ASTRA Museum is the largest and the most significant ethnographic museum in Romania and has one of the largest open air collections in Europe. The museum is responsible for over 60,000 artifacts and about 300 ethnographic monuments placed on almost 100 ha green area near the city.

The objects are stored in several different indoor locations. In most of these the winter heating is the only climate control measure, in two deposits heating is even missing. A part of the collections is exhibited in the monuments of the Open Air Department during the warm period and another part in its central heated exhibition rooms.

The architectural design focused, besides ensuring a proper climate for the stored collections, on other aspects of preventive conservation as well. For proper transportation and objects handling possibility, the passageways on each level leave enough space for safe circulation. Stairs were avoided, with alternative ramps or elevators for object transportation. Enough room and proper sheltering for the comfortable placement of the whole collection will be available. Lighting in the storages will be kept at minimum; low energy lamps without UV emission will be used. To prevent water damage, water proofing of the storage area ceiling was specified. Entering with security cards and video surveillance will assure the security. The controlled climate will stop biological decay; access of any possible infestation will be blocked by frost treatment of the introduced objects. Dehumidifiers will be placed outside the storages and connected to each storage room by a re-circulating closed loop of ventilation ducts. The low leakage of the building will prevent outside pollutants from entering the storages. Anyway, due to heavily treated objects, high level of internal pollutants are expected. Air cleaning will be performed by chemical filtration of the re-circulated air. Building monitoring system will record in real time climate parameters. Experience of similar museum buildings shows that no heating and occasional mechanical dehumidification is the least energy consuming method to ensure a proper climate in storage buildings.

The building is under construction and should be completed before September 2010.