



FORUM WISSEN

GÖ

Knowledge in the making.



Gauss
1815

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Forum Wissen

An open house of sciences and humanities



Forum Wissen Göttingen will be a public space for the arts and sciences, attracting academics and students as well as schoolchildren, senior citizens and families. Here knowledge will be presented in the making, to be experienced by a broad public as a core process of human being and doing. Forum Wissen will bring together and spatially integrate under one roof the full range of object-related activities: it preserves and provides the material academic heritage in the Göttingen University collections, unlocks it for research and teaching, and, at the same time, displays and imparts how knowledge is methodologically gained from working on and with the objects. Forum Wissen will therefore simultaneously feed university and public needs by cre-

ating a stimulating framework and fostering ideas to make use of the University of Göttingen's academic collections for interdisciplinary research and teaching as well as for science communication.

The importance of university collections as fundamental research infrastructures was highlighted by the German Wissenschaftsrat and his recommendations on academic collections as research infrastructures, published in 2011.¹ The funding scheme 'Vernetzen – Erschließen – Forschen. Allianz für universitäre Sammlungen'² launched in May 2015 by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF) starts from the premise that objects and materials from scientific, technical and cultural history have always served to create and pass on knowledge. Having

always been hotbeds of methodological reflection and self-assurance in academia, university collections and their object holdings are the fundamentals of historic, current and future research. Examining the objects and the principles of ordering and curatorship in collections helps to answer academic questions or to pose them in an entirely original way. The BMBF sums up: 'To this day, these collections are an inexhaustible knowledge bank that is of outstanding relevance both for research and for teaching purposes.'

A striking feature of Göttingen's Forum Wissen will be that several of the functions named in these decisive texts are going to be united under one roof. The Forum will be a central hub in the network of Göttingen University's decentralised collections and their millions of objects. Here abandoned and untended collections will be made accessible again, objects can be restored and preserved on site. Here research and teaching with and on the objects will find its innovative and facilitating infrastructure. Here scientific and scholarly work will be mooted for discussion and is going to be communicated in a dynamic manner. Here

the academic world will open itself up to the public with its objects and practices, seeking active dialogue.

For Forum Wissen Göttingen, the three areas of 'collecting, preserving, cataloguing', 'research and teaching' as well as 'presenting and communicating' are equally important fields of activity. Therefore, the house is designed to become a laboratory, lecture theatre and museum in one integrated space. The project derives its unique mission from the manifold interconnections between these three areas. Overcoming intellectual and spatial isolation, linking together different spaces, specialist subjects and ideas and the interplay of the disciplines in collecting, research, teaching and communication are at the heart of the initiative. Various rooms and zones are planned throughout the building that serve different user groups as meeting areas. Paths, approaches and perspectives will intersect, to foster and inspire engaging dialogue. While popular science centres convey results of research developed elsewhere, Forum Wissen Göttingen is a place for displaying the processes of creating knowledge themselves. ■





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Collecting and preserving The Göttingen collections



With its currently 36 collections, which encompass over 70 sub-collections, the University of Göttingen until today remains deeply rooted in its rich collection landscape with a varied heritage covering the entire spectrum of academic subjects: from the Culture Collection of Algae to the Teaching Collection of Pre- and Protohistory and the Museum of Zoology. The collections include objects that are 500 million years old, as well as those that, like disused measuring instruments, have only recently lost their initial function. In addition, there are the Special Collections of Göttingen State and University Library (SUB) and the Göttingen University Archives.

Many of the collections date back to the time of the Royal Academic Museum of the University of Göttingen, founded

in 1773. In parallel to the establishment of a central library – and initially also under its roof – a collection of ‘naturalia’ and ‘artificialia’ was compiled. Artefacts as well as organic and mineral samples, ethnographic and natural history objects and collections were used by the professors for the purpose of demonstration and as visual examples in their academic teaching, thereby gathering a rapidly growing and increasingly recognised academic museum which, last but not least, also served to attract financially strong students to Göttingen University.

Over the course of its existence the museum achieved a steady increase in the number of objects. However, it was precisely the expansion of the collections and the broadening of the collection activities to cover new research fields that



ultimately led to the initial Royal Academic Museums dissolution. As the individual university disciplines gradually emerged and diverged – sometimes occasioned by the collections themselves – the objects were divided up and within their fields they formed the basic holdings for new subject-specific collections. The Cook-Forster-Collection and the ethnographic items donated by Baron Georg Thomas von Asch are famous examples of the advances in the late 18th century that made a major contribution to the emergence of the discipline of ethnology. The same is true of the University of Göttingen's archaeological and art history collections.

To this day, the extensive collections of scientific and scholarly items, which have grown historically, constitute indispensable tools and rich resources for interdisciplinary research in many subjects. In addition, they hold immense

potential for future research projects and methodologies. The centuries-old Collection of Herbaria is a case in point. Although the specimens of archived plants were initially collected to provide the basis for the first scientific description of plants and morphological studies, today they constitute a highly valuable resource for new research enquiries, such as for diachronically comparative DNA studies.

In academic teaching, many collections are often relied upon as a vital source of visual evidence and to promote research on the objects of the respective discipline to make it easier literally to grasp the subject (e.g. in archaeology, historical anthropology and even mathematics and physics).

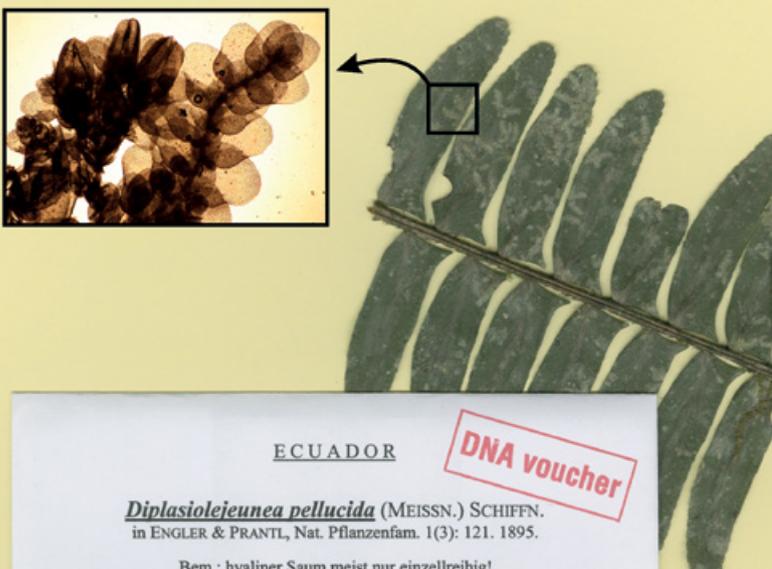
Until now, however, objects have rarely been used in interdisciplinary studies or for communication purposes, and only occasionally have been presented in cross-disciplinary

contexts, in order to facilitate an understanding of scholarly and scientific work for interested laypersons or to provide a glance behind the scenes of research and teaching. But, especially when brought into surprising constellations, many seemingly unspectacular specimens are excellently suited for displaying 'knowledge about knowledge' and to show how scientific insights came about over the course of history. The objects in the academic collections are a testimony to the genesis of scholarly thinking and work. They form the material basis of scientific and cultural discourses and often render visible competing methodologies in the history of science. Along this line, the university's material holdings offer a vital and inexhaustible resource for projects focusing on

cross-disciplinary interconnections between the various collections, aiming at an understanding of university as a holistic system of knowledge in the making.

In particular, academic collections provide the opportunity to examine the perennial aspects of science and scholarship, such as the presuppositions underlying methodologies, or the unbiased treatment of objects as evidence, and the popularity and decline of certain research paradigms. The interdisciplinary, cross-sectional, synoptic insights into the collections paint a clear picture of the mutual interdependencies between academic scholarship and society. Each discipline sheds light on the society in which it emerges – and equally it shows how the discovery of knowledge is intimately related to the historic context in which it becomes available. This can often be identified from a collection's focus of interest and scope, as well as from the enhanced reputation or decay of individual collections.

Forum Wissen Göttingen thrives on the rich variety and diversity of the university's academic collections, museums and gardens that represent the cornerstone of its overall approach and concept. However, instead of aiming to cen-



tralise the spatial or administrative facilities of the collections, they are to remain at their institutes along with the majority of their objects, to be employed in research and teaching and to promote the specific expertise of each discipline. Nevertheless, Forum Wissen offers them an additional new cen-

se activities. Drawing on the existing infrastructure available to the various academic disciplines the Centre for Collection Development will continue to support the decentral collections at their institutes. It will assist them in making their objects accessible to the scientific community and to enhance their

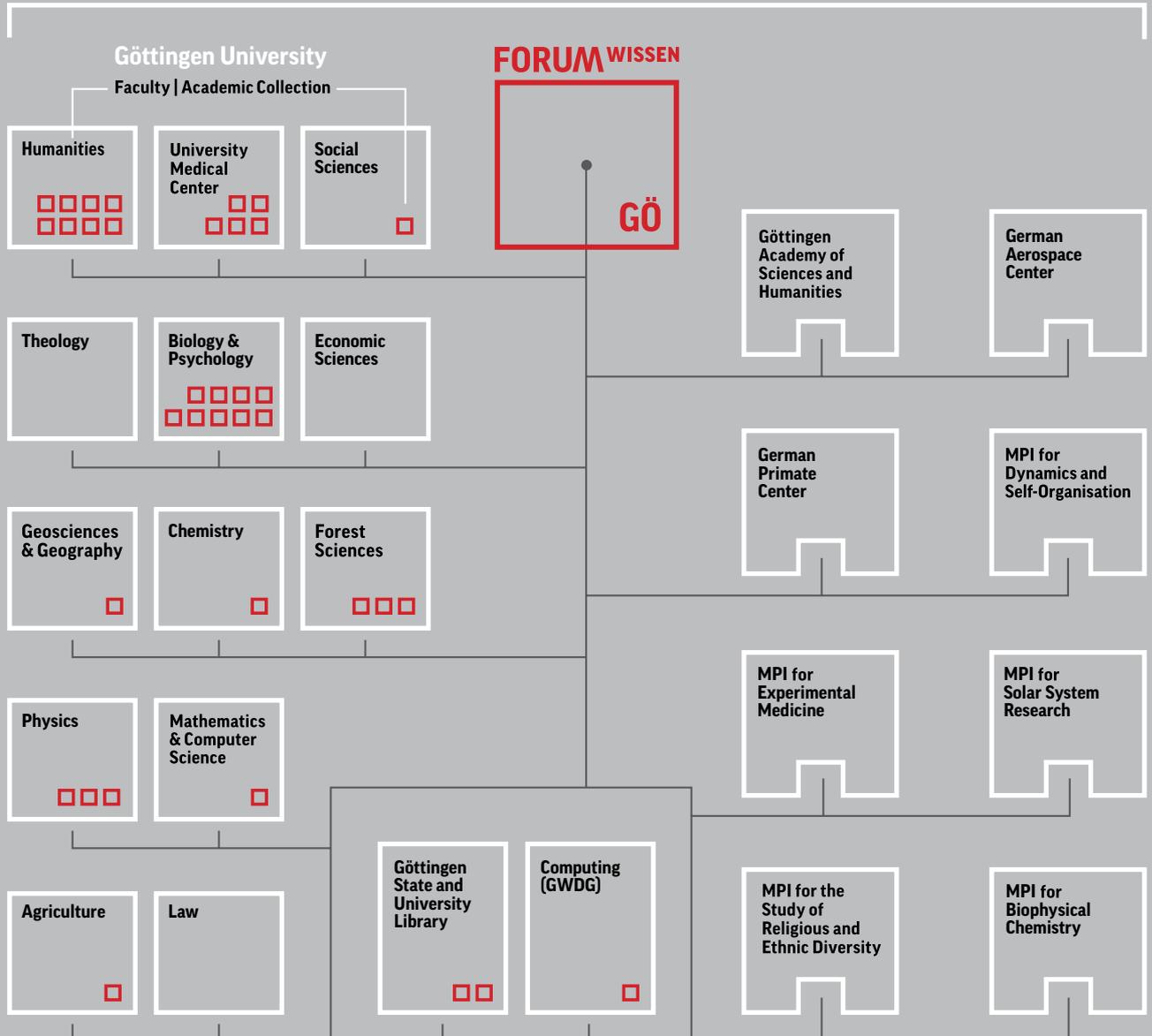
usability. Its role is also to offer advice on the state of preservation of their items, to help improve storage conditions at decentralised locations and, if required, to arrange for necessary preventive conservation measures and minor restoration work. The Centre for Collection Development also coordinates the procurement of third-party funding for extensive restoration work or to purchase objects. Previously untended collections, or those that have become 'homeless' through the restructuring of departments, can in fu-



ture as a pivotal hub for the collective and multidisciplinary activities of research and teaching. At Forum Wissen, the Zentrale Kustodie, Göttingen universities Centre for Collection Development, set up in summer 2013, will oversee the-

future be moved, if necessary, to the central collection depot at Forum Wissen. Here, the items will be stored safely under optimum climatic conditions and will be available in situ at any time for temporary research purposes. ■

Göttingen Campus





Research and teaching

Core university functions



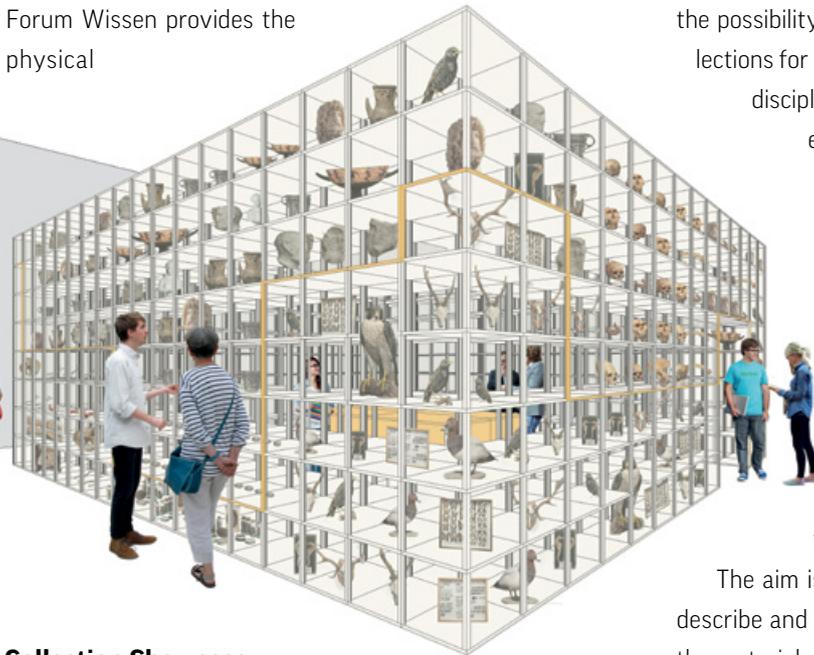
The collections are maintained at Göttingen University because of their significance in the historical, current and future process of making knowledge. Accordingly, Forum Wissen is geared towards creating a framework and providing stimulating ideas so that the collections are even better prepared for intra-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary research and teaching.

It is thus necessary to digitise the collections and offer web-based access for scholars and researchers to carry out their research into the available materials, thus stimulating new projects and often leading beyond the parameters of a single discipline. The campus-wide Göttingen Collections Database has therefore been established to meet the re-

quirements of the various disciplines and study cultures as a cross-disciplinary cataloguing system and research infrastructure. The database integrates existing data and digitised content into an up-to-date, future-proof and centrally operated system. As digitisation and registration progress, the entire corpus of the Göttingen collections is made publicly available via a web portal, while at the same time being linked with national and international online libraries and museum collections like Europeana and 'Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek'. The Centre for Collection Development, component of Forum Wissen, coordinates the digitisation campaigns and data curation in the collections in close cooperation with the institutions developing and managing the database: the Göttingen State and University Library (SUB) and the 'Gesellschaft für

wissenschaftliche Datenverarbeitung mbH Göttingen' (GWDG).

While the database and web portal make the collections digitally accessible and operable, thus creating the necessary conditions for their contemporary use in research and teaching, Forum Wissen provides the physical



Collection Showcase

space and infrastructure for interdisciplinary work with objects from the various collections. Plans have been drawn up for a unique facility: the Object Lab, a seminar room and laboratory located centrally at Forum Wissen and encircled with a glass high rack shelving system. This serves as storage for the objects that are ready to be examined inside the

Object Lab. Visitors to the Forum can walk around the ceiling-high vitrine and look through the shelf at the research and teaching activities going on inside. The different parties can even exchange glances. As a cutting edge research and teaching environment, on the inside the Object Lab provides the possibility of putting together objects from different collections for a specific time interval and using them for interdisciplinary courses and research projects. Its unusual exterior performs the simultaneous function of a collection showcase that displays the depth and variety of the individual collections.

The research centre with the denomination 'Wissensforschung', also located at Forum Wissen, will produce its own ideas for the use of the collections in research and teaching. The professorship Materiality of Knowledge plays a key role here. The focus is on the importance of materiality for the making and dissemination of knowledge.

The aim is to make it possible to analytically recognise, describe and visualise the value of academic collections and the material cultures of knowledge with regard to empirical work and knowledge production within the humanities and sciences. The specialist expertise contributed by the professorship will be supplemented by guest scholars invited by the research centre in cooperation with the Göttingen Institute for Advanced Study 'Lichtenberg-Kolleg'. The research centre is also to be a source of initiatives for further third-party funded object-related research activities, and to

provide a coordination point for networking internationally with other centres specialising in interdisciplinary research projects into collections and the history of science.

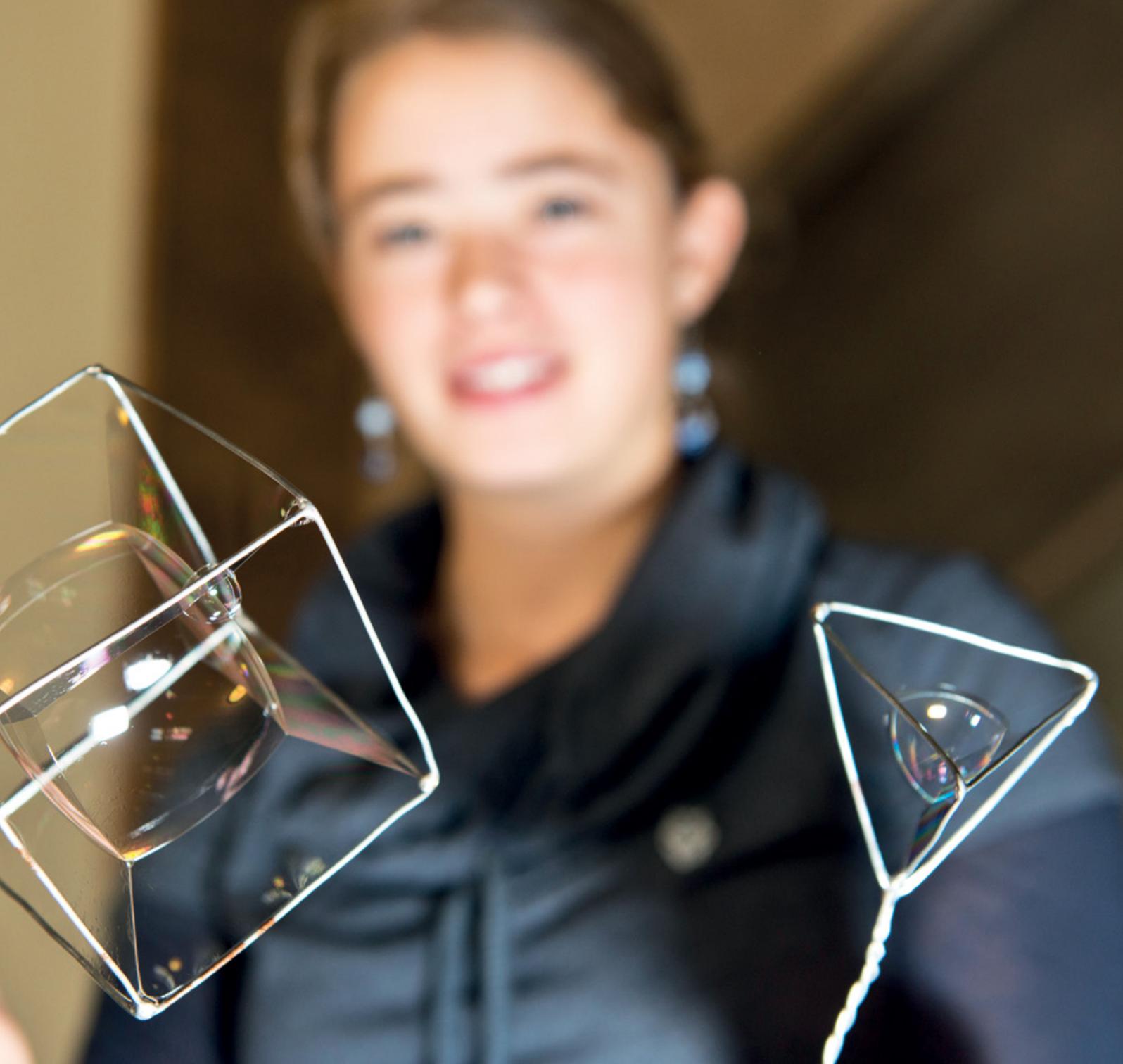
A doctoral research programme is designed to promote young scholars and will be set up in close association with the Materiality of Knowledge professorship and the research centre Wissensforschung at Forum Wissen. However, here the promotion of young academics is combined with attractive offers for BA and MA students who can join in project seminars working with and on the objects, and following up specific research questions, thereby gaining an

introduction to the fields of work at the academic museum.

At Forum Wissen PhD students, undergraduates and lecturers can use the innovative teaching and research facilities and have direct access to the holdings of items and objects in the collections, as well as present their projects to audiences from within and outside of the university in exhibitions and discussion events. A linking of this kind between objects from different faculty collections and an infrastructure that facilitates interdisciplinary, object-related research and teaching activities at a university is so far unique in Germany. ■



Object Lab



Presenting and communicating

Exhibitions show knowledge in the making



Forum Wissen's third field of activity is 'presenting and communicating'. An innovative exhibition concept attracts different target groups and ensures the liveliness of the Forum. The flag-

ship and showpiece will be the basic exhibition compiled from the University of Göttingen's collections, which is flanked by thematic special exhibitions. Flexible formats and communication programmes intended for specific target groups contribute to the ongoing appeal of Forum Wissen.

The exhibitions at Forum Wissen Göttingen form the vital interface between the university and the public. Closely interlinked with the other pillars of the house and in various formats, they will serve as a window onto the collections, as a platform for presenting academic research

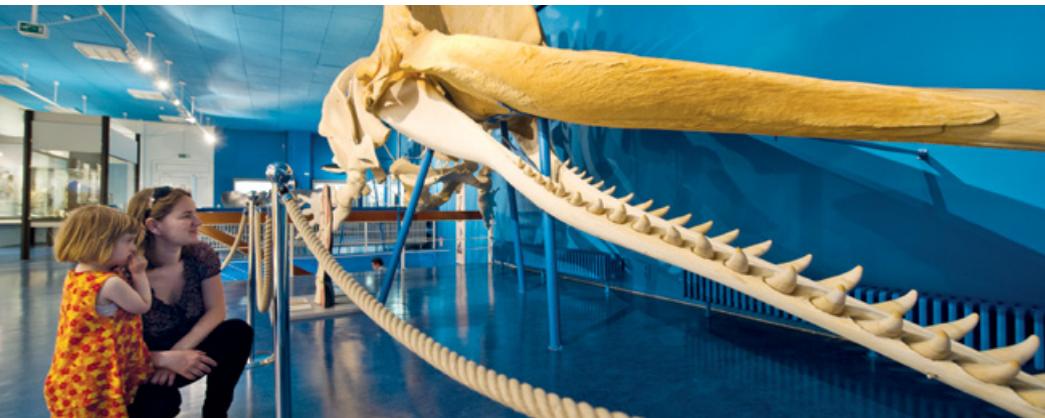
and for discussing the role of the sciences and research in society. They are designed as the basis of the educational museum presentation and constitute diverse points of contact for science communication. The services are to appeal to different target groups and to contribute to the Forum's success. As the public face of Forum Wissen, the exhibitions play a key role in shaping its identity and profile.

Topic, objectives and structure

A wide spectrum of topics and formats will be showcased at Forum Wissen Göttingen. All of them revolve around the theme that is behind the concept of the entire Forum: 'know-

ledge in the making' with its many facets and manifold social interrelations in history, in the present and in the future.

The goal is to foster a deeper understanding of the production, representation and communication of scientific and scholarly knowledge in their various contexts, which are marked by space and time. In particular, visitors should be made more aware of the changing perspectives, historical develop-



ment and mutability of knowledge, science and scholarship. Forming the overall framework of the presentation is the global perspective of the modern era, setting out from the European scientific and scholarly landscape of the Enlightenment. This discussion is brought to life with case examples from the University of Göttingen and its collections.

The basic approach is interdisciplinary. The questions,

methods, conditions and findings of various individual disciplines are addressed and appropriately examined in greater depth. The target group is a wide audience from the local region and further afield, old and young age groups and with differing degrees of knowledge.

The basic exhibition, as the central credential of the exhibiting activities at Göttingen's Forum Wissen, will extend

across two floors and an area totalling 1,200m². Flexible exhibition formats like temporary display areas form an integral part of the basic exhibition. They give a guarantee that the presentation is always up to date and adaptable. With its inherent, trendsetting dynamic, the conceptual approach of the basic

exhibition can thus constantly be evaluated and modified if necessary.

The basic exhibition is supported by temporary exhibitions presenting varying topics and approaches in a total area of 500m². Focus galleries on individual collections and exhibition spaces for partners from the region top off what the Forum has to offer. ■





Overall concept

All the exhibitions at Forum Wissen are based on commonly defined principles. These include:

Multi-perspectivity

Any kind of 'knowledge in the making', any event, any topic or object can be viewed from different perspectives and the point of view shapes how it is seen. The exhibitions at Forum Wissen Göttingen will attempt to show visitors this formative approach with visually appealing displays that aim for a multi-perspectival presentation of their subject. On the one hand, various historical perspectives are in the spotlight and, on the other, attention is focused on the perspectives of different academic disciplines, which sometimes stand independently, yet are often brought into dialogue to become recognisable themselves as viewpoints and attitudes that can be considered part of history. Other insights that, in appropriate places, are presented alongside or sometimes juxtaposed with one another include those of participants and onlookers, men and women, and experts and laypeople.

A dynamic process

The exhibitions at Forum Wissen will present the 'making of knowledge' as a dynamic process. The sciences and the emergence of scholarly knowledge will be viewed as a process of negotiation and mutual interaction between influential individuals, things, times, spaces and ideas. In particular, the emphasis is on the conditions, strategies and power relations involved in these processes and in the epistemic change as their basis and outcome.

Adaptability

A dynamic understanding of 'knowledge in the making' finds its counterpart in the adaptability of the exhibitions, which is not limited to temporary exhibitions. Even the basic exhibition, designed to treat the topic in the long run, will embrace this principle in its entire approach and in special formats. This way, the exhibitions will incorporate current research, questions and developments and, what is more, continuously point the way and set topics themselves.



Central hub on Göttingen Campus

Of particular relevance for the exhibitions at Forum Wissen Göttingen is the close relationship with other institutions on the Göttingen Campus that play significant roles in the process of creating knowledge. Basic and special exhibitions will function, operate and present themselves as a platform

and central hub in an extensive network of institutions. They combine things, questions and disciplines, provide space for the high profile, public presentation of individual collections as well as specific topics, and are meant to highlight what the decentralised collections, museums and gardens offer to the public.

At the Desk



Diversity, materiality and agency of things

The exhibitions at Forum Wissen will make use of the entire spectrum of museum exhibits, from objects, documents, photographs and film and digital data through to specially produced media. Here, particular attention will be paid to the materiality of the items and the mode and media of their presentation. In keeping with the research perspective on the materiality of knowledge and bearing in mind the unique possibilities of the exhibition as a medium of display, the presentations will place emphasis on the ways things are used, traces of their use and the significance of materiality in bringing forth and transforming bodies of knowledge. Furthermore, they show special interest in the circulation of things, particularly those that wander back and forth between being abandoned and being used, that show resistance and develop agency themselves. Wherever possible, the attempt will be made not to use things as an illustration of ready-made narratives but rather to highlight their resourceful qualities and thus to 'unlock the inherent potential of things'³ in the presentation.

Openness to interpretation

The exhibitions at Forum Wissen aim to document, inform, reflect on and inspire discussion and experimentation. In this process – through themes, texts, exhibits and presentation – they offer interpretations without unduly influencing them. Here they follow the premises of the history of education specialist Karl Heinrich Pohl, according to which 'permitting openness means not giving any conclusive interpretations

but rather offering alternatives and prompting the observer to think'.⁴ With considerable confidence in their visitors' creative ability to respond, and in dialogue with them, the exhibitions undertake to repeatedly induce their audience to move 'from associative looking to 'joined-up' thinking'.⁵

Projecting self-image

'Any museum or exhibition is a statement of position,' asserts museologist Sharon Macdonald.⁶ Regardless of its multi-perspectival conception or permitting openness to interpretation, every exhibition also conveys a specific position that reflects the key influences of the 'zeitgeist' in terms of contemporary interests and discourses, political and scholarly attitudes, coincidences and practical constraints. The exhibitions of Forum Wissen Göttingen incorporate this factor into their concept, making it transparent in an appropriate way and thus putting themselves forward for debate. Forum Wissen therefore projects its self-image within a critical tradition in which the museum is treated as an institution that often says more about its own time and society than about what it supposedly and actually presents as its topic. As regards the active implications for the exhibitions at Forum Wissen, they affirm their self-image not merely as a focal point for representation, but also for the active creation of knowledge and documenting objects of knowledge: 'In making scientific and scholarly objects visible, they become significant, epistemic things that can be passed down, things that can be picked up again, that roam between the disciplines and thus remain living objects.'⁷ ■

Structure of the basic exhibition: Rooms of knowledge

The basic exhibition will be the showpiece of Forum Wissen Göttingen and the central interface with the public. With its thematic emphases and exciting exhibits, its innovative design and adaptability, it is to provide points of contact for all the activities of Forum Wissen and for the interests of a heterogeneous public.

How does scientific and scholarly knowledge arise? How is it created, disseminated and consolidated? Which players are involved – which people, things, configurations? Which basic conditions play a role and are always changing historically? And what social function and significance is assigned to sciences and scholarship? These and many related questions are posed that Forum Wissen in general and its basic exhibition in particular prepare to debate with the public.

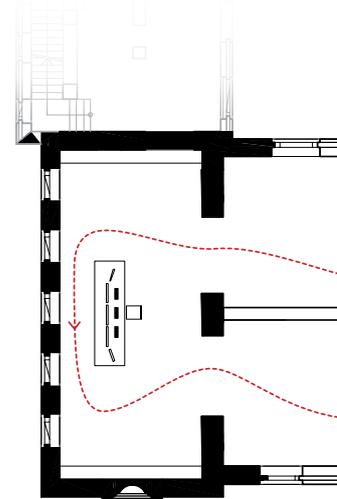
Access to this veritable cosmos of themes, questions and things is provided on a circuit through 13 Rooms of Knowledge. These include rooms for the display of typical and metaphorical themes, familiar and unexpected ones as well as classic and surreal contexts: the Desk, Lecture Hall, Library, Ivory Tower, Laboratory and Studio, as well as the Blind Alley, Journey, Market, File-card Box or Bathtub – and added to this is the necessary Free Space. These highly contrasting Rooms of Knowledge form the essential structure of the basic exhi-

bition. As a house with many rooms, the Forum becomes a metaphor of the manifold facets of scholarly research and the sciences.

Each room is connected with its own questions, topics and practices of knowledge. To visualise how this plays out, particular aspects and objects from various disciplines, collections and historical eras are linked together. The surprising sequence of different types of rooms is especially intriguing. Visitors walk through them on a largely prescribed circuit – and discover a completely new room behind each door although the basic structure is clearly discernible.

The curatorial principle here is to repeatedly start from what is apparently familiar or easily recognised, but then to frustrate such established notions through unexpected connections between things and topics. Thus – very much in keeping with Walter Benjamin – the visitors should leave the exhibition not only more learned but above all intrigued.

While walking through the Rooms of Knowledge, visitors will furthermore delve

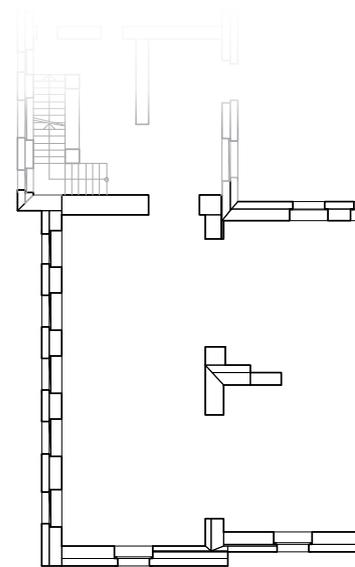


into individual interests. Guided by smart orientation devices that are part of the routing system – and conceivable both in analogue and digital form – the public is made aware of exhibits and themes from disciplines or collections of particular interest to them that they have selected. In this way, the museum can be explored with a particular focus on, for example, geology, ethnology or art, resulting in different paths and visitor experiences each time.

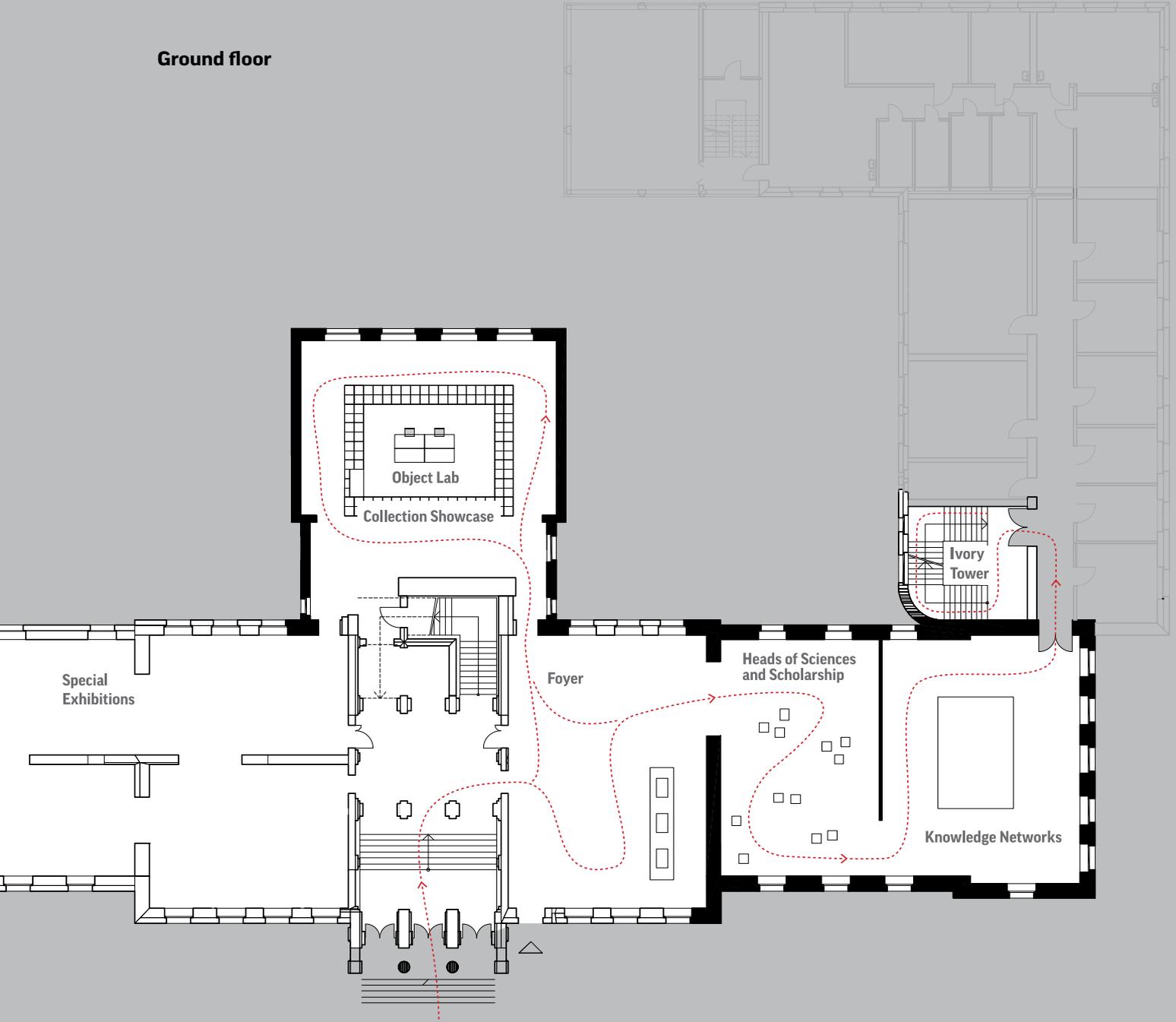
A particularly prominent path through the Rooms of Knowledge will be to follow the trail of the Göttingen Nobel Prize winners. All the Nobel Laureates associated with Göttingen, from Robert Koch in 1905 to Stefan Hell in 2014,

feature in the exhibition with at least one exhibit. The crucial principle here is showing them not separately from the rest of the exhibition but rather naturally incorporated into its narrative and dramatic structure. Exhibits from the Nobel Prize winner's trail will therefore be found both in the Laboratory and in the Lecture Hall, at the Market and Down a Blind Alley. Instead of a simple 'Hall of Fame' presenting the Nobel Laureates in a boastful heroic historiography and separating them off in isolation, the achievements and scientific paths of these top researchers are also questioned regarding their practices and incorporated into larger contexts of 'knowledge in the making'.

The Bathtub



Ground floor





Heads of Sciences and Scholarship

The 13 Rooms of Knowledge are introduced and supplemented by three accentuated areas that simultaneously serve as the foundation of the presentation:

Entry

In the first room of the exhibition, the Entry, visitors will be welcomed by a number of quite unusual Heads of Sciences and Scholarship and made aware of the significance of viewpoints and perspectives, on which all knowledge hinges – in the pursuit of scientific insights just as in the exhibition.

Knowledge Networks

The second room, Knowledge Networks, will introduce the space and time dimension of 'knowledge in the making'. Following the principle of 'localising science' it situates the human production of knowledge at the specific location of Göttingen and within the global and historical context. The

emphasis here is on mobility and networking of things and people and their far-reaching implications for the sciences.

Collection Showcase

In the Collection Showcase, the outer face of the Object Lab, carefully chosen artefacts are displayed from over 30 collections of the University of Göttingen. This very special room, which is also accessible outside of the circuit and with free admission, thus forms the gravitational hub of the museum.

Quite a number of functional rooms in the house, such as seminar rooms, workshops, the large lecture hall or the bookshop and café can also be symbolically incorporated into the basic exhibition on the basis of the room narrative. Furnished with room texts, glass doors and other typical forms of design, they become an integral part of the presentation, thus very naturally integrating current and everyday forms of scientific and scholarly practice into the exhibition. ■



NEHRS ORDNUNG FORSCHEN



Forum Wissen

Meeting place and event venue



As a marketplace for ideas, Göttingen's Forum Wissen will provide the facilities and infrastructure for the lively interaction between the academic world and the public thanks to different types of events.

In the Large Lecture Hall, with seating capacity of 240, public events can be held and it can be the venue for popular physics shows or science slams. A Stage Hall will house knowledge salons, readings, drama, concerts, cinema screenings, etc.

An attractive Café will pick up on the themes of Forum Wissen in an entertaining way and is also open to guests who do not plan to visit the exhibition.

While Forum Wissen coordinates and is responsible

for its own in-house programme, the rooms utilisable for various kinds of events (Café, Large Lecture Hall, Seminar Rooms, Practical Room, Stage Hall) could be hired out to external users.

Of course, the Shop should also not be lacking from Forum Wissen. It offers a wide range of non-fiction and specialist literature and a high-quality selection of gift items, handicrafts and limited edition art produced in signed series as well as attractive merchandising products from Forum Wissen and the University. The Shop could also potentially serve as a ticket sales point, in cooperation with the city, for events, city tours, collection tours and campus tours.

The different functions and uses, which are interwoven with one another in many ways, are translated into a coherent

room concept at Forum Wissen Göttingen. Here a distinction is made between public, semi-public and private areas and between areas that are reserved for individual, clearly defined uses and those in which social networking and dialogue occur. This guarantees an undisturbed consideration of the needs of specific target and user groups, on the one hand, as well as a multitude of possibilities for meeting and synergy on the other.

With Forum Wissen, the University of Göttingen opens itself up to the general public and lets them share in its intellectual and material goods. At the same time, Forum Wissen



gives people incentives to make demands of scientific endeavour, to be a part of shaping it and to research things for themselves. People who have previously actively and consciously had rather little contact with the academic world will be encouraged by the Forum to access this world for themselves, taking up their own stance and getting involved in the multi-

faceted process of 'knowledge in the making'.

At the same time, it is the role and purpose of Forum Wissen to have an impact on the world of science and scholarship itself. Both in its exhibitions and in various kinds of events, the sciences and scholarship will be reflected on critically; starting situations, decisions and alternatives will be examined; supposedly irrefutable premises and presuppositions will be discussed and good academic practice implemented. Forum Wissen additionally offers researchers a place to publicly present research projects and findings. Through dialogue with the public, new ideas will arise and previously unknown facts will come to light.

Forum Wissen pursues a consistently interdisciplinary approach, both in the selection of its topics and in its methods and modes of practice. It regards the promotion of communication, thinking and working beyond subject boundaries as a central task. Flexible formats guarantee the ongoing development of this many-voiced dialogue.

With the establishment of Forum Wissen, the University of Göttingen is impacting the general public in a stimulating and educational way. It is promoting 'knowledge in the making' beyond its own institution and simultaneously encouraging its researchers to take on a socially responsible role. Thus Forum Wissen is implementing Göttingen University's self-affirmed mission expressed in its founding motto: 'IN PUBLICA COMMUNIA – For the Good of All'. ■



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Belvedere with parabolic curves, Collection of Mathematical Models and Instruments.

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List of sources

¹ See <http://www.wissenschaftsrat.de/download/archiv/10464-11.pdf>

² See <http://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/26611.php>

³ Anke te Heesen/Petra Lutz, Einleitung, in: te Heesen/Lutz (ed.), Dingwelten. Das Museum als Erkenntnisort, Cologne 2005, pp. 11-23, here: p. 17: '[die Dinge] zu ihren Möglichkeiten zu bringen.'

⁴ Karl Heinrich Pohl, Wann ist ein Museum 'historisch korrekt'? 'Offenes Geschichtsbild', Kontroversität, Multiperspektivität und 'Überwältigungsverbot' als Grundprinzipien musealer Geschichtspräsentationen, in: Olaf Hartung (ed.), Museum und Geschichtskultur. Ästhetik - Politik - Wissenschaft, Bielefeld 2006, pp. 273-286, here: p. 280: 'Offenheit zuzulassen bedeutet, keine endgültigen Deutungen zu geben, sondern Alternativen anzubieten und den Betrachter zum Denken anzuregen.'

⁵ Horst Bredekamp/Jochen Brüning/Cornelia Weber (eds.), Theater der Natur und Kunst. Wunderkammern des Wissens, Berlin 2000, p. 9: 'vom assoziativen Schauen zum kombinatorischen Denken'

⁶ Sharon Macdonald, Theorizing Museums. An introduction, in: idem (ed.), Theorizing Museums. Representing identity and diversity in a changing world, Oxford 1996, pp. 1-18, here: p. 14.

⁷ Bruno Latour after Anke te Heesen/Margarete Vöhringer, Wissenschaft im Museum - Ausstellung im Labor, in: idem (eds.), Wissenschaft im Museum - Ausstellung im Labor, Berlin 2014, pp. 7-17, here: p. 16: 'Das Sichtbarmachen von wissenschaftlichen Objekten macht sie erst zu bedeutsamen, tradierbaren epistemischen Dingen, die wieder aufgegriffen werden können, die zwischen den Disziplinen wandern und so weiterhin lebendige Objekte bleiben.'





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