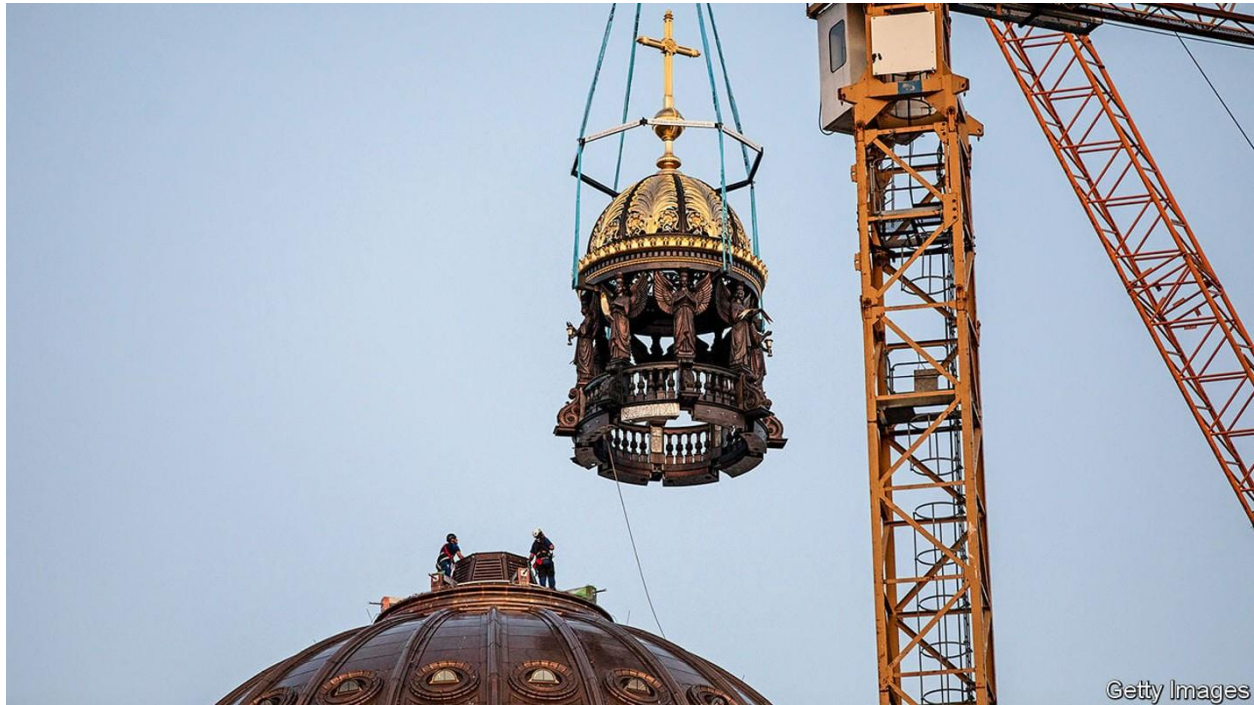


# The Humboldt Forum in Berlin is a new kind of museum

It embodies many museum-related controversies. Can it offer answers?



**By Fiammetta Rocco: culture correspondent, The Economist and 1843**

THE HUGE building site that stretches across the midriff of Berlin's Museum Island has been a meadow, a parade ground, a Dominican monastery, a Prussian palace under the Hohenzollerns in the 1700s and, after 1945, the East German parliament known as the Palace of the Republic. In 2021 it will reopen to the public in yet another incarnation: the Humboldt Forum, a giant cultural centre that wraps a painstakingly reconstructed historical façade around a series of climate-controlled ultra-modern exhibition galleries.

Like many big civil construction projects around the world, the Humboldt Forum has suffered from delays and cost-overruns; the latest estimate is that it will cost €644m (\$763m). The pandemic has not helped. Other museums that had to postpone their openings to 2021 include the Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo, M+ in Hong Kong and the Xi Art Museum, an open-air exhibition space in Jiangxi province in south-east China. Some, such as the Zayed National Museum in Abu Dhabi, will now not open until at least 2022.

**LINK:** <https://www.economist.com/the-world-ahead/2020/11/17/the-humboldt-forum-in-berlin-is-a-new-kind-of-museum>