

Unlocking the Geffrye Museum

The Geffrye Museum is now closed to the public for its transformational development project, [Unlocking the Geffrye](#) which will greatly improve access and enhance the experience of visitors.

The £18.1m scheme, designed by Wright and Wright Architects, will breathe new life into the museum's 18th century, Grade 1 listed almshouse buildings by opening up and making much better use of spaces previously unseen by the public in the museum's 100 year history.

Once completed, 70% of the museum's buildings will be open to the public, as opposed to 30% now. New spaces will be created within the existing museum, alongside a limited amount of new build, increasing capacity so the museum be able to bring many more collections out of storage, explore the theme of home in a much wider context and welcome up to 170k visitors a year, an increase of 50%.

Unlocking the Geffrye will mean that visitors can:

- Enjoy 50% more space and two floors previously unseen by the public which will greatly improve access and circulation throughout the museum
- Explore hidden treasures and stories of home from the Geffrye collections and archives in a new Home Gallery and Library.
- Get creative in new and inspiring learning spaces, including a Learning pavilion and Studio in the period gardens
- Come into the museum direct from Hoxton Station via a new entrance that will lead into a spacious, central reception space with much improved visitor facilities
- Relax in a new café, located on the ground floor of a former pub opposite Hoxton Station, which will be restored and extended.
- Enjoy the period gardens and herb garden all year round.

Sonia Solicari, Director of the Geffrye, said "We have been thrilled by the support we've received for Unlocking the Geffrye. Developing the museum will ensure our buildings and gardens are safeguarded for future generations and many more people from Hackney and beyond will be able to enjoy the Geffrye, be inspired by our collections and take part in our activities. Our focus now is to raise the rest of the money so we can make our vision a reality."

Although the main museum building and period gardens are now closed for two years, there are still plenty of reasons to come to the Geffrye. Throughout closure a programme of events and activities will take place in the front gardens. The [restored almshouse](#) will also be open for tours on certain dates throughout the year. The Geffrye is scheduled to re-open in early 2020.

- ends -

Notes to Editors

- **For further information**, please contact Nancy Loader at press@geffrye-museum.org.uk or 020 7749 6026. **Press images** can be downloaded here: [Geffrye Museum development images](#)
- **The Geffrye Museum** explores the home from 1600 to the present day. Evocative displays of London, middle-class living rooms and gardens illustrate homes and home-life through the centuries, reflecting changes in society, behaviour, style and taste.

The museum is set in beautiful, Grade 1 listed, 18th century former almshouse buildings surrounded by gardens in the lively and creative area of Hoxton, East London. www.geffrye-museum.org.uk

- **Wright & Wright** is an award-winning architectural practice based in London. Well known for its design flair and imagination in significant historic settings, the practice focuses on creating contemporary yet sensitive solutions for museums, libraries, archives and educational institutions. Clients include the V&A, the Royal College of Art, Oxford and Cambridge universities, the Women's Library and the National Gallery. For further information, please contact Helen Hancock at h.hancock@wrightandwright.co.uk or 020 7428 9393. www.wrightandwright.co.uk
- **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)**
The Geffrye's ambitious expansion were given the go ahead in March 2017 thanks to a £12.3m National Lottery grant to support the £18.1m project. The museum has already secured further support from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, trusts and foundations and individuals and is actively fundraising the balance.
- **Timetable**
Planning permission was secured in July 2016. The priority now is to raise the balance of the funds. Work will start on site in spring 2018 and the museum will reopen in early 2020.

11 January 2018