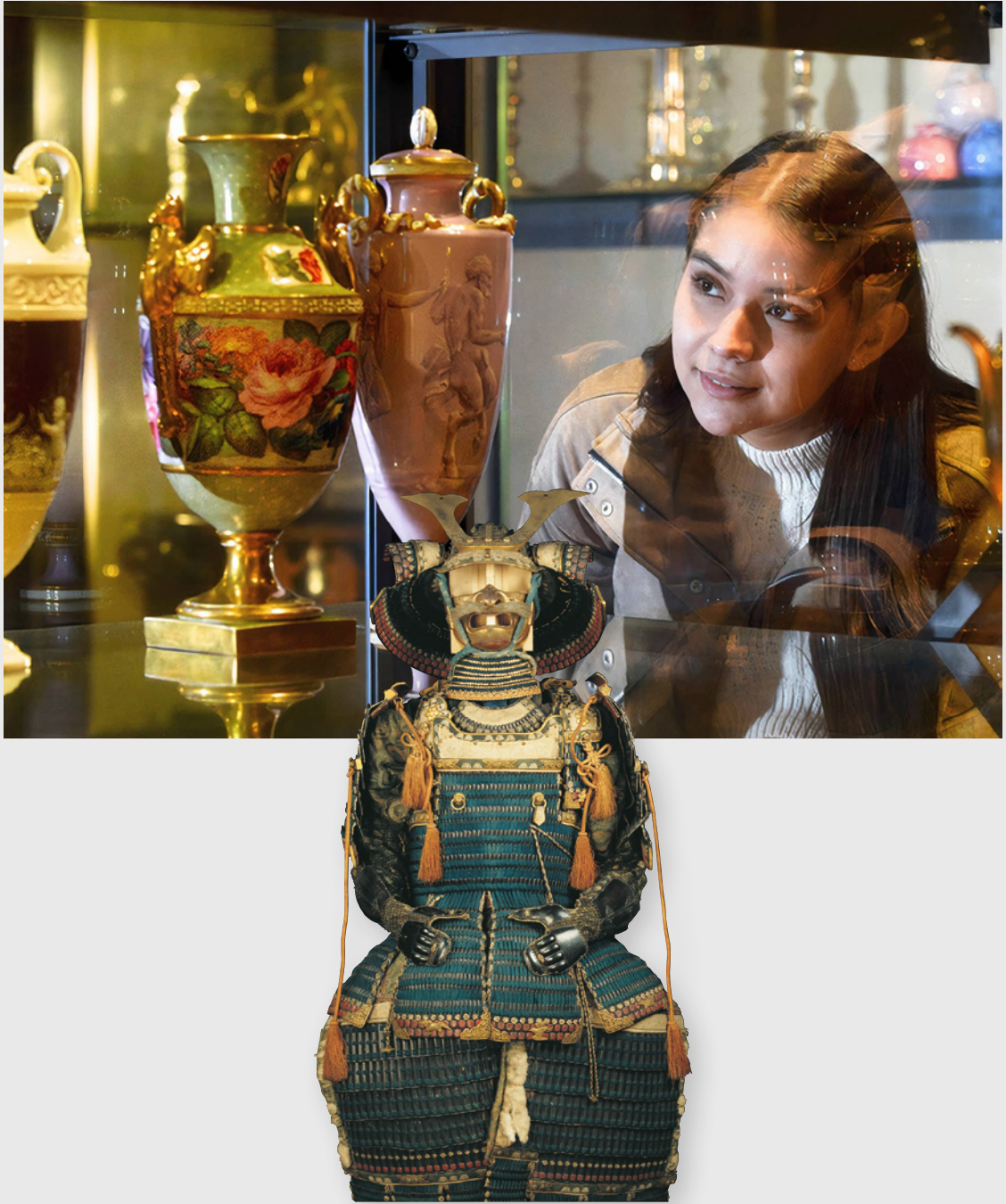


This exhibition tells the story of coins and money in Ireland from the 10th century to the present day.

It ranges from Medieval hoards buried in a hole in the ground, to modern banknotes accessed through an ATM machine, the 'hole in the wall'.



2 Out of Storage - Lower Gallery



Out of Storage gives an instant snapshot of the vast range of the Art and Industrial collection, from large pieces of medieval wooden sculpture to delicate pieces of finely worked lace.

The vast array of objects on display is interpreted through interactive computers.



1 Curator's Choice



This gallery contains twenty-five objects, each chosen from the Museum's collections by a different Museum curator. Each artefact is displayed alongside an account from the curator about their choice.



Engage and Learn



ENGAGE & LEARN: We invite visitors of all ages to engage, interact and respond in a number of exhibitions across the Museum. Including the *Take a Seat* gallery where you can explore design principles through chairs and dream up your own ‘perfect chair’, and the *Barracks Life* Room, where you can explore the life of a soldier in Collins Barracks in the 19th and 20th centuries.

IT’S YOUR MUSEUM: A free Guide for Families booklet is available to pick up at reception. Have a look at the map to see the galleries and objects that other families recommend. Find out where to go if you’re looking for something to do, like drawing, designing or dressing up in one of the interactive spaces in the Museum. *Enjoy!*

Further information available via our website:
www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Decorative-Arts-History/Engage-And-Learn





With over 1,000 objects from all over the world covering 1,700 square metres, this exhibition traces Ireland's military history from 1550 into the 21st Century.

Original artefacts, such as the Stokes Tapestry, letters, plus replicas and interactives combine to show how soldiering and war have affected the lives of Irish people over the centuries.



10 GAA: People, Objects and Stories



GAA: People, Objects and Stories is a new multi-media exhibition, at the National Museum of Ireland- Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, that offers a fresh perspective on the GAA's influence through the lens of social history, design and popular culture.

While the GAA was formally established in 1884, the oldest objects on display as part of the exhibition are hurling balls made from matted cow hair with plaited horsehair dating back to the 15th century, found in bogland areas in Co. Kerry, Mayo and Limerick. Also on display is a rugby football used by the prisoners to play Gaelic football in Frongoch internment camp in Wales in 1916 and a hurl owned by Michael Collins.



10 GAA: People, Objects and Stories



From the more recent past in the exhibition, is the baseball cap worn by one of the most successful managers in the history of hurling, Brian Cody, when he was Kilkenny senior hurling manager from 1999-2022.

On three feature walls, visitors to the exhibition will also be able to see digital reproductions of artworks, newly commissioned design and photographs of Gaelic Games. How the GAA has influenced artists in the 20th century, the evolution of GAA jersey designs and the crossover in design between the Sam Maguire Cup and the Ardagh Chalice, are amongst the themes that are explored.

Visitors to the exhibition will be invited to respond to it, with their own GAA memories. These responses will be compiled and included in an exhibition archive that will preserve the stories for future generations.



9 Ib Jorgensen: A Fashion Retrospective



Ib Jorgensen was at the forefront of Irish fashion throughout his career; in 1962 he was a founder member of the Irish Haute Couture Group and later, the first chair of the Irish Designers' Association, which was established in 1982. International success led to the opening of a London salon and workrooms in 1979.

He designed two uniforms for Aer Lingus, in 1975 and 1986, and the first uniform for the new Irish Army Women's Service Corps established in 1980.



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8 Out of Storage - Upper Gallery



Out of Storage gives an instant snapshot of the vast range of the Art and Industrial collection, from large pieces of medieval wooden sculpture to delicate pieces of finely worked lace.

The vast array of objects on display is interpreted through interactive computers.



7 Alison Lowry: (A)Dressing Our Hidden Truths



This exhibition of Lowry's work is divided into four distinct areas - installation of suspended sand-cast pâte de verre christening robes, sculptural works responding to the theme of the Magdalene Laundries, a video piece made with performance artist Jayne Cherry and a suit of armour using glass and leather created with the internationally renowned designer Úna Burke.

Amongst the exhibition's highlights is an installation of nine christening robes in pâte de verre (glass paste) spread across two rooms - a profound piece of commentary on the Tuam Mother and Baby Home revelations. Other elements of the exhibition include audio testimony by way of poetry and song from those who experienced the industrial school system and Magdalene Laundries.





The material is displayed in a series of room settings, from the 17th century with oak furniture and panelling, through the refined splendour of Georgian Ireland to the high style of the 19th century.

The exhibition also shows some of the international furniture collection, not exhibited for many decades. The galleries are visually enhanced by objects, such as textiles, silverware, glass and ceramics from other collections.



13a Albert Bender Exhibition



Albert M. Bender (1866-1941) was born in Dublin, the son of Rabbi Philip Bender. He emigrated to San Francisco, California where by the turn of the 20th century he was one of the most successful insurance brokers on the west coast of the United States.

Bender donated approximately 260 artefacts of mostly Chinese, Japanese and Tibetan origin to the National Museum of Ireland between 1931 and 1936.



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13 Irish Country Furniture



On display in this exhibition are the types of everyday traditional furniture found in homes in Ireland over the last 300 years. There is a range of chairs and seats, dressers, beds and hearth furniture.

Alongside this, there are examples of traditional crafts such as basket weaving, sieve making, woodturning and barrel making.



12 The Way We Wore



Over the past 250 years, Ireland's clothing and textile industries were renowned for their high quality and craftsmanship. This is reflected in the exceptional examples of clothes, jewellery and accessories on display.

The exhibition explores how we send messages to others about who we are through our clothes, as much today as in the past.



11 Eileen Gray 1878 - 1976



This exhibition is based on the life and work of Eileen Gray, an Irish woman who became one of the most influential designers and architects of the 20th century. It includes design classics such as chairs, tables, screens and carpets alongside personal memorabilia, lacquering tools, drawings and architectural models.





Gift Shop



We stock a complementary range of products reflecting the unique collections held at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History.

The shops carry an exciting range of giftware, children's toys and books covering Irish military history, fashion and design.

For more detailed information please purchase our Museum Guidebooks in our Museum shop or visit www.museum.ie

