

Africa Hall

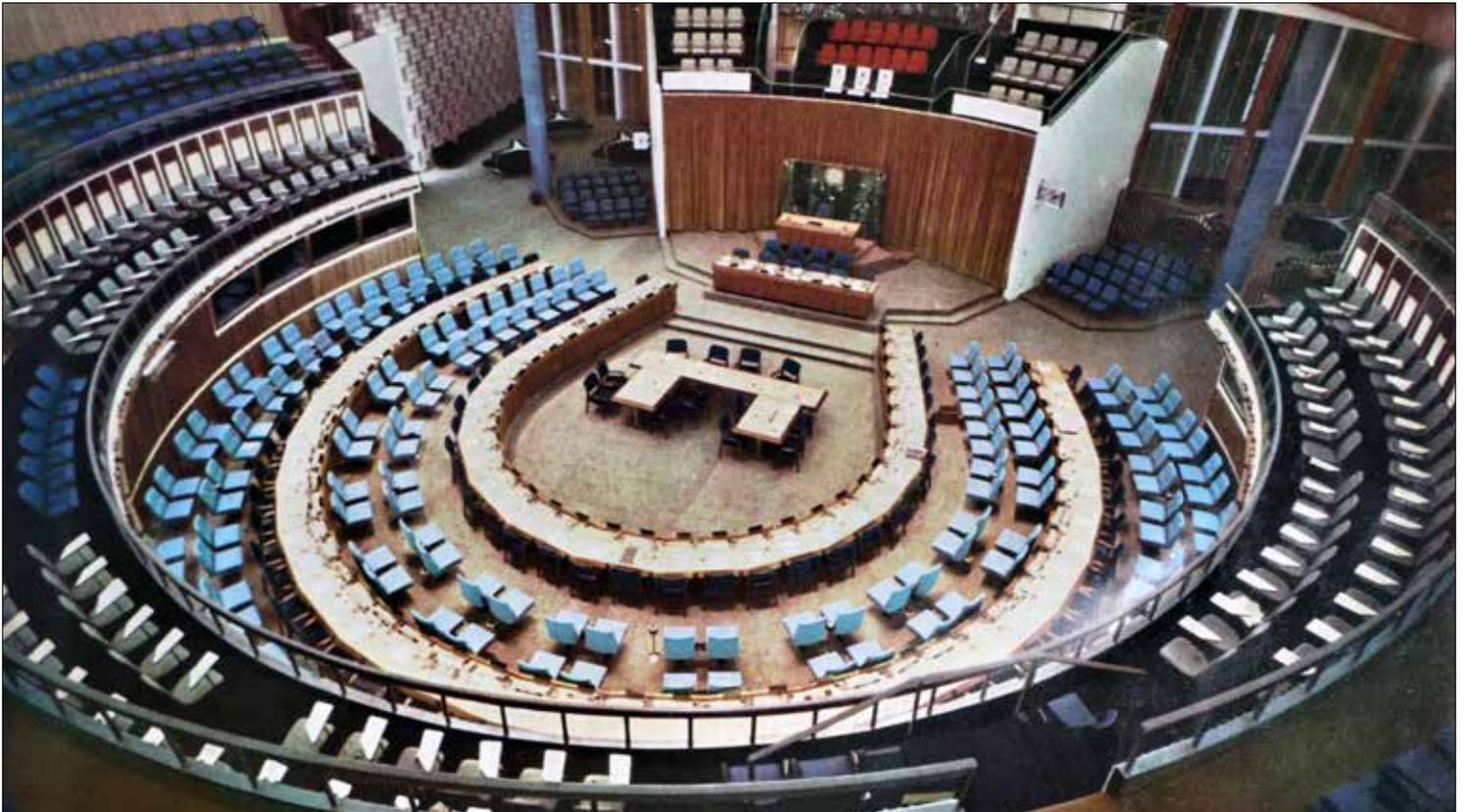
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Marble plaque at the Africa Hall



Ghana leader Kwame Nkrumah at Africa Hall

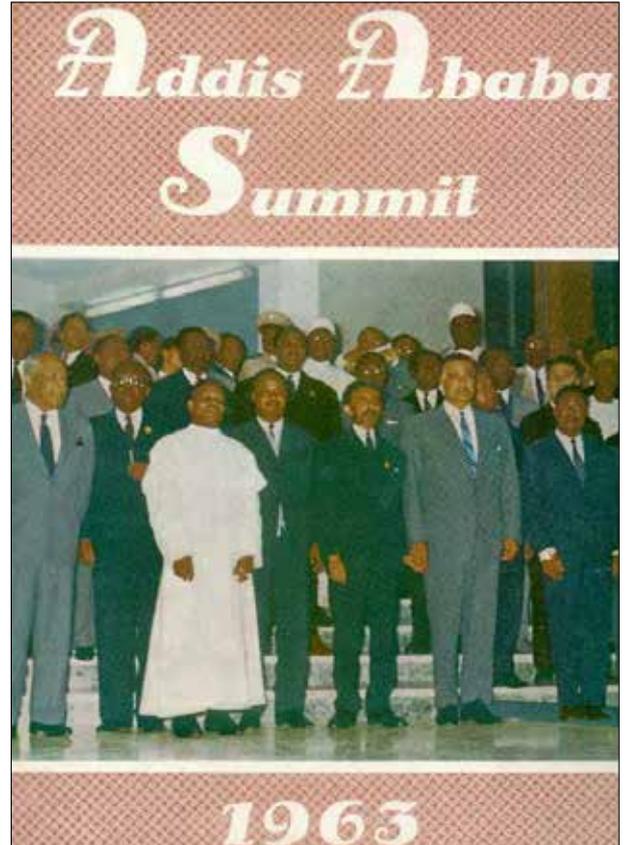




UN Secretary-General U Thant and Emperor Haile Selassie I (Addis Ababa 1969)



Senegalese President Léopold Sédar Senghor and ECA Executive Secretary Robert K.A. Gardiner



Since the opening of the Africa Hall, all political leaders of the liberated Africa came to Addis Ababa to discuss decolonization and the future of the continent.



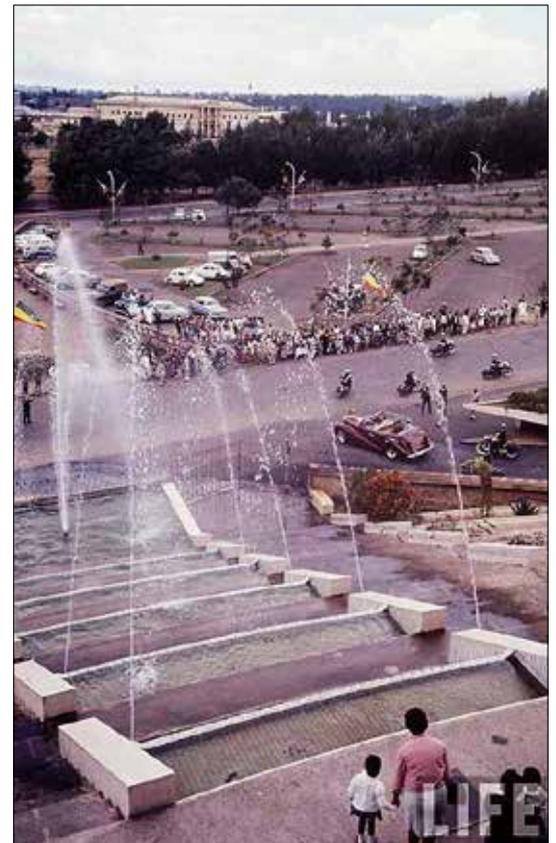


Africa Hall, Addis Ababa, 1960. Courtesy: New York Archives, ONU

Originally, Africa Hall dominated the empty space around: the absence of fences allowed people to approach and admire its functional model. It became the centre of future infrastructures, a reference, from the sixties, for the expanding Addis Ababa.



Courtesy: New York Archives, ONU



Fountain and monumental staircase gave direct access to town



Courtesy: Archivio Mezzedimi, Roma



ECA archives



Queen Elisabeth II Royal visit, 1965



Africa Hall plenary session, 1963



Tanzania President Nyerere signing agreement in 1966 (??)

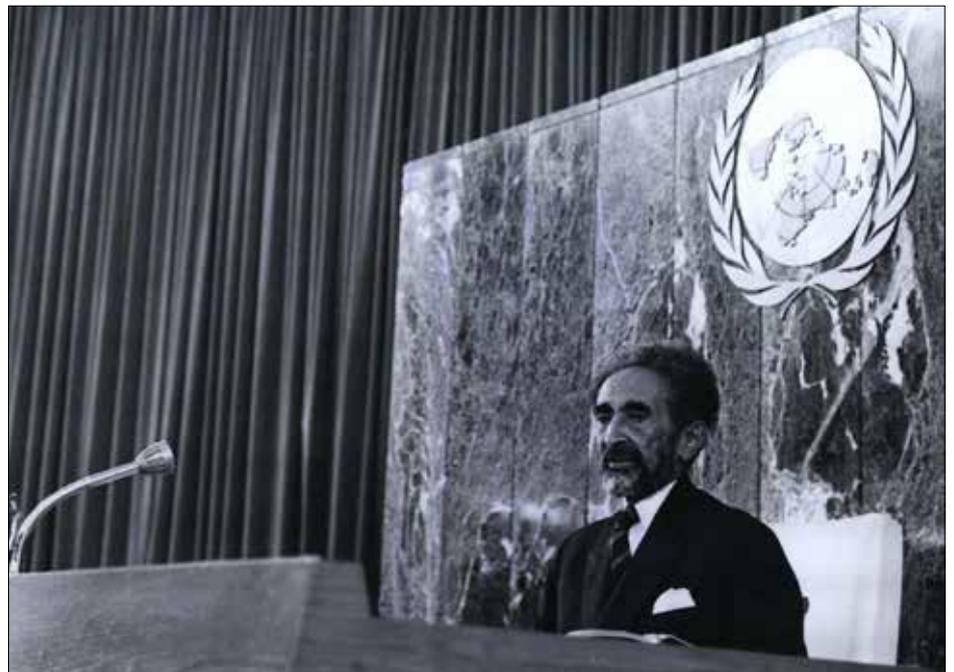


Ethiopian embroidery pattern, currently used to enrich festivity dresses. It was reproduced in stone to symbolically decorate the Africa Hall building.





In its sixty years of service, Africa Hall established its routines and the ECA archives preserved the conspicuous moments, such as the signature of OAU (Organization of African Unity) Charter in 1963 and treaties by Head of States and relevant UN personalities.





"Only a few years ago, meetings to consider African problems were held outside Africa, and the fate of its peoples were decided by non-Africans.

Today, ... thanks to the conference of Accra and now of Addis Ababa, the peoples of Africa can, at long last, deliberate on their own problems and future"

Haile Selassie I

On the occasion of the Summit which brought to the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, in 1963.



All images from ECA archives, Limpopo Library, A.A.



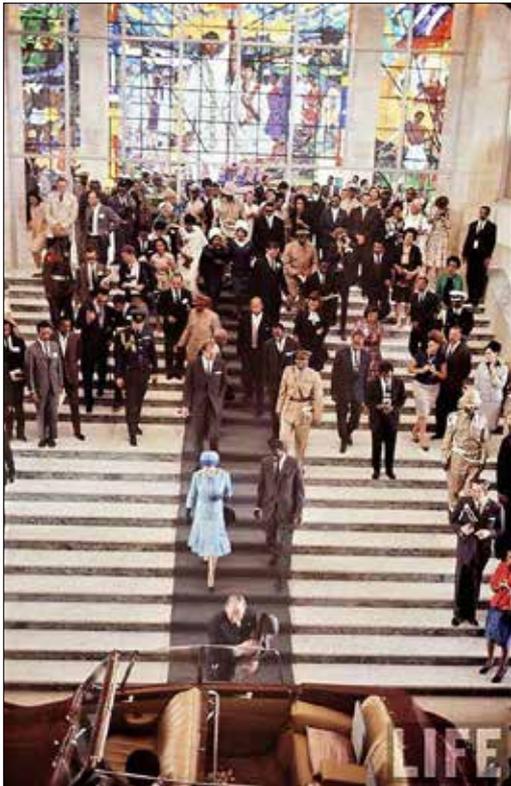
In the sixties, Africa Hall proudly heralded to the world the achievements of communication technology in the hands of young Africans



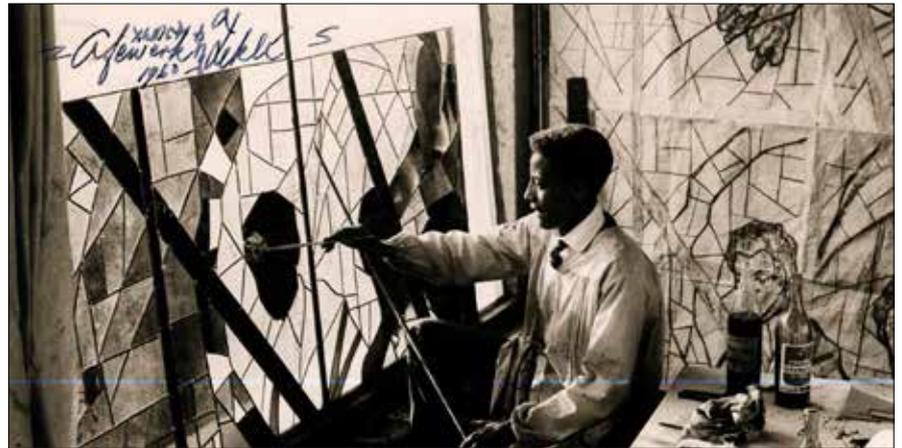
All images from ECA archives, Limpopo Library, A.A.



The struggle and aspiration of the African People - Stained glass 150 sq.m. by Afewerq Tekle



Queen Elizabeth II at Africa Hall (1965)



Master Haile Afewerq in his studio (Addis Ababa 1960)





In all societies, all over the world, symbolic monuments, attract artworks. The Africa Hall building, since foundation, demonstrated its cultural, magnetic power.



On the first floor, a mural drawing 40 metres long, is dedicated to the diversity of African flora by artist Sanguineti.



United as One - Oil on canvas by Assefa & Sereke Berhan ,1960.





Africa Hall Renovation Project

The need to rejuvenate the Africa Hall building was identified by the Member States in 2008, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

ECA, with support of national and international experts, completed the feasibility study and the concept design in 2014.

The 70th session of the UN General Assembly approved the renovation Project, entrusting ECA of the implementation.

The cost of the Project is estimated at 56.9 Million USD.

The renovation Project is Currently under implementation and it is expected to be completed by 2024.

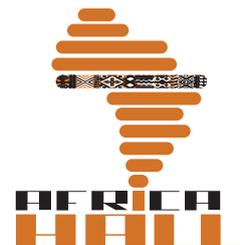
The Project counts with the Support of UNESCO, the African Union and the Government of Ethiopia.

Member States, Public Institution and the private sector are encouraged to provide voluntary contribution.

Detailed information are available through the QR code below.



www.uneca.org/?q=africa-hall



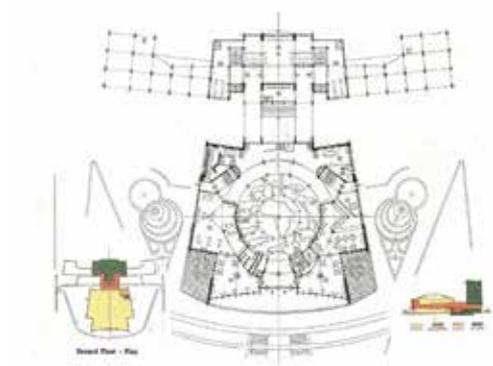


Project Objectives

- To **enhance the significance of Africa Hall** by undertaking a renovation and restoration process based on a clear understanding of the historical and cultural values embedded in its architecture;
- To **undertake restoration of spaces** based on an understanding of the original design intent, levels of significance and agreed conservation policies to guide the process;
- Restoration and preservation work guided by **international best practices** and input from internal and external stakeholders;
- Achieve a **modern conference facility** with services facilitating exhibitions.
- Refurbish furniture, fixtures, audio visual, building services, fire and structural upgrades and provide **equitable and safe experiences** for all occupants of the building;
- Provide a **permanent exhibition** which highlights the key events and the role in which Africa Hall has played in shaping Pan-African history.



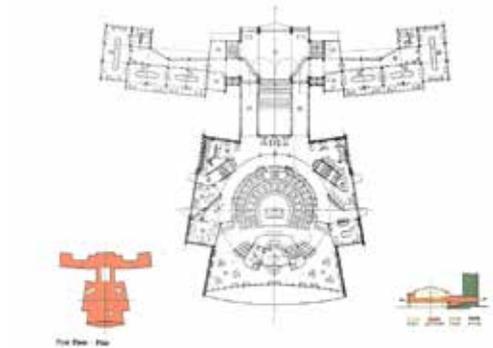
Original Design and Construction



Original Ground Floor Plan



Original Design Model

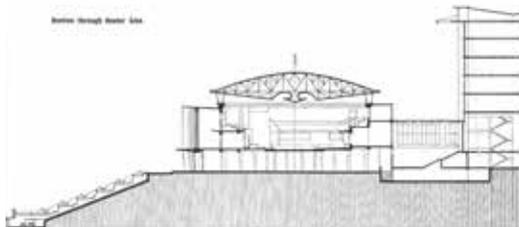


Original First Floor Plan



Construction Photos

Original Longitudinal Section



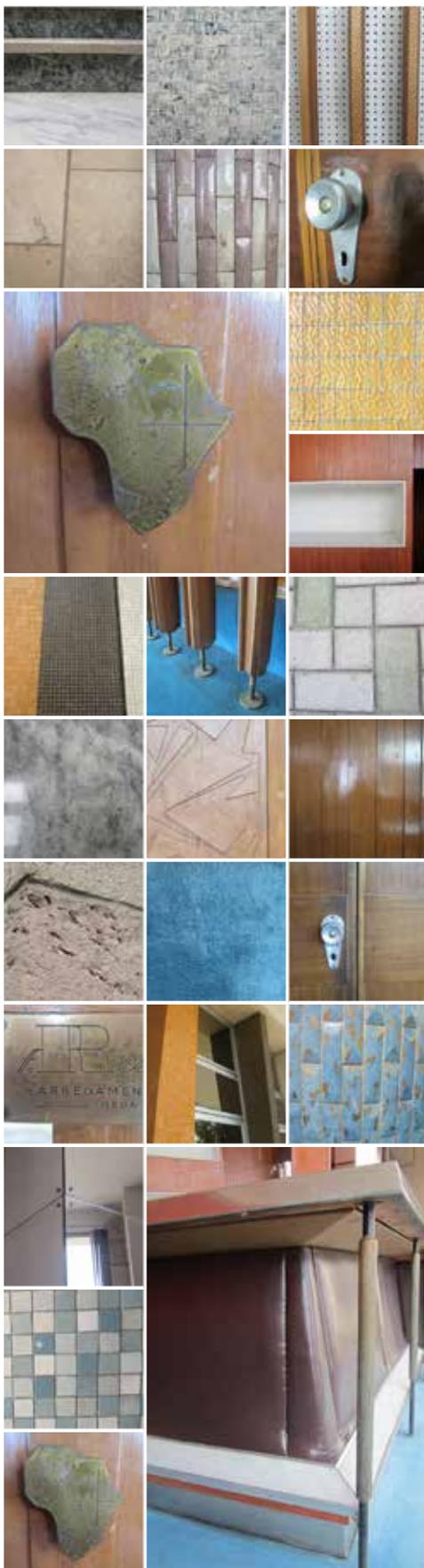
Photos and plans courtesy of Mezzedimi archive

Design and Conservation Approach

The project demonstrates international best practice in its approach toward the conservation of this culturally significant heritage monument.

This is achieved through 5 key principles:

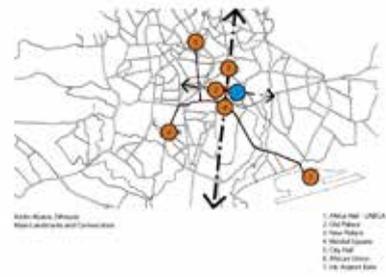
1. Understanding the significance of the place through **research and dialogue**
2. Developing a deep understanding of the condition of the building through **testing and analysis**;
3. Developing **conservation policies** to guide conservation and upgrades
4. Doing **as much as necessary, but as little as possible**;
5. **Keeping good records** of all work done;



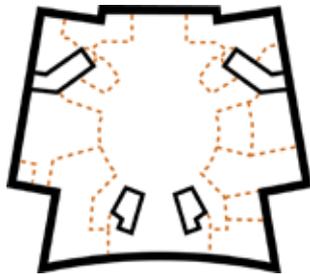
Design and Conservation Principles



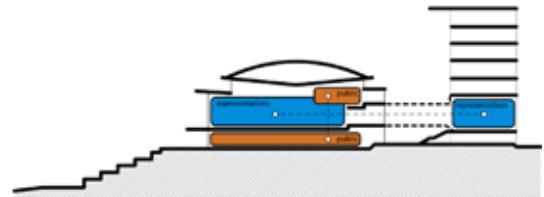
Symbol - A Symbol of Contemporary Africa



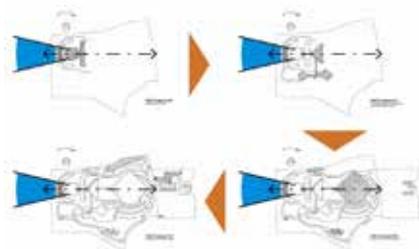
Precinct - Maintain Relationship to key Landmarks



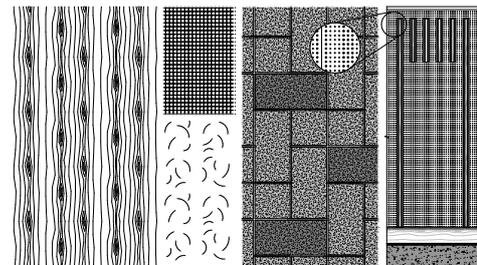
Integrity - Reinstating Intact Original Spaces



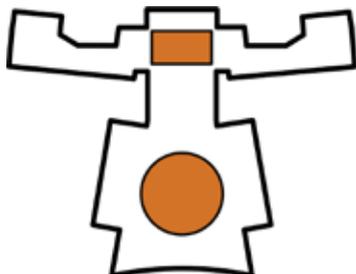
Building Use - for Delegations and also the Public



Orientation - Maintain Symmetry and Views



Materiality - Respecting the Original Palette



Planning - Hierarchy & Uses of spaces shall be Maintained



Integrated Artwork - Conserve and Reinstating



Original Rotunda

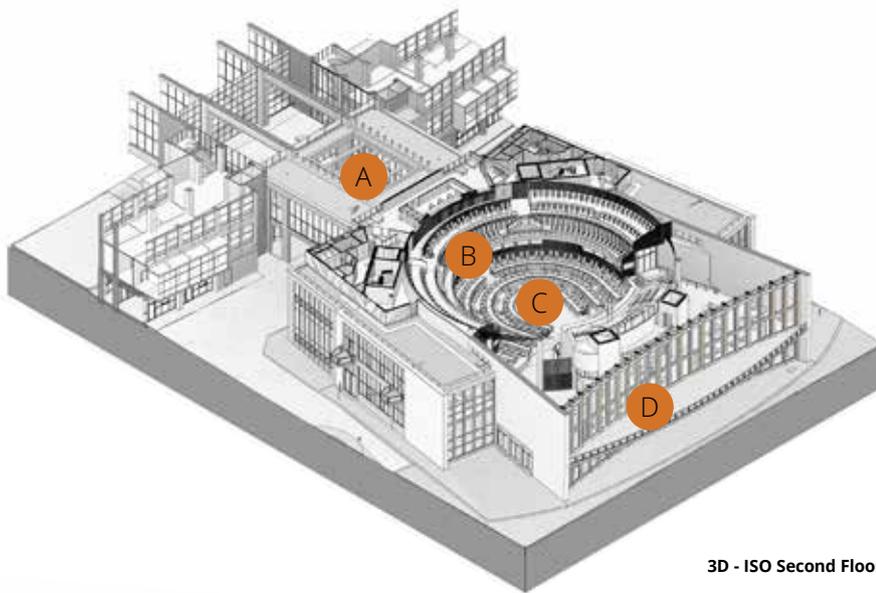


Present State



Africa Hall Project - Rotunda Restoration





3D - ISO Second Floor

A

Bridge Link Roof Upgrade

Refurbishment of bridge link roof for all weather VIP access

B

Public Gallery Upgrades

Furniture and Finishes Refurbishment in keeping with original design
Provision of wheelchair accessible gallery seating

C

Plenary Hall

Upgraded Modern Conference Facility
Refurbished original furniture and materials
Podium Accessibility Upgrades

D

Western Facade Upgrade

Structural Upgrade of Western Facade

E

Congo Entrance Lobby

New stretcher compliant accessible lift
Conservation and restoration of Afewerk Tekle Stained Glass Artwork
Podium Accessibility Upgrades

F

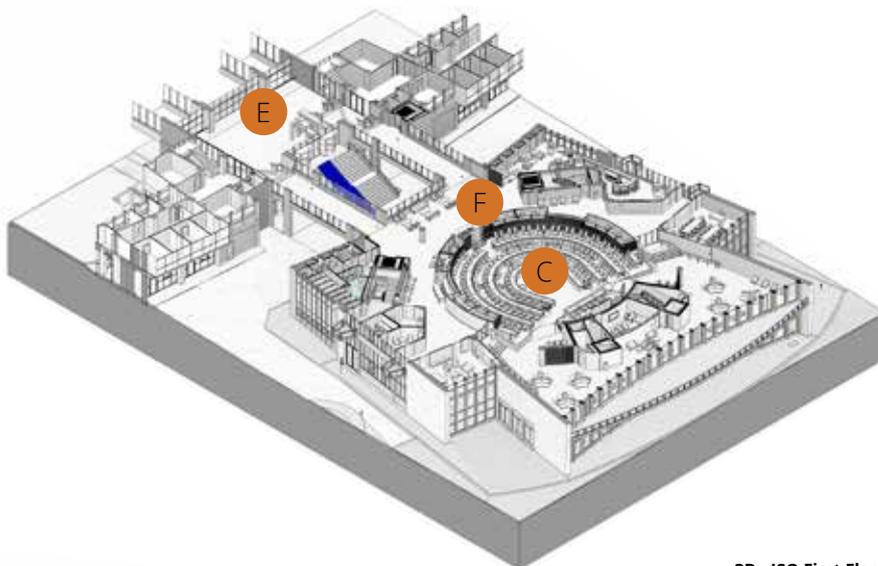
Plenary Hall Lobby

Upgrade wheelchair compliant lifts
Refurbishment of feature ceiling
Conservation and Restoration of Africal Floral Mural by Nenne Sanguineti Poggi
Audio Visual Upgrades to facilitate functions and exhibitions
Reconstruction of Delegates Bar

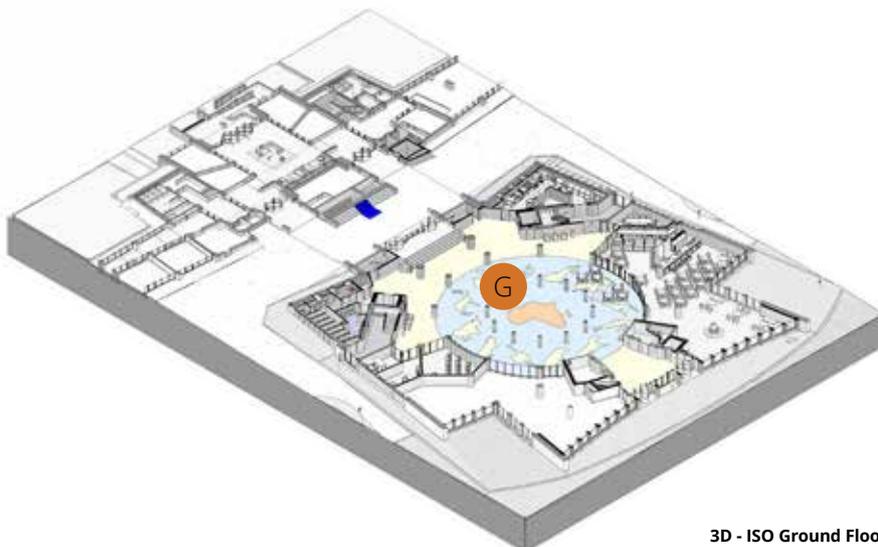
G

Rotunda Permanent Exhibition

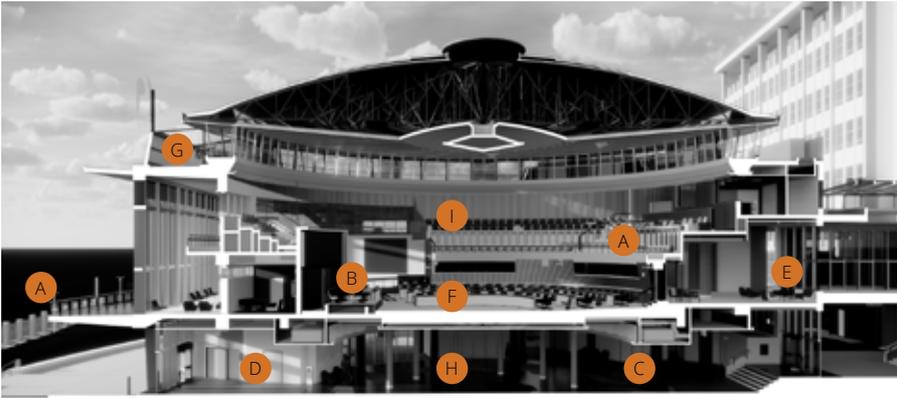
Restoration of mosaic African Fauna artwork
Installation of Permanent Exhibition
Reconstruction of Public Cafe and Gift Shop



3D - ISO First Floor



3D - ISO Ground Floor



A

Physical Safety Upgrades

B

Equitable Access Upgrades

C

Vertical Transport Upgrades

D

Structural and Seismic
Strengthening

E

Fire Safety Upgrades

F

Modern Conference Facility
Upgrades

G

Environmental Efficiency
Upgrades

H

Restoration of the Rotunda
Public Permanent Exhibition
Space

I

Heritage Fabric Conservation





A

Physical Security Upgrades

B

Equitable Entry Upgrades

C

New Visitor Entry Building

D

Structural and Seismic
Strengthening

E

Landscape Restoration

F

Fountain Restoration

G

Facade Conservation

H

Roof Refurbishment and
Upgrades

