



CASE STUDY

KILMARTIN MUSEUM

Lochgilphead, Argyll, Scotland
United Kingdom

KNAUF

Build on us.

Kilmartin museum's £7m refurbishment creates a significant cultural and natural tourism centre in Argyll, Scotland.



A Gloriously Historic Setting

Kilmartin Museum is located on the road between Lochgilphead and Oban, steeped in local history. The 800 tombs, stone circles, standing stones and monuments in its six-mile radius, along with pots, bowls, arrowheads, and human remains which have been unearthed there over the last two centuries, are testament to the 12,000 years of history where it's been the seat of kings, the burial place of nobility, and been the site of battles.

- **Owner** Kilmartin Museum, Lochgilphead, Argyll
- **Architect** Reiach and Hall Architects, Edinburgh
- **Contractor** TSL Contracts Ltd, Oban
- **Year of Completion** 2023
- **Photographer** © Alan McAteer



Acoustic Solutions Inspired by Ancient Pottery

At a detail level, the façades and inner surfaces of the new museum's architecture are influenced by the decoration of the ancient pottery, drawn into wet clay before firing. HERADESIGN® was installed throughout the development, including the soffits of the main entrance, reception and shop, the main exhibition area, and the

education room. HERADESIGN® not only delivered the required acoustic performance but also provided the perfect aesthetic. The soft white and grey colour pallet complemented the adjacent materials. With its suspended installation, HERADESIGN® demonstrated its versatility by overcoming the challenges of service integration above the panels.

Transforming History

Founded in 1997, an 18th century manse and ancillary farm buildings were adapted to create a permanent exhibition with a café and shop. The Museum was located in the basement. The entrance was unmanned and in a separate building from the reception and café. By 2012, the museum services and artefact collections had outgrown the original buildings.

To provide the required space, an ambitious redevelopment project was developed, to create one large facility through an innovative extension that would join its two existing buildings. The development would enable some of its collection of 22,000 prehistoric artefacts, recognised as a Nationally Significant Collection in 2019, to be on display for the first time. Following years of planning and fundraising, building work started in April 2021.

The Steading was refurbished and reconfigured to accommodate spaces that support visitors, including a café, kitchen, stores, toilets, and general information. The existing museum contains administrative and meeting spaces on the upper levels, while the main exhibition galleries wrap around the stone walls of the Manse. Temporary galleries are located on the ground level, with laboratory, educational, and archive spaces situated on the lower ground level.

The facility now boasts a larger exhibition space and a new creative area, which will be used to deliver and participate in cultural activities, as well as stage temporary exhibitions. A fit for purpose education space will allow it to develop its Active Learning and Volunteering Programme.



We have used HERADESIGN® in previous projects and really like to work with this lovely product. The colour range is extensive, yet the panels have a very natural and soft aesthetic which makes them the perfect back drop.

Libby Heathcote
Reiach and Hall Architects

Sympathetic Design

The 1,245m² extension project, designed by award-winning architects Reiach and Hall, joins the existing 18th-century buildings on the site to create a seamless museum facility that is sympathetic to the Kilmartin Glen landscape and its history.

The new building links the two existing buildings (the Manse and the Steading) into one connected complex, with a generous entrance lobby and an impressive cantilever affording uninterrupted panoramic views out to the Glebe Cairn from the reception area and shop.

Solution

HERADESIGN® Fine
600×1200mm, White
System B, Screw mounting

HERADESIGN® Fine
600×2400mm, Nature
System B, Screw mounting

HERADESIGN® Fine
600×2400mm, RAL 7005
System B, Screw mounting

Quantity

320m²



The HERADESIGN® panels used in the new exhibition and elsewhere in the building have blended well into the overall architecture, allowing our amazing artefacts to be the focus, and their acoustic properties are helping prevent sound bleed from audiovisual equipment onto other parts of the building.

Sharon Webb
Director and Curator Kilmartin Museum

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