

# MUSE easy to read

Easy to understand  
museum guide



MUSE

**Project edited by**



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## **Alternanza Scuola Lavoro Project**

“All about the MUSE...

multi-lingual translation”

Photo: MUSE Archive

September 2023

## Floor 4

High peaks

## Floor 3

Labyrinth of Alpine Biodiversity,

Discovery room

## Floor 2

Geology of the Dolomites, Environmental

Risks, Temporary Exhibitions

## Floor 1

Alpine prehistory, FabLab,

Sustainability and innovation

## Floor 0

Science Gym, Maxi Ooh!

## Floor -1

History of Life, DNA Gallery,

Tropical Greenhouse



# MUSE

Since 2013 the city of Trento has had a new science museum, called MUSE.

MUSE

is one of the most important museums in Italy.

The museum

is located in a new area of Trento called Le Albere.

The area and the museum

were designed

by the famous architect Renzo Piano.



# MUSE

In the area Le Albere  
there are many things  
like for example:

MUSE, shops,  
the Biblioteca Universitaria Centrale,  
gardens and houses.

Next to the museum  
there is the Palazzo delle Albere.

The Palazzo delle Albere  
is a building important  
for the history of Trentino.

Many years ago  
the Palazzo delle Albere  
was the summer house  
of the Prince-Bishop.

The Prince-Bishop was in charge of  
the church and of the city.

# MUSE

The museum, seen from the outside,  
has a shape  
that resembles the mountains.

Around the museum  
and in the Le Albere area  
there are canals and pools  
with water.

On sunny days  
the water in the pools is reflected  
in the glass windows,  
that is, you can see  
the image of the pool water reflected.



# MUSE

In the gardens,  
where there are not houses,  
between the Palazzo delle Albere  
and MUSE,  
there are vegetable gardens  
that are also used by schools  
for activities.

Behind the vegetable patches  
there is a big greenhouse  
where plants are grown  
at the right temperature  
and where the people  
who work in MUSE  
study and cultivate  
many types of plants  
that come from all over the world  
and especially from  
tropical countries.

# MUSE

On entering MUSE  
we always find a lot of natural light.  
The walls of the museum  
are transparent because  
there are large windows  
that let the light in  
and it feels like we are  
always outside.



# MUSE

The museum is sustainable because it was built with materials that are found in nature and that do not pollute the environment.

For this reason, the museum has received the Leed Gold Certification which is an official document.

It says that MUSE is committed to consume little energy.



# MUSE

MUSE tells the story of nature from the perspective of people and their relationship with all living things.

The exhibits within the museum follow two imaginary lines: the first line is vertical and goes up from the centre of the museum where there is a large empty space. This area reaches up to the ceiling and is very high.

This empty space makes people experience what it means to go up a mountain and how it feels to be many metres above the ground.



In this empty space  
some animals species  
native to Trentino  
are hung from thin steel cables,  
for clear viewing.

All the animals  
are hung at different heights  
according to their habitat altitude.  
For example: the eagle is at the top,  
while the ox is at the bottom.





# MUSE

The second line is horizontal following the museum's floor area.

There are five floors which we can visit as desired, that is, going from the lowest to the highest or vice versa.

Each floor is divided into two zones.

In the first zone

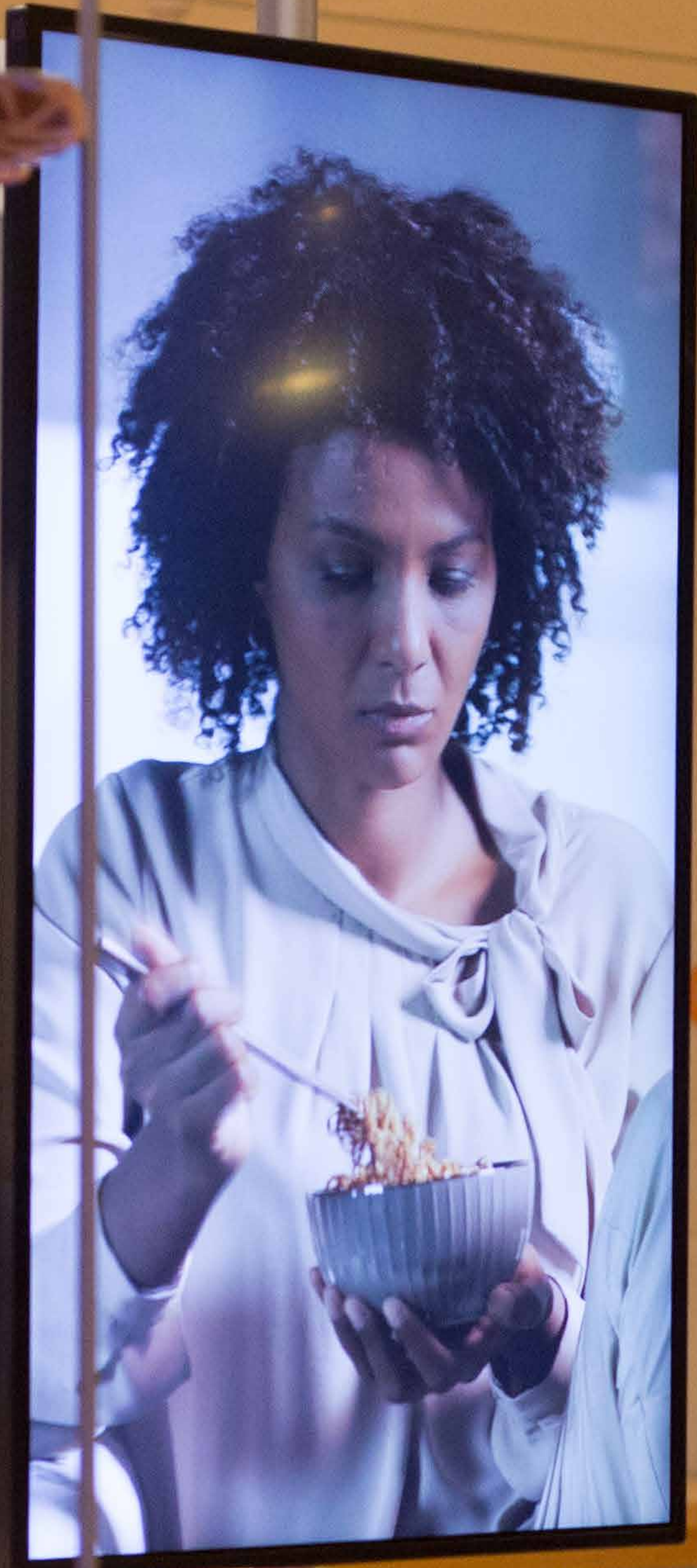
we can have an exciting experience.

The second zone

goes into more detail

according to specific themes:

for example we can watch a video, read texts and observe exhibits.



Sei sicura che ciò che stai mangiando sia

An interactive table with a red top and a white grid pattern. Several small, round food samples are placed on the grid. The table is part of a larger exhibit with wooden paneling and other displays in the background.

# MUSE

The remains are objects  
from many years ago  
found after long searches.

The exhibits are shown  
in glass cases.

The architects and people  
working in the museum  
decided, however,  
to put most of the things  
to be seen on tables  
without using glass cases  
so there are not barriers  
between the visitors and the objects.



Informational card with text and a green circular logo.

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# MUSE

The animals in the museum  
are stuffed using a technique  
called taxidermy  
in order to preserve  
and to show an animal  
that died in a natural way.

With this technique  
we keep only the skin  
of the animal,  
that covers an artificial body.

The reconstructed animal  
is in a natural position  
to give the idea of it still being alive.



On all the museum floors  
there are pilots  
that is, people who explain to us  
what is inside the museum.

On the first floor there are rooms  
with glass walls  
where we can watch  
researchers working.

Researchers are people  
who study everything in nature  
that we are able to see  
in the museum.

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# Floor 4

On the fourth floor we can discover the mountains at a high altitude.

In a part of this floor

we enter a tunnel

to have an immersive experience.

Here we can see

a video projected

onto the two long walls.

The video shows us many things,

for example:

how beautiful the landscape

of a high mountain is but, also,

what the dangers are

that a mountain presents.





## Floor 4

The dangers of a mountain

are for example:

avalanches, when the snow

runs down the side of a mountain

and falls very fast into the valley;

storms; the cold; falling rocks.

Outside the tunnel,

on a rock wall,

there is a body of ice

with the shape of a tongue,

forming the lowest part of a glacier.

A glacier is made of snow and ice.

At MUSE we can touch

the ice tongue

to feel how cold it is.

Near the ice tongue

there is a small patch of grass

with many real mountain plants.



Collezione del 2014  
MUSE Clivio  
MUSE Clivio +4

All the plants together  
are called the flora.

On the other side of the floor  
there are some tables  
with many objects  
and videos being shown  
explaining many things very clearly.

They explain for example:

how some plants and animals  
have adapted to climate change;

what alpinism is

and what are the sports

we can do in the mountains

and also what exploration,

the search

and discovery of new places, is.

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# Floor 3

On the third floor we can find a route that is called

the Labyrinth of Alpine biodiversity.

Biodiversity is many animals and plants living together, in the same environment.

Inside the labyrinth

we cross the mountain landscapes, from the highest ones,

like the alpine prairies,

to the lowest ones, like the woods.

Here we can also find animals that live there,

like for example the brown bear,

that is one of the symbols of Trentino.



Outside the Labyrinth  
of Alpine biodiversity  
we can find the wolf  
that is coming back to the Dolomites.

On the opposite side of the labyrinth  
there is a room  
that looks like a forest.

Here children can explore  
and touch the plants on show,  
look at the animals footprints  
and smell the scent of the forest.

This room is called  
the Discovery room.

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# Floor 2

The second floor is about the history of the Dolomites that are the characteristic mountains of Trentino and South Tyrol.

The floor explains how the mountains were formed and how they have changed over millions of years.

Many years ago there was a tropical sea where we can find the Dolomites today.

There are videos explaining this change.





## Floor 2

On the second floor  
we can see rocks,  
fossils and minerals.

This floor is also about  
underground resources

for example:

rocks used to make  
monuments and floors,  
precious stones  
and metals like aluminium.

On the second floor  
there is a saltwater aquarium  
containing tropical fish.

## Floor 2

This aquarium shows us the environment where the Dolomites were formed.

On the same floor there is also a big pool that is half aquarium and half terrarium.

Inside the terrarium is a reptile called a basilisk.

The basilisk is an animal that can run on water.



## Floor 2

This floor is also about environmental risks, like the catastrophes caused by the dangers of nature.

The dangers of nature are for example: landslides, avalanches, floods and earthquakes, that change the form of the landscape and can be a big risk to everyone.

On this floor they explain what the Protezione Civile does.

The Protezione Civile is an organisation that manages the area and helps people when they are in danger.

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# Floor 1

The first floor is divided into two zones too. In one zone there is a route that has the shape of a spiral and that is about the history of prehistoric humans. The prehistoric humans are the people that lived in prehistory, a long time ago. These people lived in the Alps, the mountains that border the North of Italy.



## Floor 1

In this area we can see:

- human models  
made of synthetic material;
- human remains  
and prehistoric objects;
- some videos;
- explanations about prehistory.

The other area is about

the future of humans and Earth.

Here there are tables that show us,

how we are changing

the environment where we live,

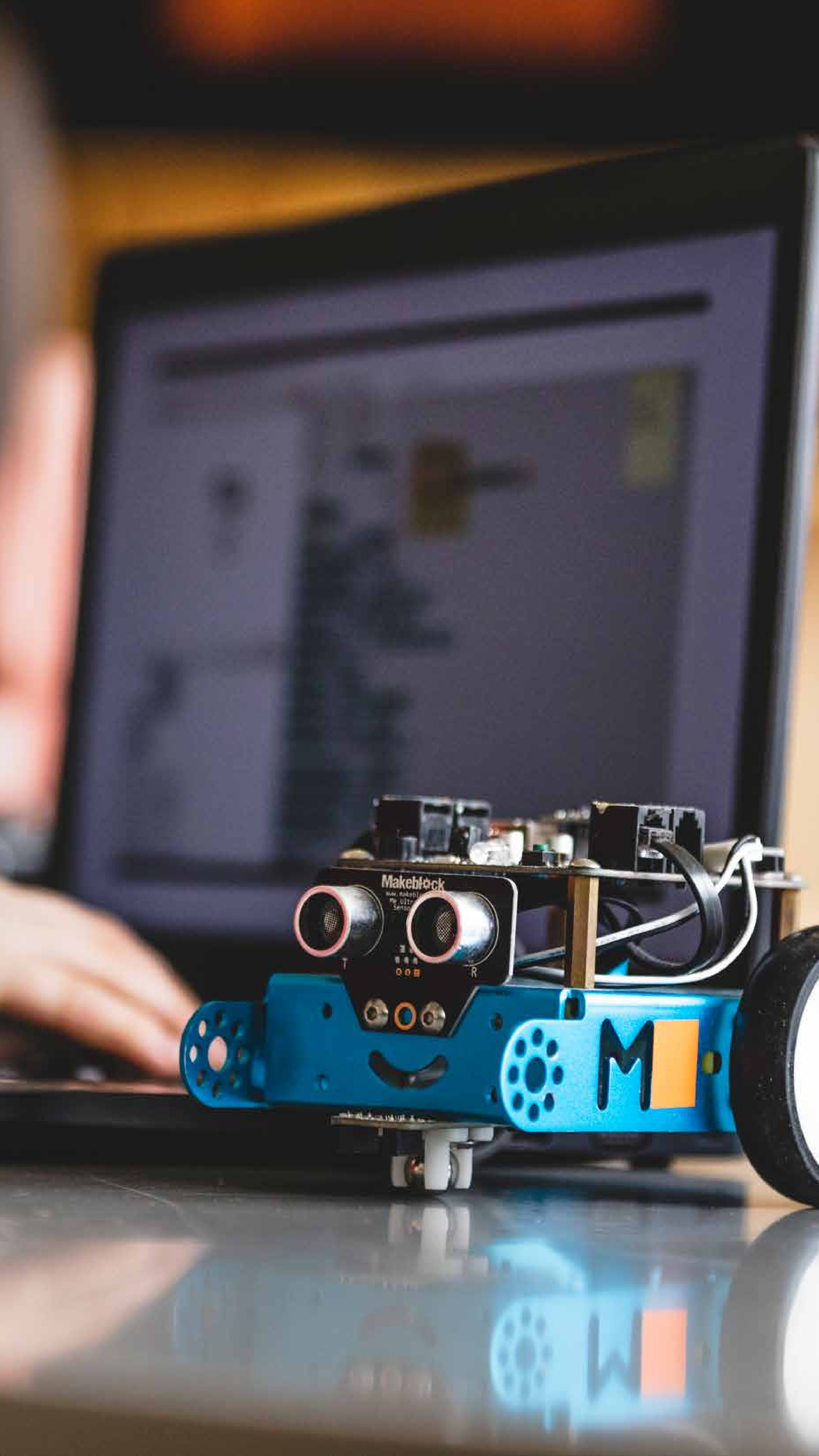
through objects and videos.





## Floor 1

This is one of the most important areas of the museum, because it shows us the state of our planet. The museum tries to: give us an experience on an emotional level make us understand that we are changing the environment through our behaviour that is causing climate change with more extreme temperatures and more floods.



## Floor 1

In the middle of the space there is a big sphere.

This sphere is hanging from the ceiling

and is called Science on a sphere.

On this sphere we can see for example:

- the population distribution
- global flight routes
- the sky and the stars
- the surface of Mars.

## Le pietre dipinte di Riparo Dalmeri

Stony Gabriel è un vero e proprio "reptile" per quanto riguarda il suo aspetto, come tutti gli animali del deserto. La scoperta di questo petroglifo è stata fatta nel 1970, durante le scavi per la costruzione del Museo di Storia Naturale di Torino. Il petroglifo è stato scoperto nella grotta di Riparo Dalmeri, in provincia di Cuneo, a circa 100 km da Torino.

The painted stones of the Dalmeri rock shelter

Die bemalten Steine aus dem Riparo Dalmeri



## Floor 1

In this area there is also a laboratory that is called FabLab. Machines controlled by computers are used here to invent and create new things. Some courses are organised for young people and adults in this laboratory.

### **Addendum: Shelter Dalmeri**

In Valsugana, a part of Trentino,

MUSE researcher

Giampaolo Dalmeri

found a shelter

where prehistoric humans

from the Alps lived.

The Alps are the mountains

on the border of northern Italy.

The people that lived in the shelter

hunted animals like the ibex

and gathered berries and roots.

Here some very important stones

were found.

Animals, people and symbols

are drawn on these stones.

Here they also found some bones and horns of animals, used to perform rituals.

Rituals are gestures, movements and chants made by a group of people.

Thanks to this discovery, researchers now know that prehistoric humans looked to form a connection with nature too.



# Floor 0

In the middle of the floor zero,  
or the ground floor,  
there is a science gym.

The science gym is an area  
of the museum  
where we can experiment  
to understand and learn  
about the laws of nature.

The experiments and the activities  
that we can do here  
help us think and discover  
like scientists.



## Floor 0

There is the Maxi Ooh!

on floor zero too.

This is a space

where children aged 0 to 5,

can have a lot of fun,

in the presence of an adult.

Inside this space children

can move how they like,

touch objects with their hands,

hear, listen to and observe

many things.

The Maxi Ooh!

is a simple and quiet space.

In the Maxi Ooh! there is an area

where the museum staff

say how to behave

and what you can do inside.

## Floor 0

In the zone

you can relax on the sofas,  
read a book and play.

In the Maxi Ooh!

there are also three rooms  
that look like three bubbles.

Inside the first bubble children  
can see what is happening  
when they move in the woods.

Inside the second bubble the children  
can hear what is happening  
when they are in the woods.

Inside the third bubble  
there is a sensory bath.

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# Floor -1

The underground floor is about evolution that is how life on Earth was born and how it has changed since ancient times.

It is about the first forms of life, extinct animals,

that is animals

that don't exist anymore

like dinosaurs,

and mammals around the world.

Mammals are animals that breastfeed their babies.



There are a lot of animals that look alive at MUSE.

These animals died from natural causes and their skin has been used to show us how they would look when they were alive in nature.

This technique is called taxidermy.

Among the mammals there is also a grey-faced Sengi.

This mammal was discovered in 2008 in Tanzania, Africa, by a group of MUSE researchers.

Newspapers and television mentioned this discovery, because the discovery of a mammal is something very rare.

## Floor -1

In part of this floor there is the tangle bush of human evolution, that is shown on a platform connected to a wall where time that has passed during our evolution is marked. The bush of evolution explains all the steps from the first humans to the present. On the wall human-like species that lived before us are shown. Today, we are a unique species, on Earth: Homo sapiens.





**Die Mangrove, ein Ökosystem**  
Mangroven sind ein Ökosystem, das in Küstengebieten mit fließendem Wasser vorkommt. Sie sind durch ihre einzigartige Anpassung an salzhaltiges Wasser gekennzeichnet. Die Mangrovepflanzen haben spezielle Wurzelsysteme, die es ihnen ermöglichen, Salze aus dem Wasser zu entfernen. Diese Wurzelsysteme sind auch ein Lebensraum für viele Arten von Tieren, darunter Vögel, Fische und Insekten. Die Mangrove spielt eine wichtige Rolle im Kohlenstoffkreislauf und trägt zur Biodiversität bei.

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## Floor -1

The next room explains what DNA is and tells us the story of life.

DNA is something that is found in cells and contains vital information.

After this room there is big space for the exhibits that only last for some months.

In the back of this room there are some big freshwater aquariums that represent the water of rivers and lakes.

Fish and plants from Tanzania live inside the aquariums.

Tanzania is a country in Africa.



## Floor -1

After this room we enter the tropical greenhouse.

Inside here

there are some plants and animals of the Tanzanian mountains.

Entering in the greenhouse

is like going into a real tropical forest with frogs, birds

and with plants like cocoa, coffee, banana trees and vanilla.

Researchers of MUSE

are studying the plants

and the animals of Tanzania.

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## **MUSE - Museo delle Scienze**

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[www.muse.it](http://www.muse.it)

