



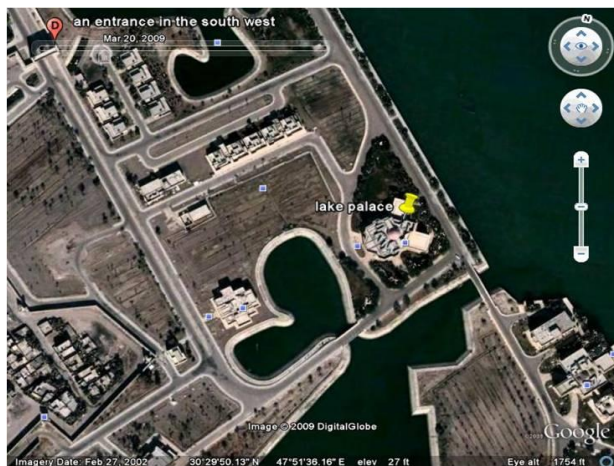
Basrah Museum

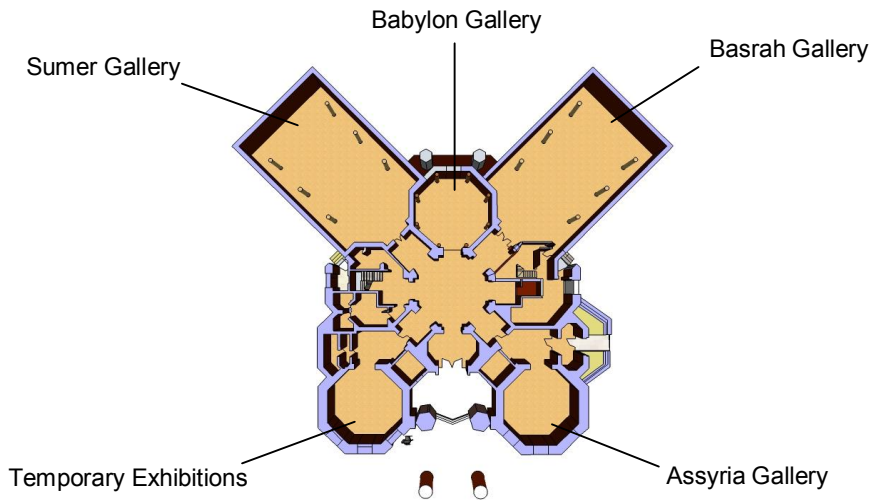
It has long been recognised that the former Basrah Museum is not fit for purpose. It is a courtyard house, in poor condition, in an insecure part of the city, and is unsuitable for displaying and safeguarding the precious objects that deserve to be shown in Basrah. In 2008 the British Army conceived the idea of replacing it with a new museum, as a legacy of the British presence in Basrah, and helped identify a former palace (the Lakeside Palace) in a park by the Shatt al-Arab as having the right potential. The Iraqi authorities gave their agreement to a proposal to transform the Palace into a new museum not just for Basrah but also for the whole of southern Iraq and even for the wider region. Most of the objects to be displayed will be brought from storage in Baghdad but some are available locally.



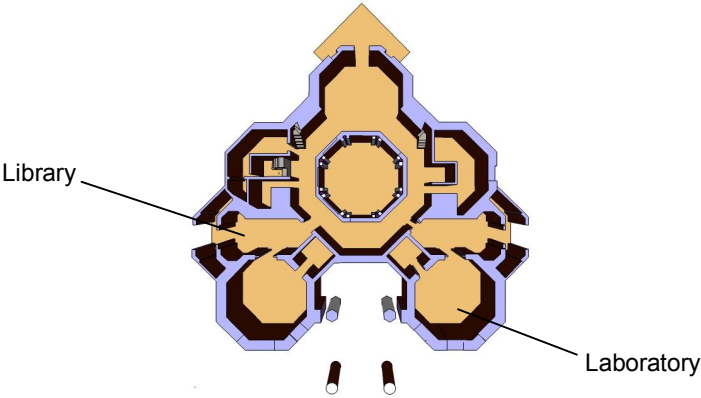
The museum will display the history and archaeology of Iraq in three galleries devoted to Sumer, Babylon and Assyria, and one gallery will cover the history of the Basrah region in the pre-Islamic and Islamic periods.

The cost of refurbishing the Lakeside Palace and fitting it out with display cases has been professionally estimated at \$5 million. The Friends of Basrah Museum has been formed as a registered UK charity to raise money for this project with a view to its completion in the coming year. Thereafter, the museum will be administered by the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in conjunction with Basrah Provincial Council.





GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



The Friends of Basrah Museum is a registered UK charity with the number 1138771. The trustees are: Sir Terence Clark (Chairman); Dr John Curtis (Secretary); Ms Liane Butcher (Treasurer); Ms Clare Bebbington; Dr Lamia al-Gailani; Dr Salah al-Shaikhly; the Hon Alice Walpole.

For further information about the Friends of Basrah Museum, please visit our website:

www.friendsofbasrahmuseum.org.uk

or send an email enquiry

to: info@friendsofbasrahmuseum.org.uk