

Taing dhan

**A' Mhaoin-
Dualchais**

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GLENCOE

FOLK MUSEUM

Trustee Brochure

July 2023

Are you...

- Keen to get involved with the Highland community?
- Passionate about preserving local history and culture?
- Wanting to try something new?
- Experienced in curatorial work and exhibition development?

If you are ANY of these things have you thought about becoming a Trustee of Glencoe Folk Museum? Read on!

Greetings from Glencoe Folk Museum!

We are a small volunteer-run charity in the rural Highlands with a vibrant tourist trade. Our Museum attracts visitors from all over the world and we are poised to redevelop and create a truly modern visitor attraction.

To achieve this we need a dynamic board to provide strong governance and clear direction for the organisation and staff, and we welcome new members to join our international team of Trustees. We are currently developing all-new exhibitions as part of our redevelopment project, with designers on board and a research plan in place, and would love to hear from someone with curatorial and exhibition experience to support this.

For several years the board has met and communicated remotely via software including Zoom and Slack, making it very easy to be actively involved with the Museum without leaving home!

Our future depends on individuals who share our vision and who have commitment and passion to bring to our Board. Please read on to find out more!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Halford-Forbes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Emma Halford-Forbes

*Chair, Glencoe Folk Museum
June 2023*

Contact – redvelopment@glencoemuseum.com
01855 811664
[@glencoe_museum](https://www.instagram.com/glencoe_museum)
www.glencoemuseum.com

WHO ARE WE?

Glencoe Folk Museum is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC002786)

VISION

We aspire to be the heart of our community, inspiring our local and global visitors to connect with the past by sharing our love of the unique history, culture and environment of our corner of the Highlands.

MISSION

Glencoe Folk Museum chronicles the history, landscape and identity of the Glencoe area. We are a Museum of the people, by the people and for the people – sharing the stories of our local communities and the historical events that shaped them.

We will capture imaginations and stimulate creativity through our collections, exhibitions and activities. By exploring our past and striving for a sustainable future, we will inspire people around the world to take pride in their communities, cultures and traditions.

VALUES

Quirky Genuine Inclusive Innovative

Our charitable objectives are:

- To maintain a Museum and access to the collections for the benefit of the public, and to continuously improve the visitor experience
- To ensure long-term care of the building and collections and the preservation of the history of the Museum
- To engage with diverse audiences and promote the knowledge and understanding of the arts, heritage, science and culture of the local community
- To promote the work of the SCIO within the local community
- To become more environmentally friendly as an organisation
- To increase income to maintain the sustainability of the SCIO
- To invest in our Staff and Volunteers, developing a training programme and board resilience
- Pursue Redevelopment Project to extend museum, install new displays and build community outreach

WHAT DO WE DO?

We collect, preserve and exhibit artefacts relevant to the history and social conditions of the Glencoe and North Lorn district between the 1600s and the present day for the entertainment and education of the local community and visiting tourists. Our museum, on the main street of Glencoe village, comprises two 18th century crofters' cottages (Category B listed) – the only surviving traditionally heather-thatched structures in the area.

OUR HISTORY

The Museum was co-founded by Barbara Fairweather MBE, Rae Grant and friends in the 1960s. Miss Fairweather and Mrs Grant worked as Trustees and volunteers to create a small, traditional museum to chronicle the rapidly-changing way of life in the Glencoe and North Lorn area. The museum was an immediate success and the collection rapidly outgrew its original premises. In 1972 it re-opened in the 19th century cottages which form the museum today, donated through the generosity of local resident Hugh Grant. The Museum became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in 2015 and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017.

OUR COLLECTION

Our collection holds over 6,000 artefacts spanning the 17th – 21st centuries, including paintings and photographs, objects relating to the massacre of Glencoe and Jacobite rebellion and daily life and industrial items. There's also a sizeable historic costume and larger artefacts including ploughs and even a rowing boat used as a 'coffin boat' by local clans.

OUR NEW EXHIBITIONS

As part of our capital and activities redevelopment we will design, produce and fit-out all-new exhibitions throughout the Museum. Our life-expired outdoor displays will be replaced with a new climate-controlled visitor reception and exhibition space. This re-interpreting of the Museum's stories will meet modern accessible text standards for content and appearance, and will be designed by the exhibition specialists Mather & Co.

As well as collecting oral histories around the community, and selecting objects for display from our collection of 6,000 artefacts (some of which have not previously been on public exhibition), we are commissioning subject experts to ensure that the content of our displays is rigorously researched and reflects the latest historical thought.

Please see the end of this document for details of the intended Museum layout and examples of our design preview images.

GOVERNANCE

The organisation employs a full-time Curator supported by a group of enthusiastic volunteers. In addition to the Museum cottages the charity also owns a semi-detached house in Ballachulish village which is used as accommodation for the Curator and as a museum collection store.

HOW DO WE OPERATE?

The board:

- Meets monthly by video call. We try to meet in Glencoe a couple of times a year.
- Uses Slack software as the main tool for communications.
- Makes decisions by consensus. We all get along and come to agreement through discussion. We rarely feel the need to take a formal vote.

WHAT DOES THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DO?

| | |
|--|--|
| Governance and Support | |
| The board acts to GOVERN the organisation | The Board acts to SUPPORT the organisation |
| Objectives | |
| To represent the community's interests within the organisation | To represent the organisation's interests within the community |
| Process for action | |
| The Board acts as a collective body | Board members act as individuals |
| Responsibilities | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Direction: Determine mission and purpose ● Legal: Ensure compliance with legal regulations and fulfilment of contractual obligations ● Financial: Safeguard assets from misuse, waste, and embezzlement ● Recruit staff; monitor and evaluate performance ● Fundraising: Approve a fundraising strategy and monitor its effectiveness ● Planning: Determine strategies and overall priorities ● Programs: Determine the organisation's program priorities, monitor implementation, and conduct program evaluations to measure impact ● Efficiency and impact: Ensure a realistic budget that maximises use of resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public relations and community contacts: Act as ambassadors to the community on behalf of the organisation and its members ● Advisory: Advise staff in areas of expertise; act as a sounding board for staff ● Reputation: Lend name and personal credibility to the organisation to use in brochures, grant proposals, and other formats ● Fundraising: Contribute to the organisation's fundraising success as appropriate to the individual (such as making a financial contribution, making business contacts for the organisation, soliciting cash and noncash contributions); assist staff in raising funds |

JOIN THE TEAM!

If you think you've got what it takes, are driven by creating equal opportunity to work for all, have some curatorial and exhibition experience and are able to spare approximately 3-5 hours per month, here's how to kick start the process of becoming a Trustee:

1. Contact David, our Project Director for a copy of the Trustee Induction Manual (reddevelopment@glencoemuseum.com)
2. Submit your application
3. Attend a board meeting as observer
4. The Board will consider your application at the next Board meeting

For more details of our redevelopment and for our organisation business plan visit www.glencoemuseum.com



Glencoe Folk Museum

Design Document



1.0 Thematic Layout and Visitor Journey.

Visitor Journey

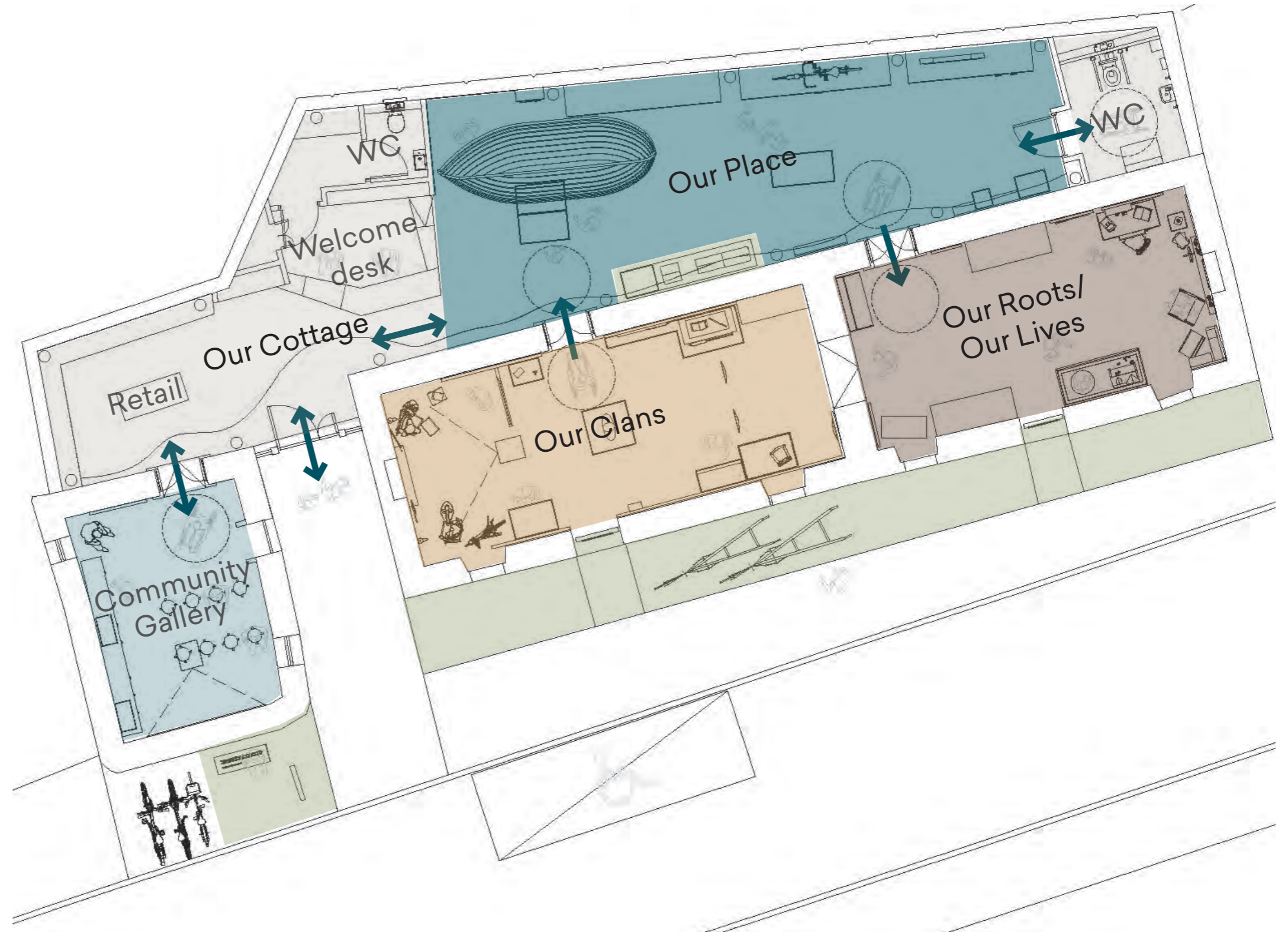
Most visitors will arrive from the A82 coming up into the village centre. Improved external signage and welcome will draw visitors to the Museum entrance. In addition, the main glazed entrance will offer incredible sightlines into the new exhibition space and retail.

The welcome desk is situated on the right and provides an information point and ticket & sales point for the retail offer. In addition, it will offer guidebooks and other secondary interpretative discovery devices like activity packs and trails.

The shop, toilets, and cloakroom/community gallery are all accessible from the main entrance space as well as the exhibition galleries.

Inside the building, a blend of wayfinding and interpretative signage will highlight and guide visitors to the range of experiences on offer within the Museum, including its different areas, exhibitions, events, and activities.

A new retail offer will provide a range of locally-sourced merchandise that aligns with the brand and ethos of the new Glencoe Folk Museum. The new shop will be open, inspiring, and inviting. The shop counter will extend the main reception desk allowing multiple staffing points.



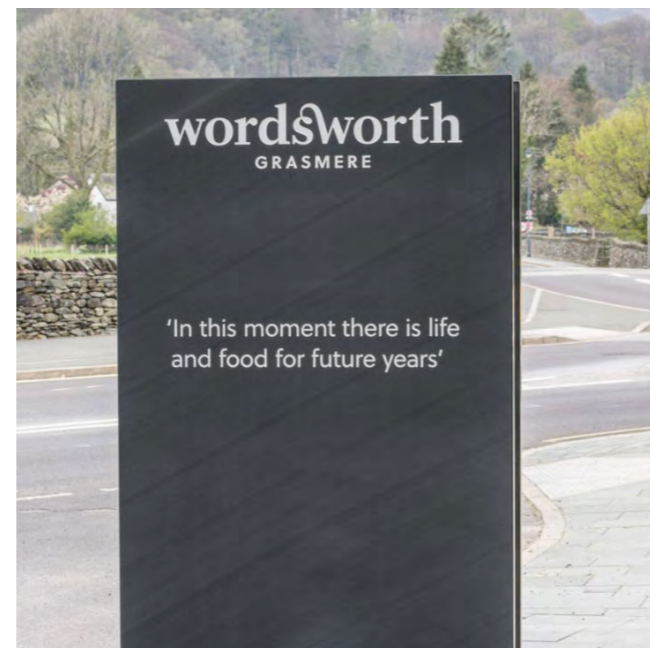
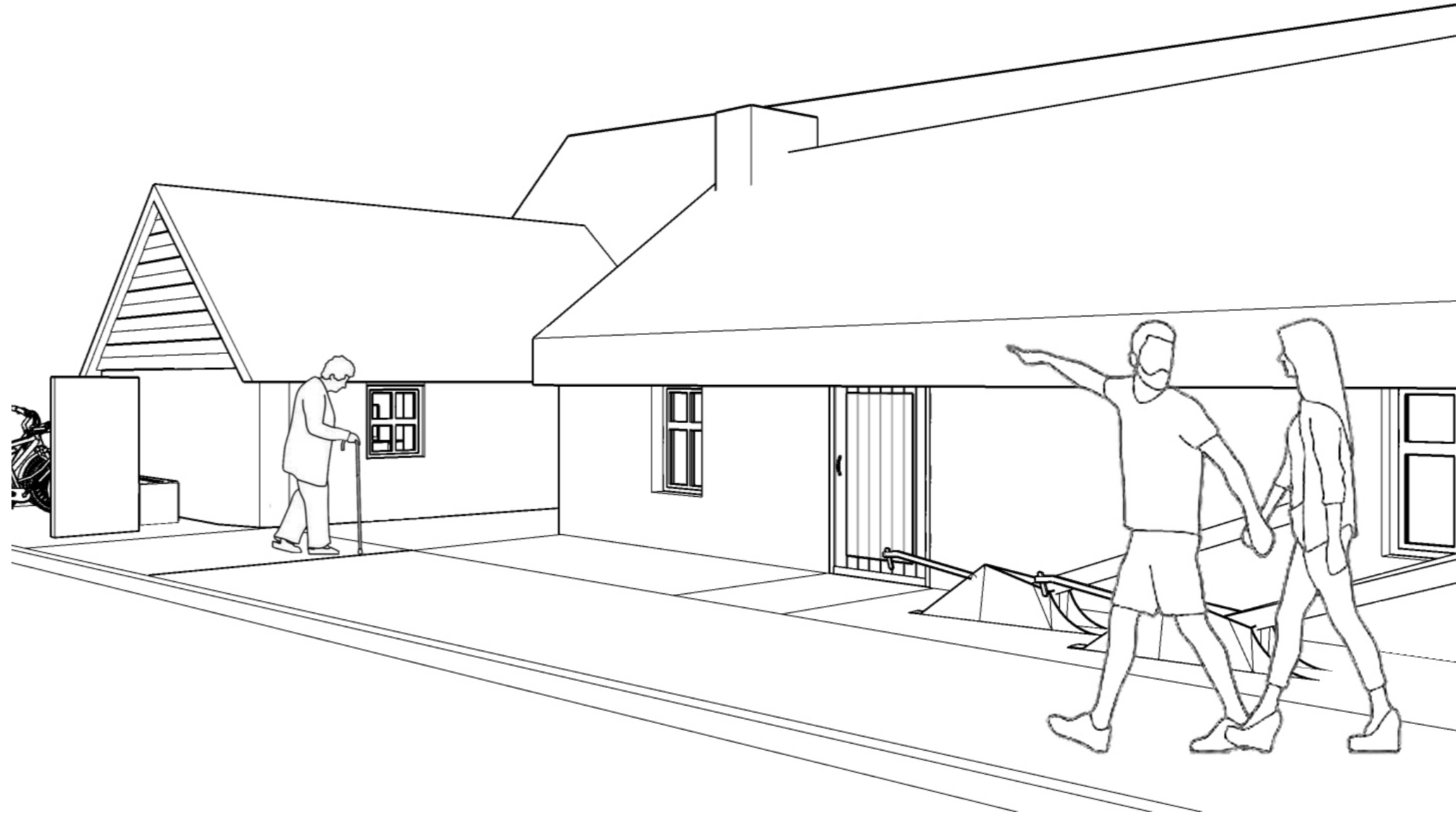
1.2 The Design.

1.2.1 Our Cottage

Visitors start their journey from the outside, as they are welcomed to the site with a new welcome panel created out of locally sourced slate, introducing Glencoe Folk Museum the last remaining heather-thatched cottages in Glencoe.

Using semi-translucent graphic panels overlaid on the cottage building, visitors can appreciate the history of the building and its transformation across the years. Handwritten stories along with the windows intrigue visitors to explore further inside the cottage. In addition, visitors are invited to explore an open-air artefact display of ploughs that highlights the crofting history of the cottages and Glencoe.

Visitors arriving by bike can park their bicycle in front of the byre, and charge their electric bikes. In addition, visitors can take a seat on the bench outside with an inspiring community-related quote engraved into it.



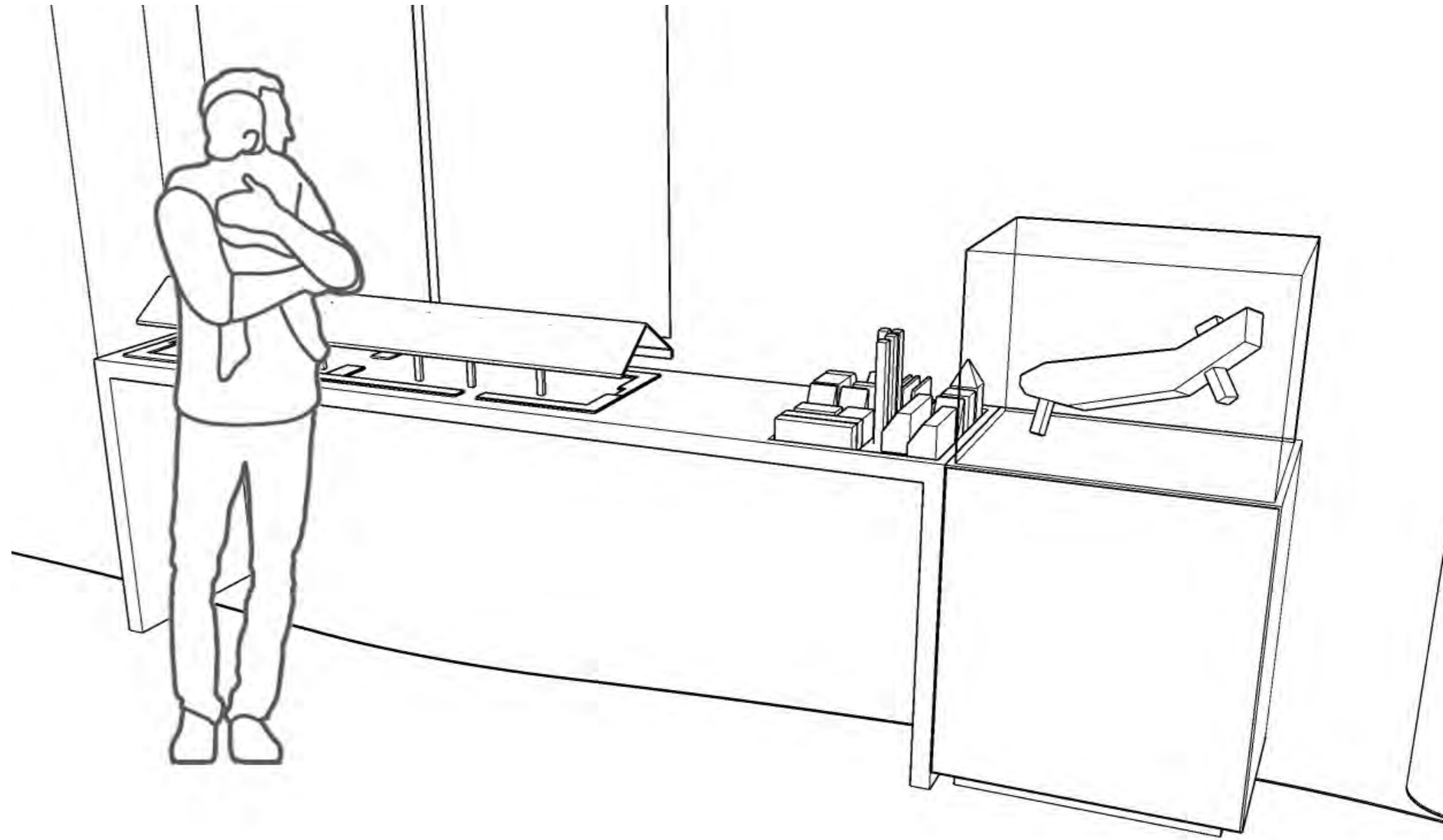
1.2 The Design.

1.2.1 Our Cottage

Upon entering the new Museum extension visitors will witness the combination of the historic and contemporary structures, introducing how and why the cottage came to be.

Visitors can analyse the building materials and construction methods used to create the cottage, and understand the process undertaken to conserve and protect the cottage today. Engaging tactile and hands-on experience will give an understanding of how to design and build their own heather-thatched cottage.

Interpretation within the space will help visitors learn more about this iconic cottage and its life before the Museum in a new refreshing way. Meanwhile within the cottages, key features of the buildings will be highlighted to give better insight into the importance of materials, construction methods and techniques in creating this long-standing structure.



1.2 The Design.

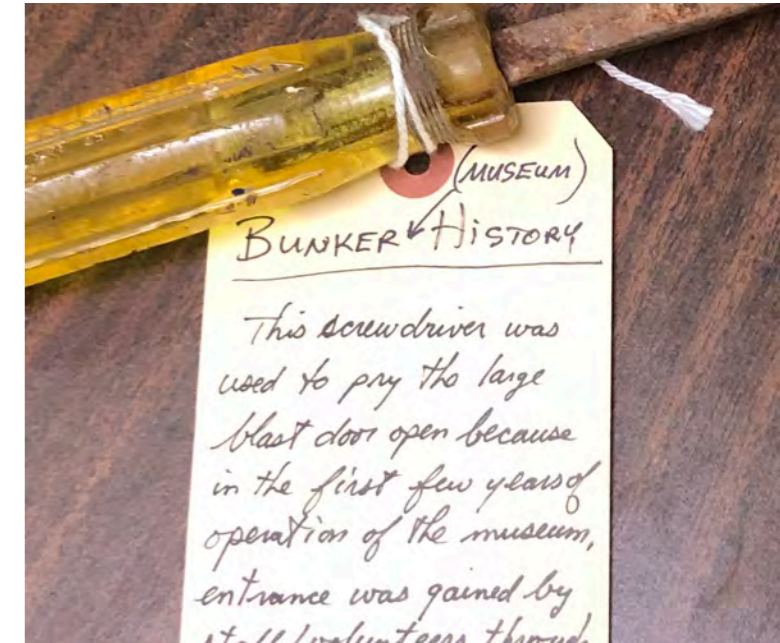
1.2.2 Our Roots/Our Lives

Make yourself at home in Barbara Fairweather's living room and feel welcome as you discover the unique and eclectic collections and their stories in the 'curated clutter' around the cottage.

Visitors can take a seat in a chair integrated with concealed speakers and listen to the stories of the founders through their relatives, as they reflect on the Museum. As visitors explore the collections, they can hear the stories told by the community themselves, building a sense of the daily life in this rural village and creating a space that feels connected to the people who live there.

Handwritten interpretation labels add a personal touch and capture the essence of the early years of the Museum as visitors read the notes of the curator and community for the collections.

With quirky new opportunities to interact with the displays and collections, visitors are encouraged to look closer, explore further, and even interact with the interpretation to make sure everything is in order. A doll-house display will also bring back memories, allowing visitors to explore the rooms and create their own stories inside.



1.2 The Design.



"We thought that **They** ought to make a
Museum to record daily life.
But **They** do not exist...
so we did it ourselves."

Barbara Fairweather

This room is designed to feel welcoming and relaxed, inspired by the portrait of Barbara Fairweather which takes centre stage on the fireplace. Sounds of the clock ticking and stories being told set the scene for visitors to explore the collection in new, more engaging ways.

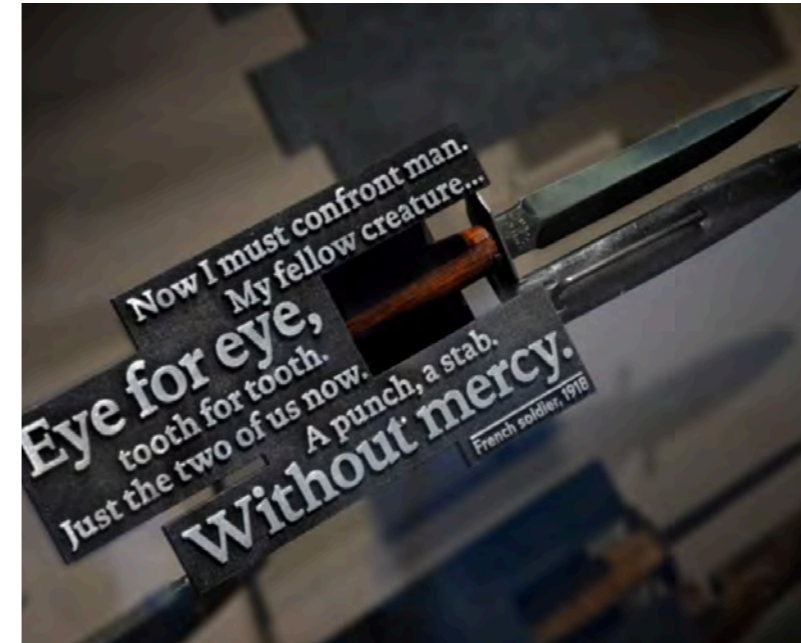
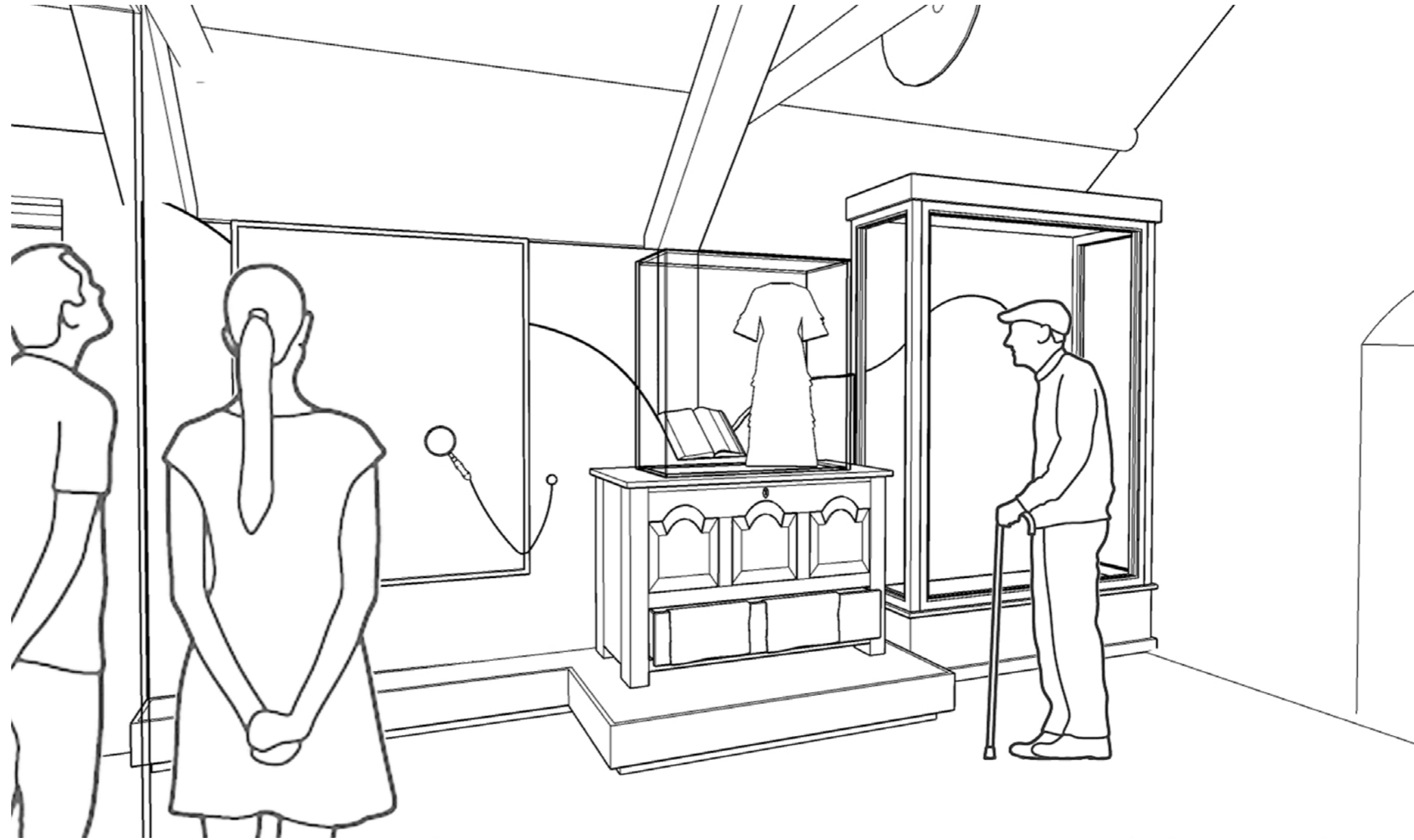
1.2 The Design.

1.2.3 Our Clans

Breathe in the change in atmosphere as you meet the Clans that shaped the Glen. An engaging mix of immersive projection, props, and sensory interactivity brings to life the cultural importance of highland hospitality and the social and political climate that triggered the Massacre of Glencoe.

Visitors will be able to learn about the Clans from historical and contemporary perspectives, interpreted the incredible Jacobite collection with both curator and community interpretation. In one instance, Visitors can use a magnifying glass to animate the MacDonald Clan Tree and discover the origins and stories of the Clan, from past and present generations. The family tree will also inspire the donor contribution wall by the entrance.

Inspired by the Glencoe landscape, the graphics will bring the outside in as colours and shapes will flow into the architecture of the building, creating an interpretive layering. 3D forms and graphic language create bold and illustrative visuals that form an atmospheric backdrop to the artefacts and their stories. New and upcycled showcasing will also embrace this visual aesthetic, blending them into the graphic landscape.



1.2 The Design.



A central showcase will display the 18th Century Spitalfield dress, allowing visitors to see it from 360 degrees. They will be able to see the intricate details from front to back.

1.2 The Design.

1.2.4 Our Place

Find yourself at the heart of Glencoe, immersed in a display of objects displays that tell both the chronology of Glencoe's history and focus on particular themes important to the community. Pull out panels, display drawers and lift to reveal panels offer story discovery across the timeline, creating a tactile way for visitors to understand the history of Glencoe.

Our Place has been developed to integrate storage and seating where suitable. Central displays will be moveable, allowing for more space to be made when needed. This will allow for optimal flexibility and accessibility within the Museum. It will also open opportunities for the Museum to hold more indoor activities and local events.

The clean design and dynamic graphics embrace the bright new architecture, allowing the historic objects to speak for themselves and capturing the essence of the Glencoe community from its origins through to today. Accessible audio brings community voices into the stories, leaving visitors with a sense of connection to the locals and Glencoe as a home.



7.2 The Design.



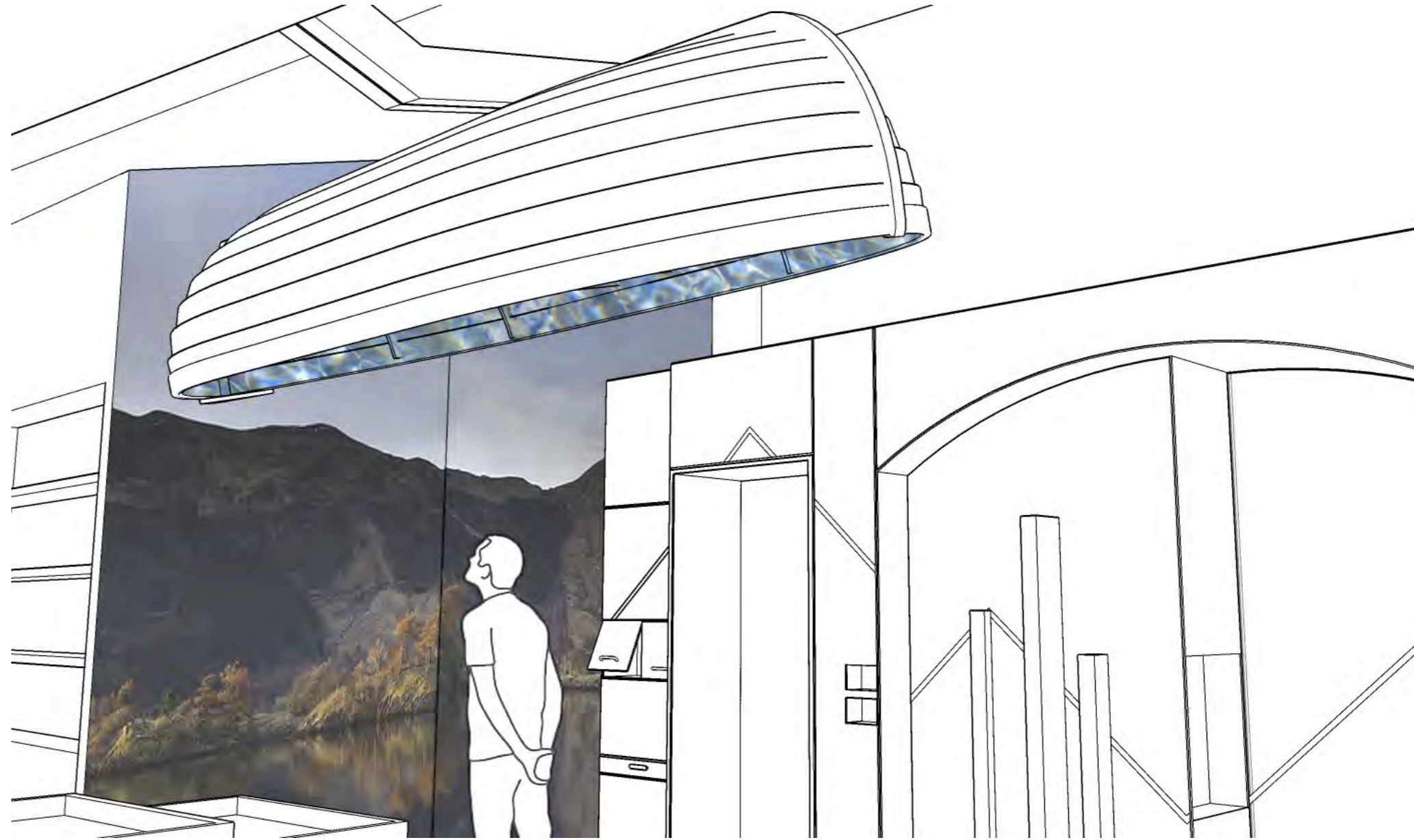
An interactive object timeline puts Glencoe into the global story, allowing visitors to build their sense of history within the area and recognise the communities role in world events. Visually, the landscape becomes the constant which features throughout all Glencoe's history.

1.2 The Design.

1.2.5 Coffin Boat

Wrapped in centuries of folklore, the Coffin display is a particular interest piece for all visiting the Museum. The new display will create an isolated immersive experience which takes visitors on a journey to Eilean Munde. Suspended from a roof structure and supported by surrounding graphic interpretation, visitors will learn the rich history of the Coffin Boat, while a gobo effect gives the sense of the boat floating through the waters of Loch Leven.

Based on the conservation survey, that includes a proposal for display, the Coffin Boat will be suspended by supporting cradle. This will be designed to stabilise the boat and its condition while on display in the redeveloped Museum.



1.2 The Design.

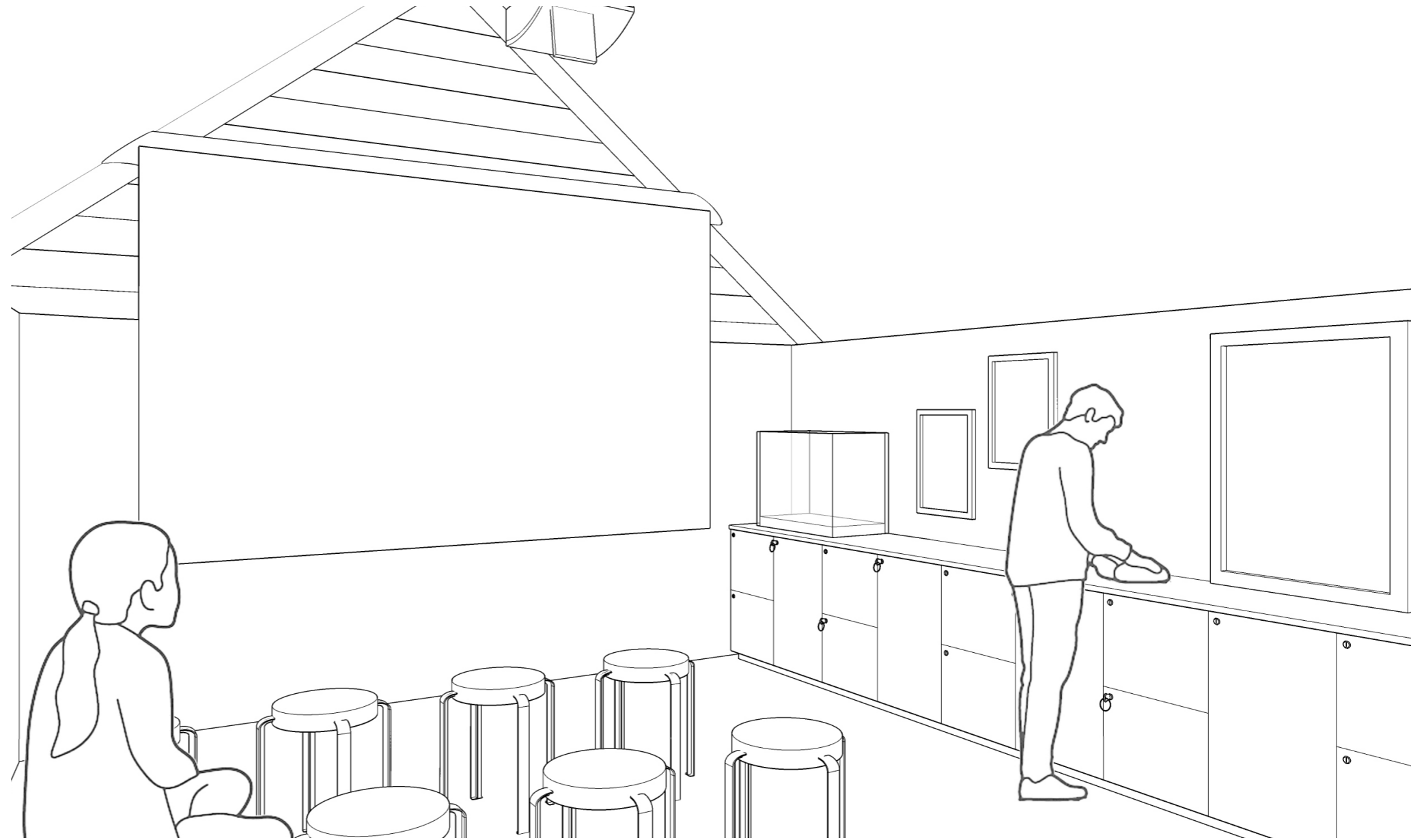
1.2.5 Community Gallery: In the Byre

The Community Gallery is a flexible exhibition and education space inside the Byre. It is free to access and has multi-purpose use.

The local community will be given ownership of the temporary exhibition space, allowing them to tell stories of the contemporary community. The Byre can also provide room for community films, promoting local activities and partnerships. During school visits, the Byre can be transformed into an education area.

This space will also be integrated with low-level lockers, offering a storage space for those who wish to leave their luggage, and a surface for displays around the perimeter of the Byre.

Opportunities for the involvement of the local community will be displayed here, as will objects that are available for adoption and the famous 'Hamish the Heilan Hunk'. Visitors are invited to take a photo with Hamish himself and learn all about his story.

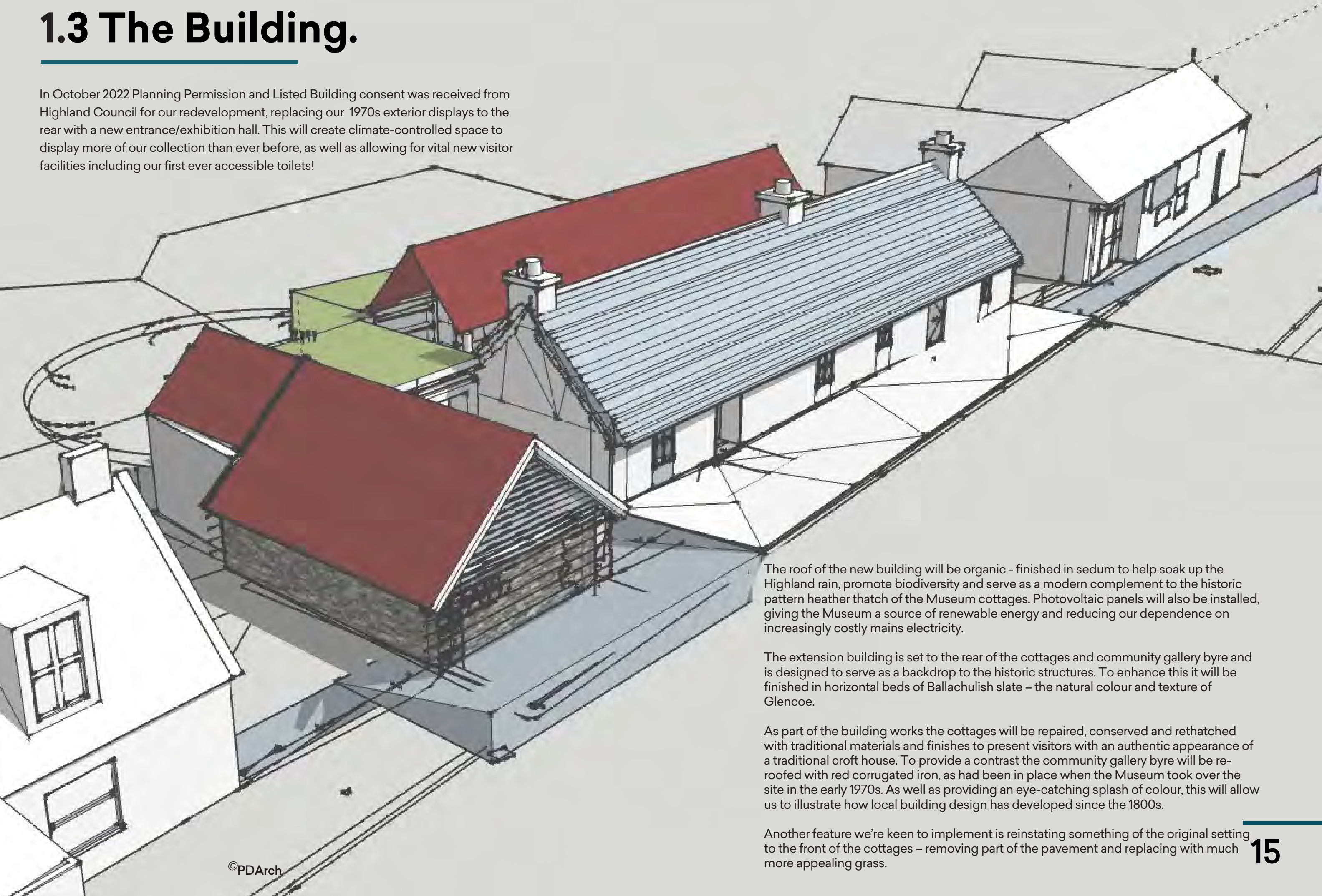


1.2 The Design.



1.3 The Building.

In October 2022 Planning Permission and Listed Building consent was received from Highland Council for our redevelopment, replacing our 1970s exterior displays to the rear with a new entrance/exhibition hall. This will create climate-controlled space to display more of our collection than ever before, as well as allowing for vital new visitor facilities including our first ever accessible toilets!



The roof of the new building will be organic - finished in sedum to help soak up the Highland rain, promote biodiversity and serve as a modern complement to the historic pattern heather thatch of the Museum cottages. Photovoltaic panels will also be installed, giving the Museum a source of renewable energy and reducing our dependence on increasingly costly mains electricity.

The extension building is set to the rear of the cottages and community gallery byre and is designed to serve as a backdrop to the historic structures. To enhance this it will be finished in horizontal beds of Ballachulish slate – the natural colour and texture of Glencoe.

As part of the building works the cottages will be repaired, conserved and rethatched with traditional materials and finishes to present visitors with an authentic appearance of a traditional croft house. To provide a contrast the community gallery byre will be re-roofed with red corrugated iron, as had been in place when the Museum took over the site in the early 1970s. As well as providing an eye-catching splash of colour, this will allow us to illustrate how local building design has developed since the 1800s.

Another feature we're keen to implement is reinstating something of the original setting to the front of the cottages – removing part of the pavement and replacing with much more appealing grass.

1.3 The Building.

New open plan exhibition space, suitable for a mix of permanent and temporary exhibitions

Staff WC / showerroom and storage

Accessible WC

Reception

Entrance vestibule

Gift Shop and Gallery

Accessible entrance into museum

Accessible doorway to community space

Community Space with locker/storage space for visitors jackets and bags

Cottages now with accessible entrances from extension

Original landscpae frontage setting reinstated