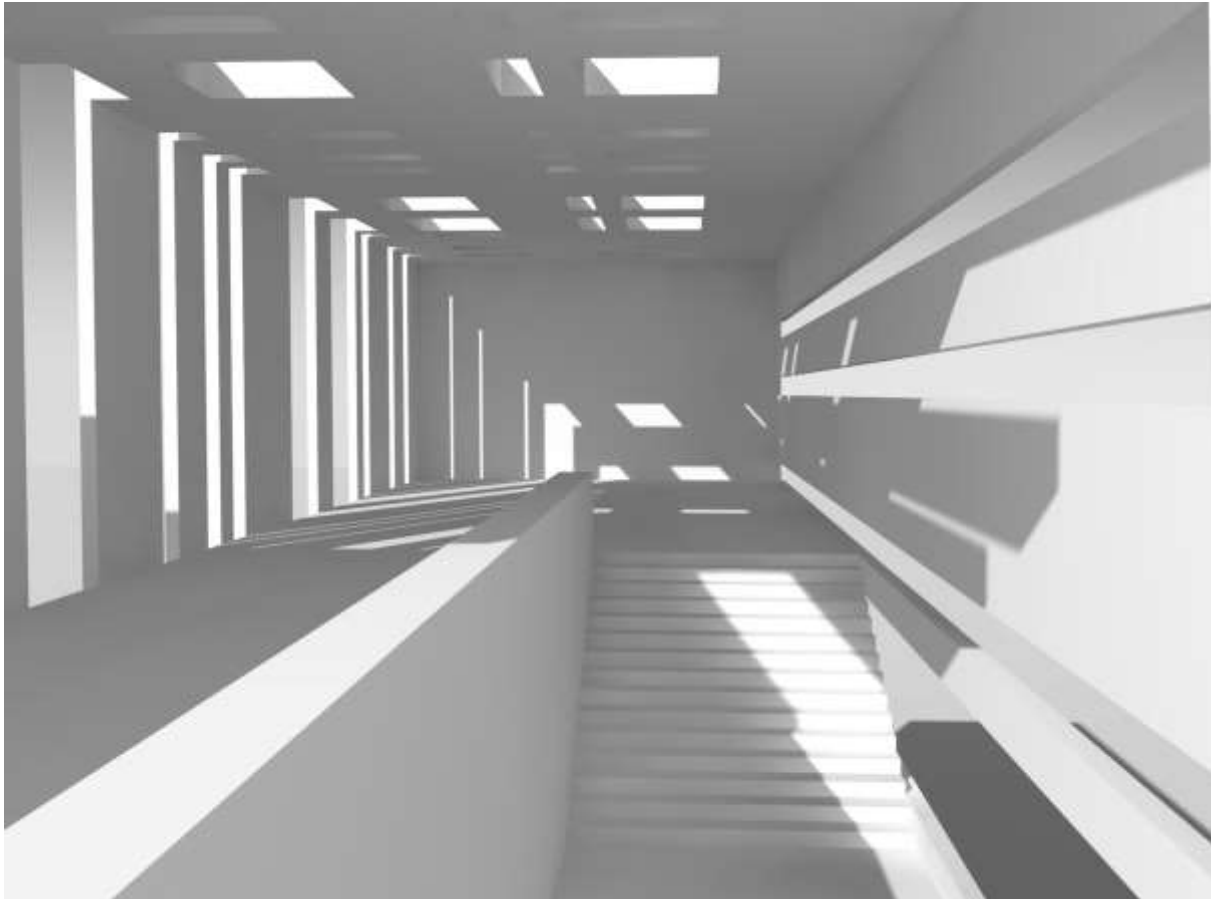


## National museum – extension

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The building housing The national museum at Blasieholmen was originally constructed to provide a place to showcase a cohesive experience of art and architecture. As the museum has modernised and evolved, so has its formal task. Today the mission of the museum is twofold: to make the collection accessible for the public and, to continually preserve and catalogue its growing six-hundred-thousand item collection.

Throughout the 20th century, much of the public gallery space was adapted to house back-of-house functions that originally were just a small portion of the museums main task. Today, the preservation, restoration and cataloguing of the continually growing collection is paramount to the institution's mission, which the cramped and fragmented museum is testament to.

As the original building is currently being restored and cleared of its auxiliary functions, the institution is at risk of decentralising its parts, thereby extracting some of its main functions from public view rather than using the supposed back-of-house functions as interactive tools for informing and educating the public on its various roles and the life-cycles of its collections.

My project is aiming to provide an alternative to separating museum galleries and their important auxiliary functions. It can be seen as a phase two of the current renovation program by re-introducing the facilities needed to maintain this vast collection of art objects.

Unlike the current arrangement however, my proposal aims to incorporate and showcase the archive as an alternative to the curated galleries of the existing building, whilst making the presence of the preservation studios a part of the buildings profile and visitor experience.

The extension forms itself around a semi enclosed courtyard at the rear of the existing building. The formerly back-of-house functions are arranged along this courtyard, accessible to employees from the ground-level and visible to the visiting public from a first-floor open-archival gallery. This allows the public further engagement in the preservation cycle of the art works displayed in both the old and new sections of the museum. By introducing the archive as an open exhibition space, the movement of art, staff and visitors become intertwined creating a varied and interactive guest experience and furthering the museums mission.