



Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery Refurbishment and Exhibition Design

Project Details

Client: Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery/Technical Enabling Unit
 Location: Waigani, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
 Approx. Value: \$2m (including base building refurbishment)
 Floor Area: 650 m²
 Completed: 2015

Contact

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The Built on Culture Exhibition at the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery was created to celebrate 40 years of PNG independence. The exhibition design commenced in February 2015 and the exhibition was opened in September enabling visitors to enjoy it on Papua New Guinea's Independence Day.

The exhibition features over 100 works from the museum's extensive collection representing each of PNG's provinces, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the National Capital District. The exhibition is arranged around the themes of: National Unity, Everyday Items, Performance and Ceremony, Wood Carvings, Time, Cultural Change, History of the Museum, National Museum and Art Gallery: A New Era.

The exhibition displays the pieces in a new, light and spacious gallery. Existing framed floors and walls were stripped out to provide an open, flexible

exhibition space that enjoys views of the sweeping roof and its tensile cable structure. The refurbishment reveals original features of the building including off form concrete walls. New hanging walls and a temporary display wall were added to the space. New timber flooring provides warm tones against the white display walls. The new exhibition lighting combined with new walls and flooring has created an ambience that is calm and one that invites visitors to enjoy the features of the pieces on display.

This is the first new exhibition at NMAG for many years and it marks a phase of revitalisation at NMAG. The National Gallery of Australia and the National Museum of Australia provided assistance to NMAG in their preparations for the exhibition. This project was supported by the Australian Government through the Australian Aid Program.