



ROMEINS MUSEUM



“
M(arcus) Sattonius Iucundus, dec(urio)
(=member of the city council) of C(olonia)
U(Ipia) T(raiana) (=Xanten) has fulfilled his vow
to Fortuna Redux by restoring the bathhouse,
willingly and with reason.”

In the third century AD, Marcus Sattonius Iucundus instigated the restoration of the Roman baths in Coriovallum (Heerlen). In doing so, he preserved the building for his own and future generations.

Now, in the twenty-first century, we are faced with a similar mission: to preserve this important site of national heritage for our own and future generations – with a new museum building that will both protect the Roman bathhouse and provide space for the unique stories intertwined with this building, this city, and this region.

Will you be our partner, and our ambassador?

Committee of Recommendation:

Giorgio Novello,
Italian ambassador to the Netherlands

Wim Weiland,
Director of the National Museum of Antiquities

Mark van Haasteren,
COO at Vebego Group

Michel van Maarseveen,
Director of the Paleis Het Loo National Museum

Camille Oostwegel sr.,
Founder and Commissioner Oostwegel Collection

Ollivier Trouw,
Director at APG

Sibylle Keupen,
Mayor of Aachen

Saskia Stevens,
Associate professor of Ancient History and Classical Civilization, Utrecht University

Jo Ritzen,
*Former Minister of Education, Culture and Science
Former chairman of the Executive Board of Maastricht University*

Municipality of Heerlen

Roel Wever
Mayor

Jordy Clemens
*Councillor for Education, Culture, Heritage,
and Centre Development, Deputy Mayor*

“
A Roman Museum.
An authentic transition.
With a design for a new
building that is destined
to become a landmark
in Heerlen. Where the
story of the Romans
will be told. With ever-
changing exhibitions
and the excavation at
its heart. I’m sold! A
fantastic development
for Heerlen, the region,
and our national cultural
heritage.”

*Ollivier Trouw,
Member of the Committee of
Recommendation*

Heerlen is the proud home of the Roman bathhouse of Coriovallum, the Night Watch of Dutch archaeology, which, quite literally, reveals the footprints of the Romans in our country

“ The construction of a new museum will be the crowning achievement of the consolidation and restoration of the remains and the expert analysis of the excavations carried out since 1940. For now, we only have a rough idea of what the new museum will look like. But if it is anything like this comprehensive new study, future visitors will be in for a treat. ”

*Jos Bazelmans,
Head of Archaeological
Heritage, Cultural
Heritage Agency of the
Netherlands*



It is a Roman monument, which was already welcoming patrons around the year 65 AD – even before the Colosseum in Rome was built. This bathhouse is a landmark of international significance; a landmark that we, the general public, are currently unable to see and experience in all its glory in the present museum building.

Our future needs this history.

In Roman times, the bathhouse originally had a social function. And it is precisely this function that has inspired the creation of a new central meeting place, where people come from far and wide, and where the lives of the past and those of the present intertwine with each other and with the local surroundings.

APODYTERIUM
OMKLEEDRUIMTE

The Roman Museum in Heerlen: a new national, cultural centre that knows no bounds

This national archaeological monument, the crown jewel of Heerlen's archaeological collection, will over the next three years receive a new building that will not only protect the bathhouse, but also provide space for unique stories that capture the imagination. Situated at a spot where Roman roads once met, the bathhouse was an international meeting place – and the arrival of the new museum marks yet another crossroads in the region's long history. **Here, ancient stories meet contemporary stories; our stories.** Good management and preservation of the current museum's extensive collection serve as the basis for meaningful presentations to a wide audience.

Sharing knowledge at an international level and research conducted by both students and archaeologists will play a prominent role in the new museum.

The Roman Museum will be the natural home for Roman archaeology in the region. It will be the gateway to the region's Roman past, telling these stories not only in the museum itself but also, in collaboration with partners, sharing them beyond the museum walls through new projects in the city and the region. The museum will serve as a catalyst for other social, economic, and cultural projects. Cultural and creative entrepreneurs and makers who, inspired by the highlight, being the museum and its collection, will launch social projects to help bring our Roman past to life.





ALL ROADS LEAD TO HEERLEN

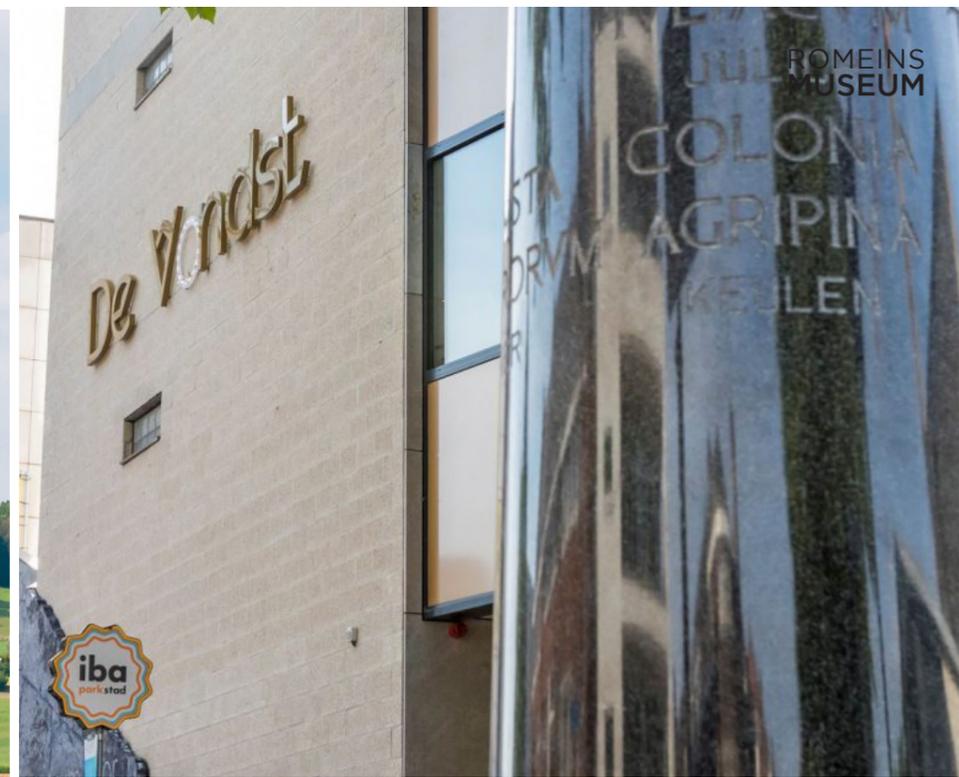


Rather than being a stone fortress, Heerlen's new museum will be an outward-looking, accessible, inclusive, and imaginative museum in the heart of the city. **It will be located in an attractive district that exudes the Roman past and provides space for meeting and connecting in public spaces. From here, visitors will be invited to see the city and the region from a different perspective!**





Delve deeper
into the
region's Roman
past on the Via
Belgica



The city and the region are alive with Roman history. Explore this history on the Via Belgica, and discover its archaeology at De Vondst, Limburg's archaeological centre – all within a compact triangle of international Roman museums (in Heerlen, Tongeren, and Cologne). Events and activities devoted to these histories support this deeper exploration. These developments represent a new cultural triangle in which our Roman past can be experienced in an international context.



Creating impact with five unique values

The impact of the new museum is encapsulated in five unique values. Taken together, all of these values create a renewed and strengthened environment for residents, tourists, and students, attract international interest, and deliver a boost to the local and regional economy.



Creating connections: an international hub

The Roman Museum will be a new international hub. It will forge strong links with the public, but also with partners in education, knowledge institutions, start-ups and the business community, and – in particular – the tourism sector. The Roman Museum will become one of the Parkstad region's main tourist attractions.



Stimulating education and science:

The Roman Museum provides an inclusive and informal learning environment for all generations. It will become an integral part of the school curriculum in the province of Limburg, as well as a place of knowledge for students from colleges and universities in both the Netherlands and abroad.



Preserving heritage: National monument and collections

The Roman Museum is dedicated to the management, preservation, and presentation of the unique national monument, the Roman bathhouse. It will also manage, preserve, and present Heerlen's archaeological collections for future generations, making it a veritable heritage site of local, regional, national, and Euregional importance.



Creating experiences: A new tri-border area

With a unique national monument, impressive exhibitions, and an extensive inside and outside, the Roman Museum is not merely a building to visit; it gives a face to the Dutch and Euregional Roman past – together with its partners!



Driving the local economy:

The Roman Museum is an asset for the city, the Parkstad region, and the Euregion. The new museum as a hub will create momentum and appeal. Through its educational, touristic, and scientific values, the museum will provide a boost to the economy of the city and the Parkstad region.



SOLID LOCAL AND REGIONAL

The city's unique Roman heritage is an inexhaustible source of discoveries but lacks an engaging landmark to connect new generations to the past and to the future.

Time and again, the city of Heerlen has proven that transformation and building bridges between the past and the future go hand in hand.

Indeed, Heerlen has a long history as a pioneering city. In 2021, the municipal council unanimously approved an investment of €14.9 million for the realization of the Roman Museum.

Firmly convinced of the unique value of Heerlen as a new international and cultural centre, the municipality has committed itself to the construction and exploration of the Roman Museum and its immediate surroundings.

The development of the Roman Museum will provide a unique boost to the transformation of Heerlen, setting a clear course for a new future as a city of culture and knowledge of national and international importance. To deliver on this vision, investment in a robust cultural infrastructure with a national impact is vital.

The new museum will also represent a significant cultural development on an international level, as the baths bring cultures and people together, just as they did in 65 AD.

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The Roman baths are a unique masterpiece, a symbol of 2,000 years of shared history between the Netherlands and Italy. The construction of the new Roman Museum is a fascinating project that I will follow and support wholeheartedly during my mandate as Italy's ambassador to the Netherlands. I am therefore honoured to serve on the Committee of Recommendation.”

*Giorgio Novello,
 Italian ambassador to the Netherlands*



State visit to the Netherlands by Sergio Mattarella, President of Italy, 11 November 2022, Heerlen

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During the last parliamentary period, a one-off sum of €325 million was earmarked for the preservation of cultural heritage. Much of this funding has gone towards restoring and redeveloping major monumental sites and making them more sustainable. There are still several large-scale projects in Limburg that will not be able to get off the ground without government funding, including the Roman Museum in Heerlen.”

*Limburg's pact for a stronger Netherlands,
Province of Limburg 2021*

FROM FOUNDATION TO UNIQUE HUB

Besides a solid foundation, provided by the municipality of Heerlen, the Roman Museum needs shoulders on which to carry the development of the museum and its surroundings, as well as the significant spin-off effects it will have on the local and Euregional region. We are, quite literally, intertwining stones with people, a unique collection, an unprecedented masterpiece, and a twenty-first century museum building with a suitable public space. The first supporters of the new museum have already been confirmed, and together they form a Committee of Recommendation, the ambassadors of Roman Museum de Thermen. They are selflessly committed to investing in the bathhouse, following in the footsteps of their predecessors in the third century AD. **Thousands of years ago, a politician from Xanten commissioned the renovation of the bathhouse in Heerlen – and how grateful we are that he did!** Today, in 2023, a similar opportunity is ripe for the taking.

We are looking for facilitators, custodians of our shared past, and pioneers who want to help us build the future. For partners who are willing to contribute to the development of a new international and cultural hub. Heerlen is ready for the next step, to build on the initial financial foundation that has been laid with new and existing partners.

Situated at a spot where Roman roads once met, we are committed to working with committed local, regional, national, and international partners to develop a new international and cultural hub where thousands of people will once again come together, as they did in the past. A development in Limburg's most transformative city, a new museum in an iconic building, a landmark of international stature. The municipality of Heerlen has set the wheels in motion. Although a good foundation has been laid, more support is needed if the story of the baths is to be passed on to future generations. Will you help to shape the future of this national heritage site?

For more information, please contact:
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“This extraordinary Roman bath complex, located in the Limes, which became a UNESCO World Heritage Site last year, is a tangible and lasting reminder of the shared history between the Netherlands and Italy.”

Sergio Mattarella, President of Italy

