

# AL\_A





*Whenever you go see AL\_A you have to leave your shoes at the entrance along with at least 40 other pairs of shoes. AL\_A have enabled us to contemplate new possibilities for our future in the V&A, they have challenged our thinking and they continue to bring a freshness which we all relish. Their studio is a think tank, it has a very unusual atmosphere, a lot of brilliant young people and great ideas. AL\_A support our work but they challenge us too.*



**Martin Roth's Introduction to  
the V&A Museum Annual Design  
Lecture by Amanda Levete,  
February 2013**

# INTRODUCING AL\_A

AL\_A is an award-winning architecture and design studio. It was founded in 2009 by Amanda Leveté and grew out of Future Systems, a practice widely regarded as laying down the agenda for architecture in the twenty-first century, with works including the Stirling Prize-winning Media Centre at Lord's Cricket Ground and the Selfridges department store, Birmingham.

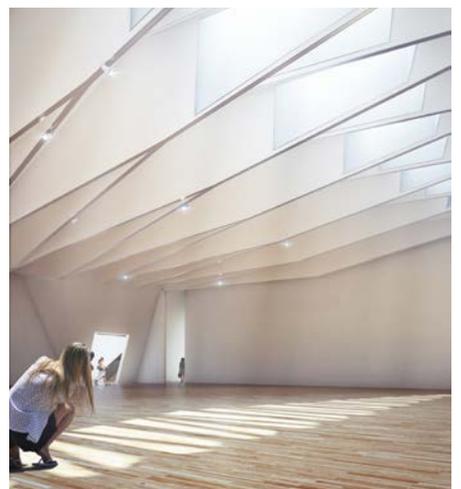
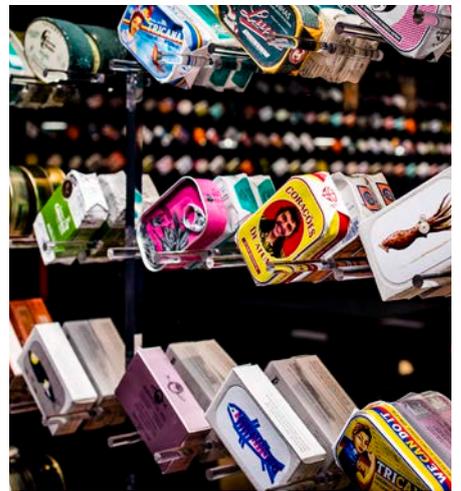
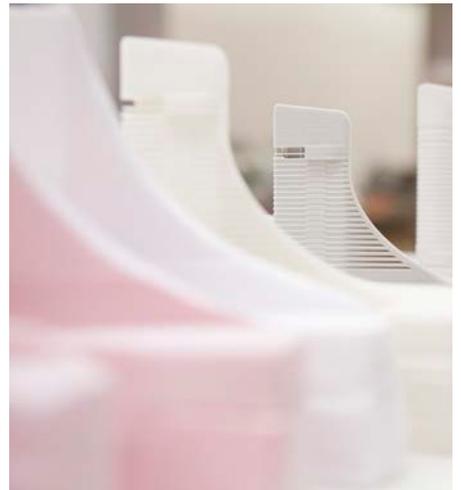
Led by Amanda Leveté, Ho-Yin Ng, Maximiliano Arroçet and Alice Dietsch, AL\_A has refined an intuitive and strategic approach to design that has radicalised clients and briefs, and led to a diverse range of concepts for cultural, retail and commercial schemes around the world. The practice's creative relationship with a client is defined by a mutual respect as well as being reciprocally demanding: AL\_A challenge assumptions and presuppositions, and expect to be challenged in return.

Recent commissions include the highly anticipated expansion of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, Central Embassy, a 1.5 million sq ft mixed-use development in Bangkok on the former grounds of the British embassy, a new centre for the cancer care charity Maggie's, a 13-hectare media campus for Sky, and a cultural centre in Lisbon commissioned by EDP, one of the world's foremost energy companies.

Recent competitions include a new campus for the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, the design of new social spaces for Oriel College at Oxford University, the UK Pavilion for the Milan Expo 2015, galleries for the Science Museum in London, and for the new wing of the Mumbai City Museum.

Our current self-generated projects include tincan, a six month restaurant project in London's Soho, serving the best tinned seafood in the world, along with tablO, an open source tool for a product to aid designers who use tablets, and a series of stackable football pitches that respond to London's urban conditions and lack of sports facilities.

Each and every AL\_A project gives an insight into our way of thinking, combining a strategic and intuitive approach with an attention to detail.



# HOW WE WORK

**Ambition shapes our work. We are at our best with clients whose ambition reaches beyond physicality, functionality and budget; those who want to move the game on, to transform themselves and create significant and positive impact beyond the building, on the community and city context.**

## WORKING THROUGH COMPLEXITY AND INTUITION DRIVES OUR STRATEGIC THINKING

Working through the complex demands of projects rigorously and rationally we interrogate complexity to add depth and intention to our work. Using our years of experience we cut through the layers and give clear strategic direction to our projects.

## COLLABORATION AMPLIFIES THE POTENTIAL OF PROJECTS

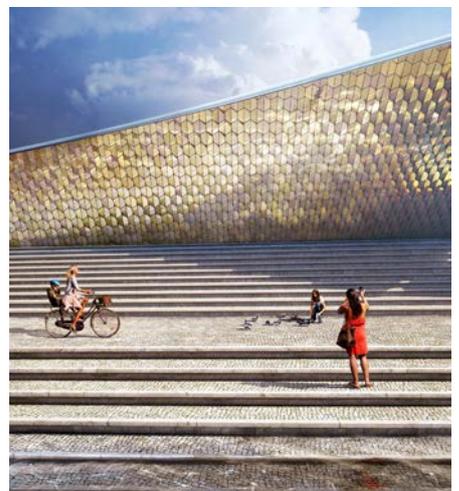
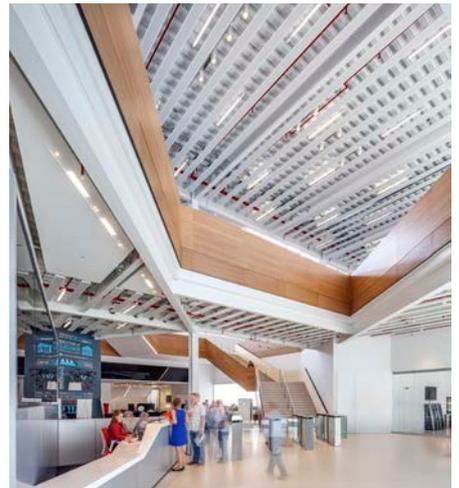
We are natural collaborators. Four directors representing three continents work on all our projects bringing a richness of possibility. This spirit of collaboration runs across the office and beyond it to the expertise and experience offered by our sophisticated network of trusted specialists.

## TECHNICAL AND CONCEPTUAL INVENTIVENESS MAKE OUR BUILDINGS SPECIAL

Technical and conceptual inventiveness sit hand in hand at the heart of our work, integral to each, operating as one. Together, inseparably they create the space, structure, form and aesthetic of our work.

## RESEARCH AND CONVICTION CREATES TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT

Research underpins everything we do. Research to explore the history, context, circumstance, sustainability and conceptual viability of each project, research into technical possibility and constraints, materials, structures and techniques. Carrying out research with the conviction and tenacity to see it through, maximising the potential of every aspect, is fundamental to everything we do.



# AMANDA LEVETE



Amanda Leveté is a Stirling Prize winning architect and founder and principal of AL\_A, an international award-winning design and architecture studio. Recent commissions include the highly anticipated expansion of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, a 1.5 million sq ft luxury shopping mall and hotel in Bangkok on the former grounds of the British Embassy, a new centre for the cancer care charity Maggie's, a 13-hectare media campus for Sky, and a cultural centre in Lisbon commissioned by Energias De Portugal (EDP), one of the world's foremost energy companies.

Amanda is a trustee of leading social innovation centre the Young Foundation and has served as a trustee of influential arts organisation Artangel for over a decade. She is a regular radio and TV broadcaster, writes for a number of publications including the New Statesman and Prospect and lectures throughout the world.

## PRACTICE

Principal, AL_A	2009 -
Partner, Future Systems	1989 - 2009

## EDUCATION

Architectural Association	1974 - 1980
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## Selected LECTURES

Powerhouse Museum, Australia	2014
RMIT Design Hub, Australia	2014
Auckland University, New Zealand	2014
Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology University, NZ	2014
V&A Annual Design Series Lecture	2013
Boston University	2012
V&A Creative Quarter talk, London	2011
Istanbul Design Week, Turkey	2011
International Design Happenings, Naples	2010
Artek's 75th Anniversary Symposium, Helsinki	2010
Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan	2010
Experimenta Design, Lisbon	2009
London Design Festival / Financial Times Breakfast talk, London	2009
Charleston Festival Debate - Ruskin Was Wrong, Charleston	2009
L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Week Keynote, Australia	2009

## Selected ACADEMIC POSTS

Architectural Association External Examiner	2013 -
Visiting Critic Kyoto Institute of Technology	2010
Royal College of Art Visiting Professor	2008 - 2012
Royal College of Art External Examiner	2004 - 2006

## Selected JUDGING

New Zealand HOME of the Year Awards	2014
PAD London	2013
AR House Awards	2013
Designs of the Year Awards	2013
AIANY Design Awards	2013
Zabludowicz Collection Future Map Prize	2012
King Abdullah Sports City Architectural Competition	2010
The Guardian's Young Arts Critics Competition	2010
New Design Museum	2010

# DIRECTORS



HO-YIN NG  
Board Director

Ho-Yin Ng was made a director of AL\_A in 2009 having joined the office in 2006. He has led the teams developing the master plans and building designs for the BSKyB Media Campus.

Ho-Yin is passionate about incorporating emerging technologies that extend efficiency and enhance the design, construction and delivery process. His current research includes the integration of advanced construction techniques with sophisticated parametric 3D models that he has developed in the office. This work is driving the design methodology of AL\_A.



ALICE DIETSCH  
Director

Alice Dietsch was made a director of AL\_A in 2012 having joined the office in 2006. She has led the much anticipated V&A Exhibition Road project, since it was won through an international competition, to design the new entrance, gallery and courtyard for the Museum.

Alice also coordinates the competition group in the office and is fluent in developing innovative concepts within budgetary and technical constraints. Her working methods are driven by extensive research, experimentation and intellectual challenge. She moved to the UK after studying and working in Paris and Stockholm.

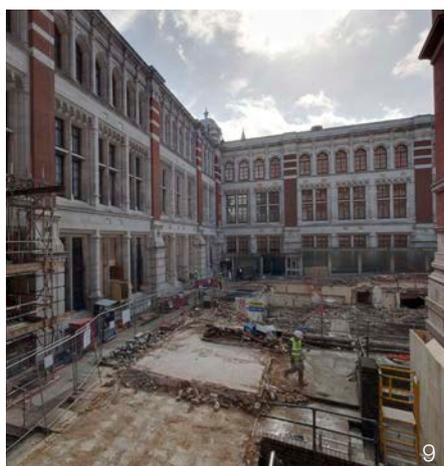
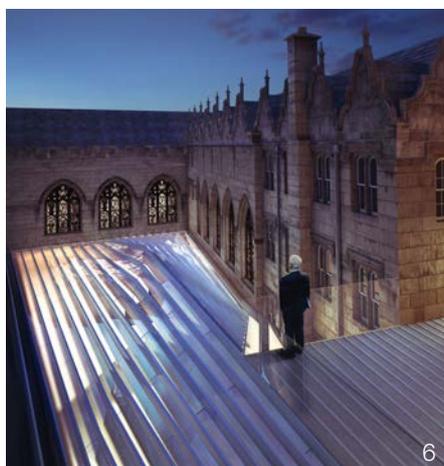
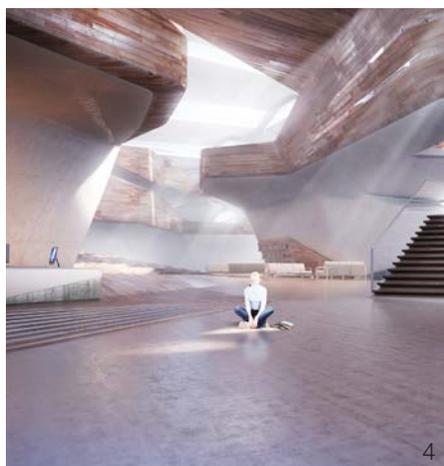
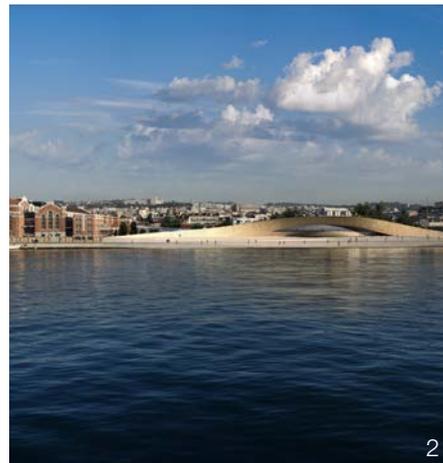


MAX ARROCET  
Director

Max Arrochet was made a director of AL\_A in 2012 having joined the office in 2007. He is leading the design of the EDP Arts & Technology Centre in Lisbon and the Maggie's Centre in Southampton. Max also leads a number of private residential projects and has an expertise in bespoke contemporary and historic detailing.

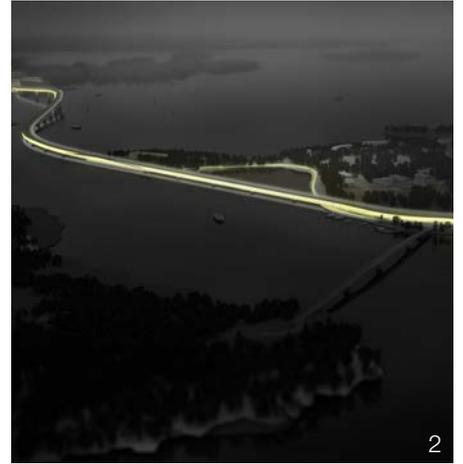
Max's brings a technical expertise from his background in engineering as well as architecture, reflected in projects at all scales, from complex building schemes to ground breaking installations.

# CULTURAL



1. Lord's Media Centre, London, 1999; 2. EDP Arts & Technology Centre, Lisbon, 2010; 3. Royal Opera House, London, 2012; 4. Helsinki Central Library, 2011; 5. Mumbai City Museum, 2014; 6. Oriel College, Oxford, 2013; 7. Le Louvre, Paris, 2010; 8. & 9. V&A Museum, London, 2010; 10. Las Vegas Museum, 2007

# INFRASTRUCTURE



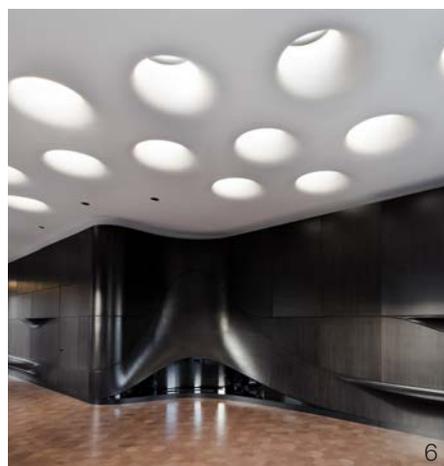
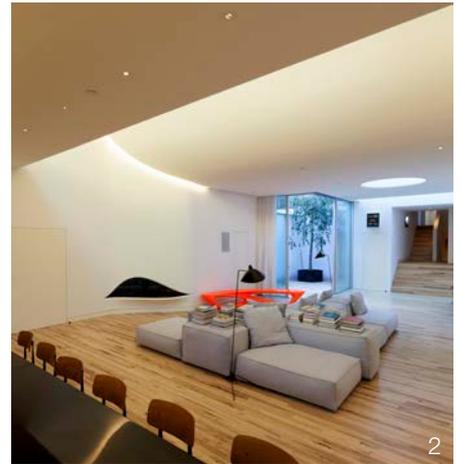
1. Plexus, UK, 2011; 2. Kruunusillat Bridge, Helsinki, 2013; 3. Spencer Dock Bridge, Dublin, 2009; 4. & 5. Subway Stations, Naples, 2015; 6. Antenna Tower, Çanakkale, 2014; 7. Overhead Line Structure, UK, 2014; 8. Floating Bridge, London, 1996

# OFFICES



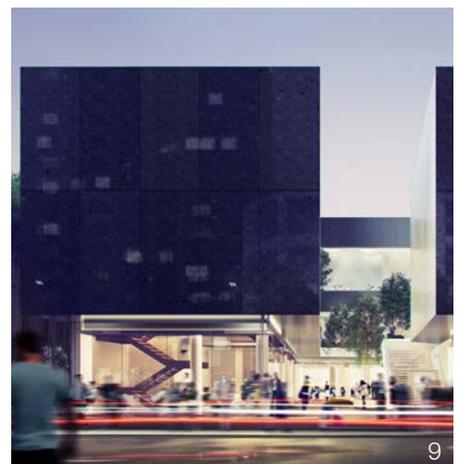
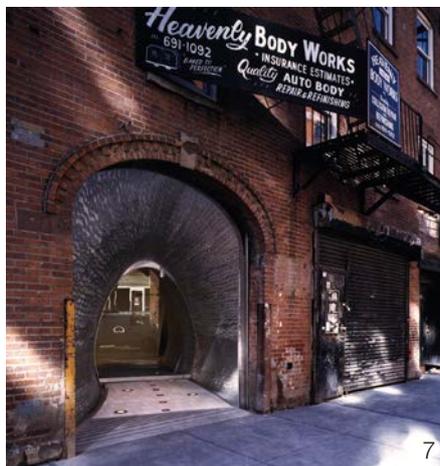
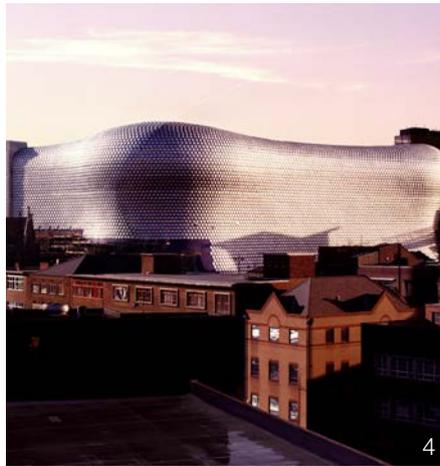
1 & 9. Asset Management Headquarters, London, 2014; 2 & 8. Sky Building 02, London, 2016; 3. Sky Media Campus, London, 2020; 4. Hills Place, London, 2009; 5. IOC Headquarters, 2013; 6. News International, London, 2009; 7. Exhibition Centre, Strasbourg, 2013; 10. Sky Meeting Centre, London, 2014

# RESIDENTIAL



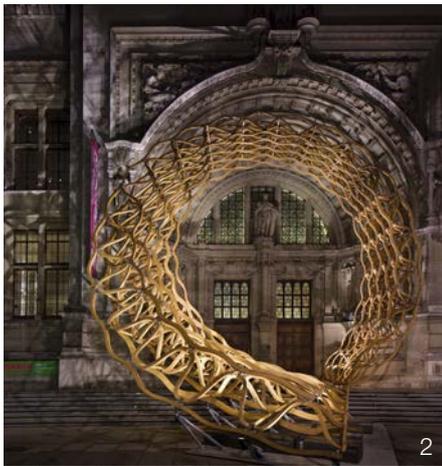
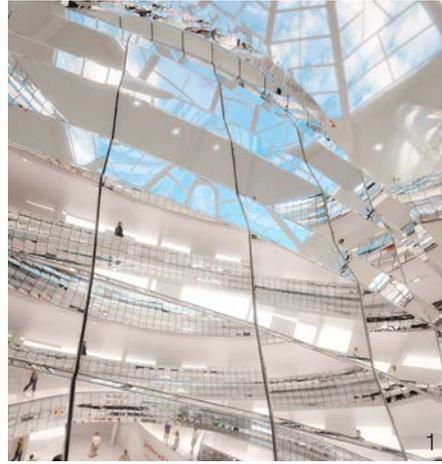
1 & 6. Rutland Gate, London, 2013; 2 & 5. Richmond Avenue, London, 2010; 3. Metropolis, Copenhagen, 2008; 4. Huntingdon Estate, London, 2011; 7. Villas in the Sky, Bahamas, 2014

# RETAIL



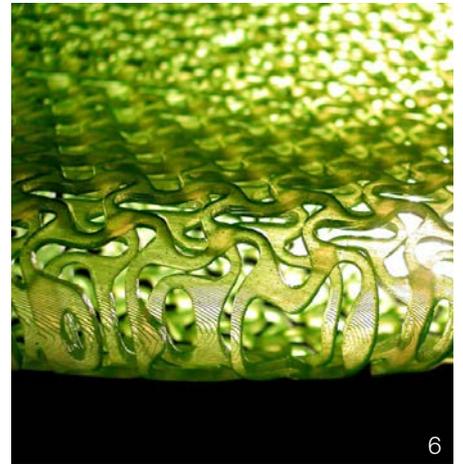
1., 2. & 3. Central Embassy, Bangkok, 2014; 4. & 5. Selfridges, Birmingham, 2003; 6. Comme des Garçons, Paris, 1998; 7. Comme des Garçons, New York, 1998; 8. Comme des Garçons, Tokyo, 1998; 9. Thong Lo, Bangkok, 2014

# INSTALLATIONS



1. *Contemplating the Void*, New York, 2009; 2. & 4. *Timber Wave*, London, 2011; 3. *Corian Lounge*, Milan/London, 2009; 5. *Bench of Plates*, London, 2012; 6. *Hayward Gallery*, London, 2010

# FURNITURE



1. Around the Corner - South, 2008; 2. Around the Corner - West, 2008; 3. Cork Kit, 2013; 4. Edge Light, 2010; 5 & 16. Bodleian Libraries Chair, 2013; 6. Fruit Bowl, 2006; 7. & 14. Desk, 2011; 8. & 15. Yacht, 2011; 9 & 10. Drift Bench, 2006



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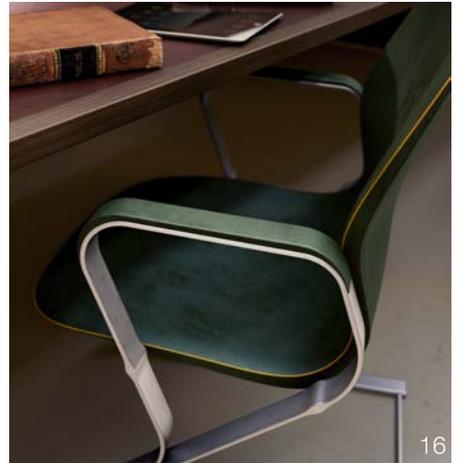
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11. Ceramic Table, 2014; 12 & 18. Around the Corner - East, 2008; 13. Around the Corner- North, 2008; 17. Dining Table, 2010;



# V&A EXHIBITION ROAD

LONDON, UK

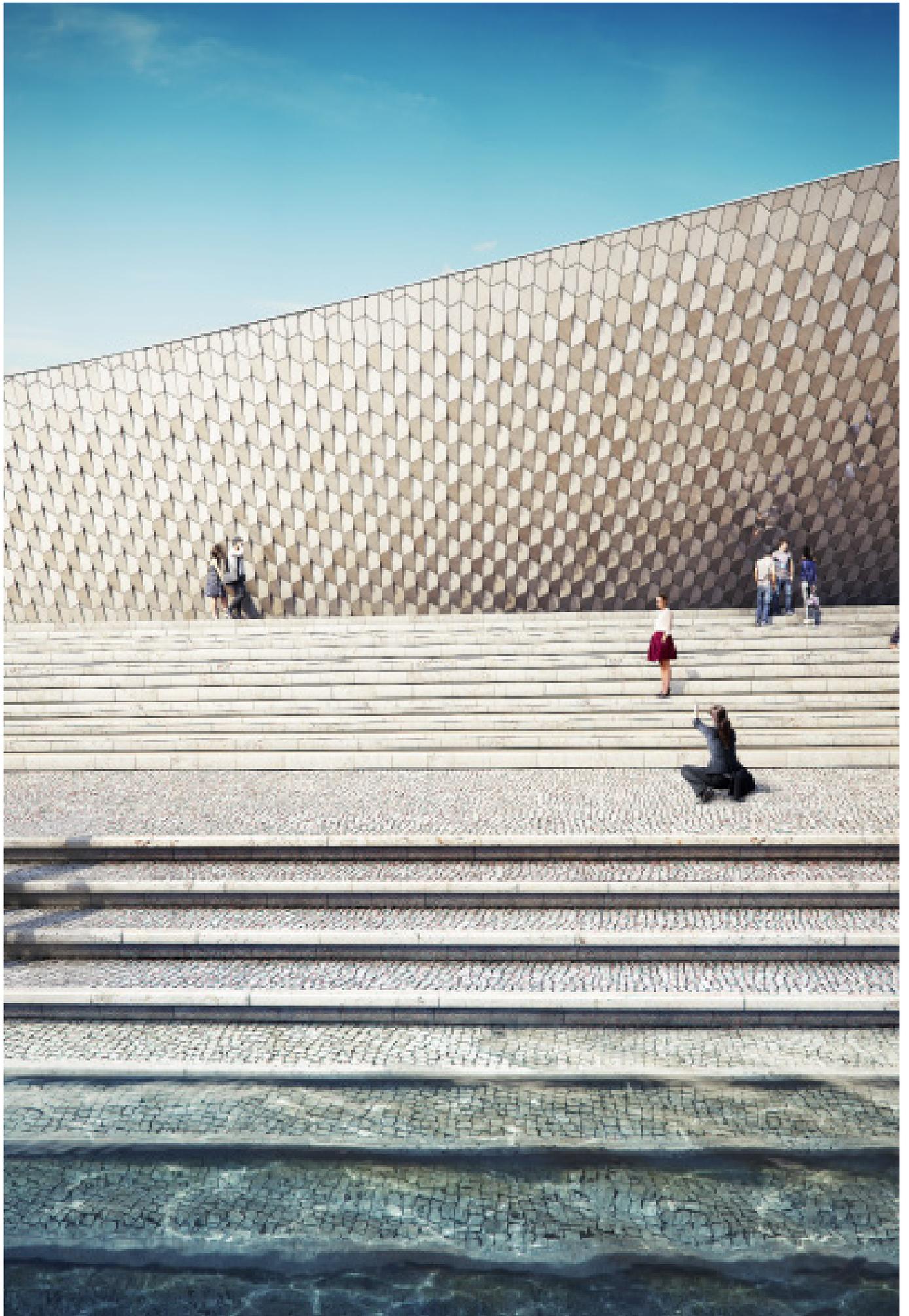


The Victoria and Albert Museum is one of the world's greatest museums of art and design. It provides for the public unparalleled knowledge and understanding of the designed world.

AL\_A's project will unlock the potential to bring new audiences into the V&A, breaking down the separation between street and museum, and taking the V&A onto Exhibition Road and Exhibition Road into the V&A. The changes to Exhibition Road have already significantly increased the number of pedestrians who use it but this is just the beginning of a more ambitious intention: to make Exhibition Road a place where culture and learning are accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds.

At the heart of the brief is the new exhibition space to accommodate the V&A's headline exhibitions. It will feel both of the moment of its creation, providing twenty-first century standards, and a natural part of the continuing development of the museum.

Client	Victoria & Albert Museum
Location	London, UK
Programme	Gallery for temporary exhibitions, public courtyard and new museum entrance
Area	6,360 m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£33m
Status	Under construction
Commencement	2010
Completion	2016
Architect	AL_A



# EDP ARTS & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

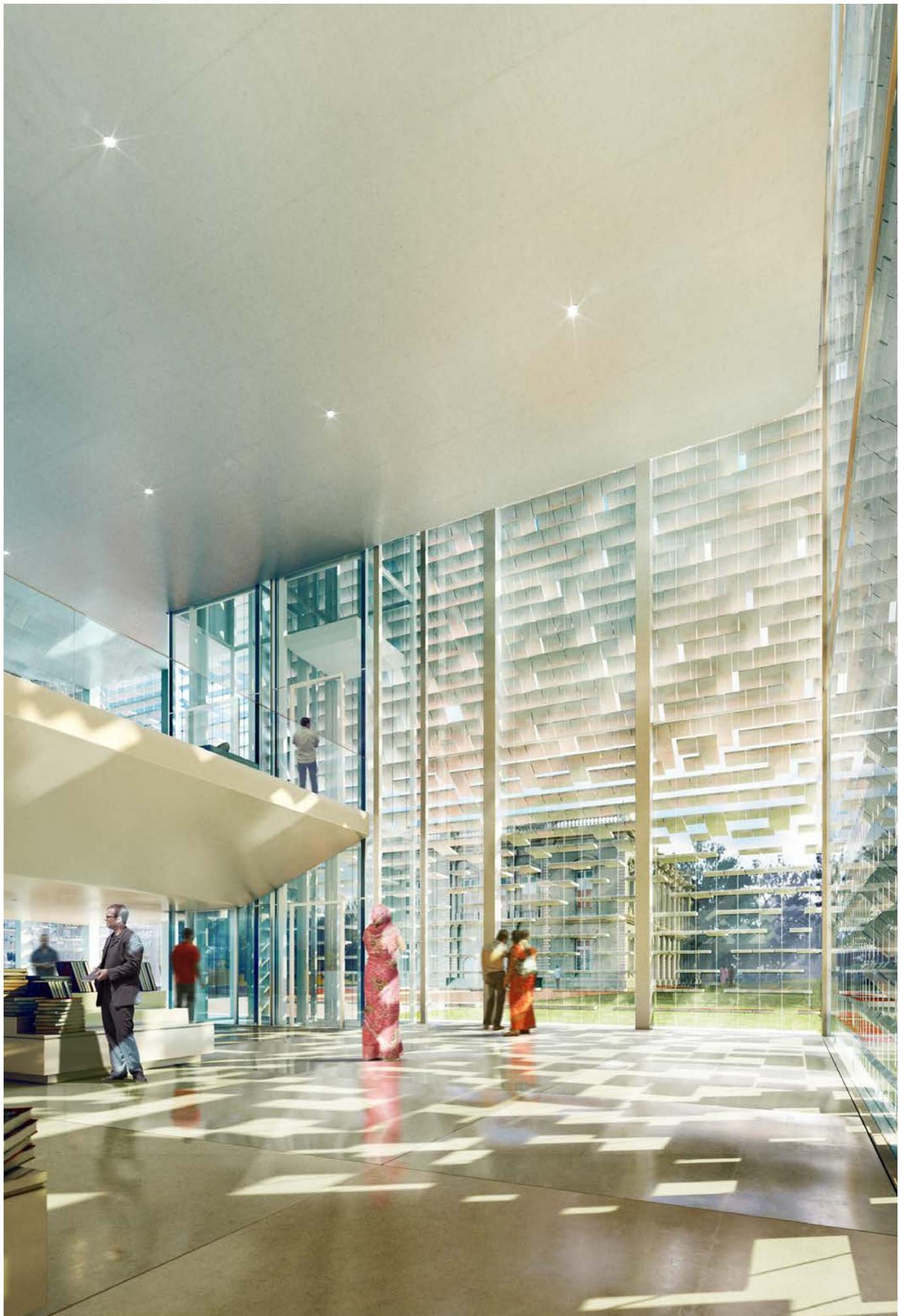
LISBON, PORTUGAL



The EDP Foundation Arts & Technology Centre is a new public building located on the Belém waterfront in Lisbon, renewing access to the Tagus River from the city and consolidating the wider publicly-funded urban regeneration of the quarter.

Incorporating over 7,000m<sup>2</sup> of new public space, the Centre will explore the convergence of architecture, technology and contemporary art as a field of cultural practice. It will accommodate a trans-disciplinary programme of exhibitions, public events and community engagement. A new discursive space for the city, it will lead the conversation about the evolution of Lisbon and Portugal.

Client	Fundação Energias de Portugal (EDP)
Location	Lisbon, Portugal
Programme	Cultural Centre including exhibition spaces, auditorium, cafe, public spaces
Area	6,400 m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£20.9m
Status	Tender Review
Commencement	2010
Completion	2015
Architect	AL_A
	Local Architect: Aires Mateus



# MUMBAI CITY MUSEUM

MUMBAI, INDIA



Using the power of absence to create connections between history and the future, a sunken courtyard is embedded between the existing Museum building and the new North Wing. The courtyard is a metaphor for the cycle of the seasons, capturing the dramatic contrasts of the climate. It creates a place for contemplation and reflection and a place for community.

Encircling the courtyard is Mumbai Modern, a gallery that forms the beating heart of the Museum, mediating between the old and the new.

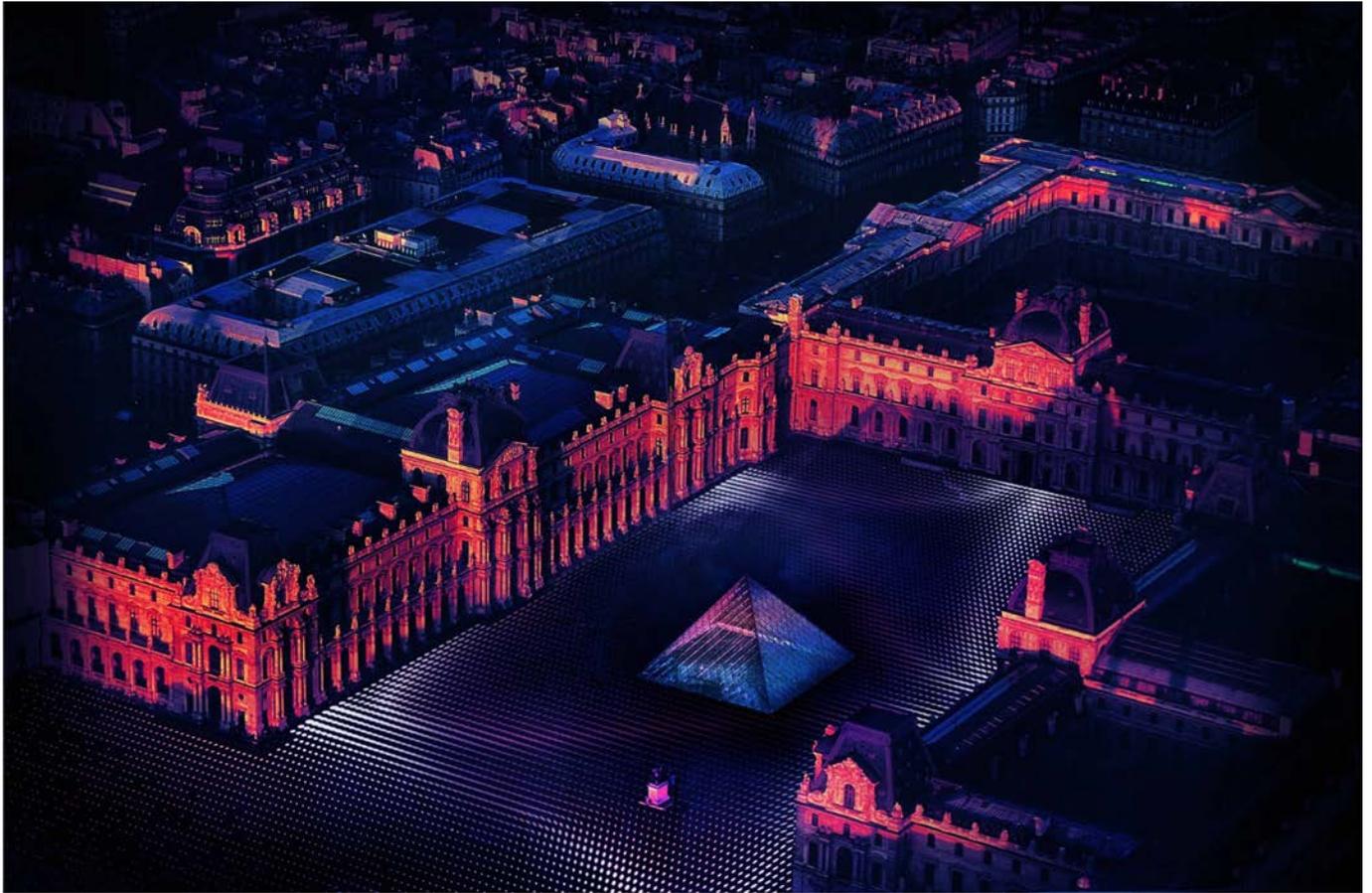
The new wing is a silent art container clad in a veil of red stone that speaks of the history of Indian craftsmanship.

Client	Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum Trust
Location	Mumbai, India
Programme	Masterplan & New galleries for permanent and temporary exhibitions
Area	15,700 m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£20.7m
Status	2nd Prize - Jury's Honourable Mention
Commencement	2014
Architect	AL_A



# LE LOUVRE

PARIS, FRANCE



AL\_A was shortlisted for a competition to remodel the public spaces of the Louvre and to reinterpret the spaces for mediation and information. Our objective was to make the visitor experience pleasurable and uplifting by liberating I.M.Pei's pyramid, restoring the brilliance of his vision by removing its function as an entrance and exit to the Museum, and reinstating the structure as a destination in its own right.

The radical proposition was to enter the Louvre directly from the courtyard through the three original entrances to the historic Palace. This move gives the visitor an intuitive understanding of the complexity of the museum. The immersive experience of entering directly into one of the palace rooms allows them to immediately establish a visceral relationship with the collection.

In each ancient hall, a finely crafted piece of modern design is inserted, displaying a vast array of visitor information. This continues the Louvre's brave juxtaposition of the historic and contemporary for which it is so well known. The Pyramid itself becomes a new room within museum, a place for meeting, reflection and study. Its beauty is once again revealed, creating spectacular views of the Palace from inside.

Client	Musée du Louvre
Location	Paris, France
Programme	Rethinking the Museum and spaces for art and mediation
Area	5000m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£9.8m
Status	Invited Competition
Date	2010
Architect	AL_A



# ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

LONDON, UK



The project was driven by the desire to bring the visitor closer to the artistic life of the Opera House by revealing the creative process both physically and conceptually. The building was opened up to maximise public access between the Opera House and dual entrance conditions of the piazza and Bow Street. Internally, spaces were opened up and extended to let light in and reveal multiple views, with dramatic scales and visual synchronicity animating the user journey.

Client	Royal Opera House
Location	London, UK
Programme	Redesign of the entrances, public spaces and circulation
Area	7000 sqm
Construction Value	£21.3m
Status	Invited Competition
Date	2012
Architect	AL_A

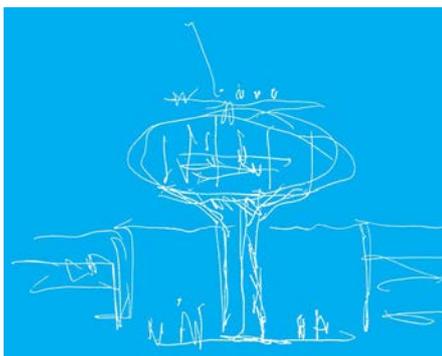


# LORD'S MEDIA CENTRE

LONDON, UK



The objective of the design was to respect and savour the essential nature of Lord's while bringing to it a building that heralded the coming millennium and provided the most elegant and state-of-the-art media centre in the world. It captured the public imagination with its form and function, transforming a generic brief into an elegant solution, made possible by the marriage of conceptual with technical inventiveness.

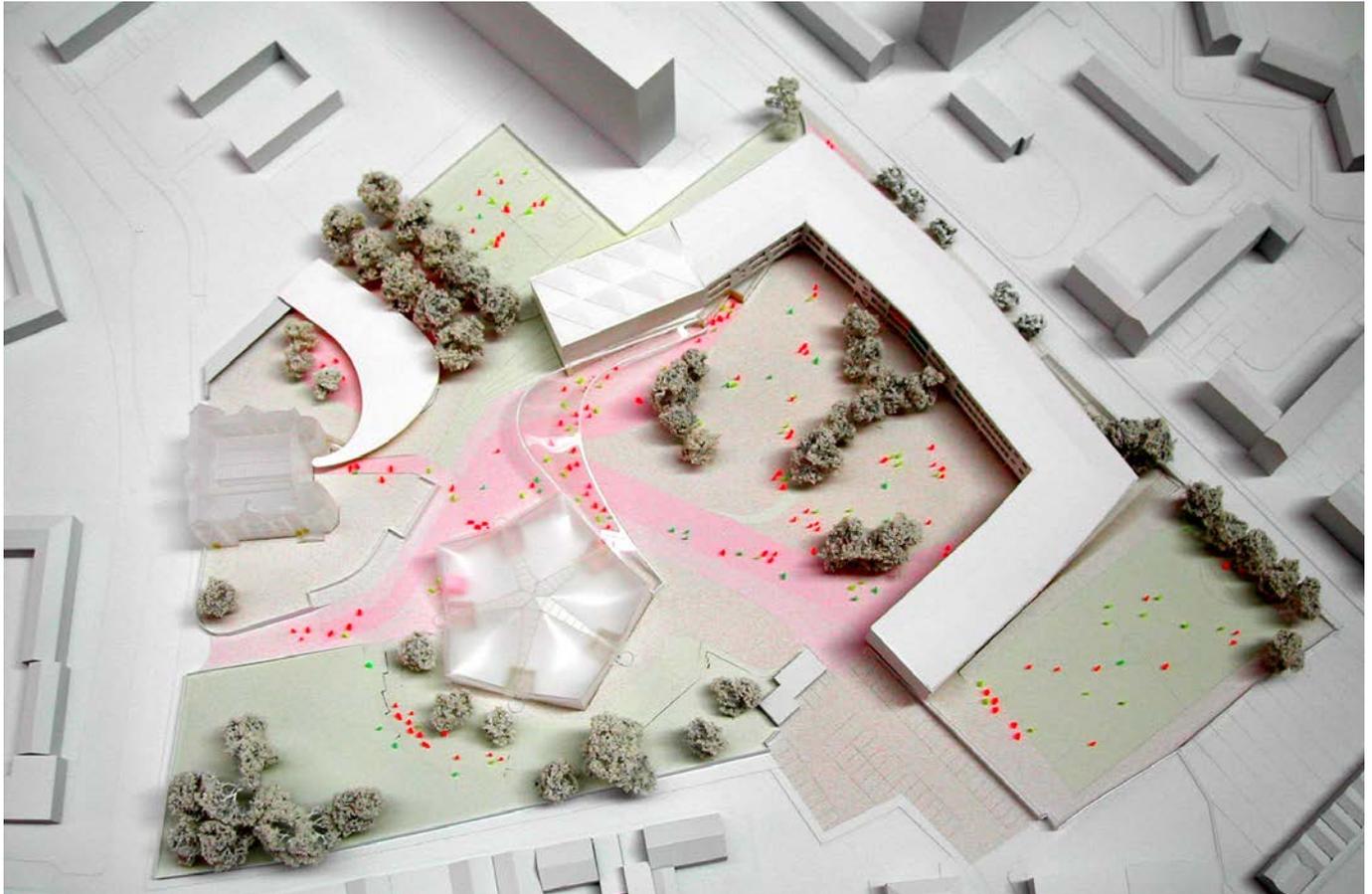


Client	Marylebone Cricket Club
Location	London, UK
Programme	Media centre at Lord's cricket ground
Area	600 m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£5m
Status	Completed
Commencement	1994
Completion	1999
Architect	Future Systems
Selected Awards	RIBA Stirling Prize World Architecture Award British Construction Industry Award 1st Prize, Aluminium Imagination Civic Trust Award



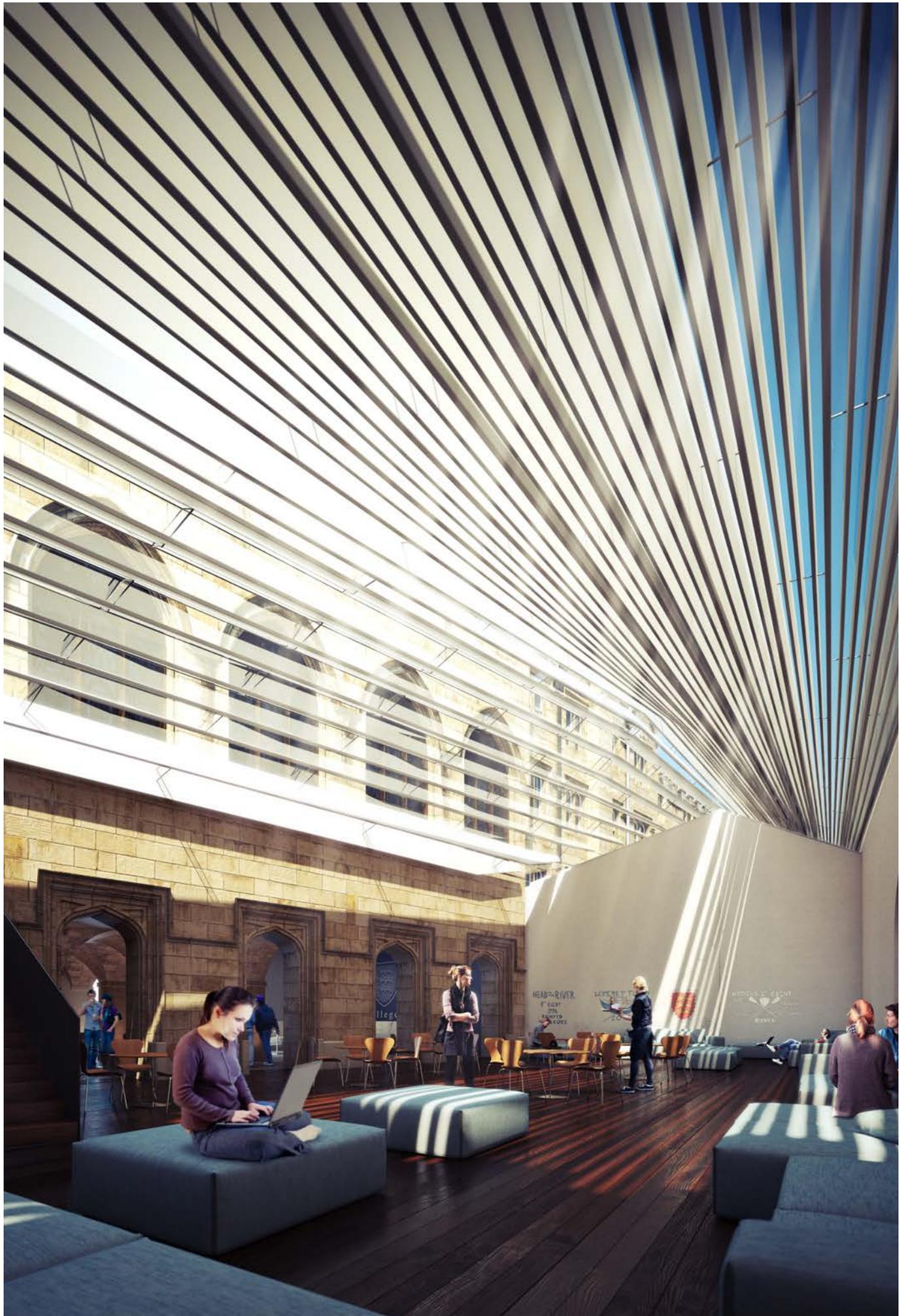
# GLOBE ACADEMY

LONDON, UK



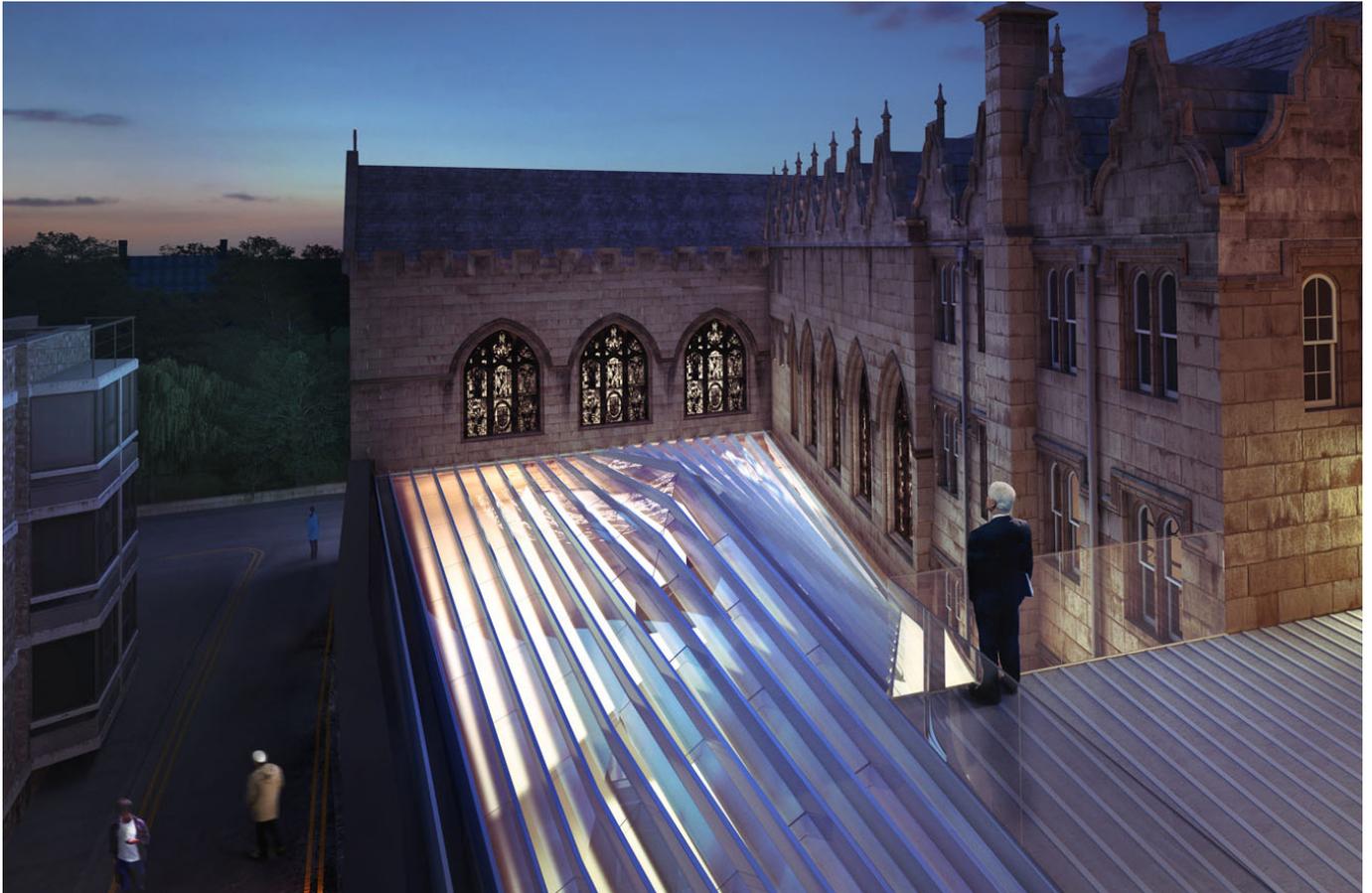
This city academy, sited within a socially deprived area has the potential, not just to create new beginnings for pupils, but also to act as a motivator for learning and a catalyst for welcoming and engaging with the wider community of Southwark. We believe the qualities of the environment in which you learn, and in particular light, space, colour and sound, make a real difference to how quickly you learn and how much you enjoy learning. We aspire to making the learning spaces beautiful and inspirational and to create a positive experience for all those involved in the learning process. ARK's brief for 'schools within schools' demands that each school has a separate identity while at the same time working within the concept of a campus that will nurture and educate from infant to teenager. Their brief is aspirational both for education and for environment. The Academy's purpose is to develop high aspirations, high motivation and high achievement in and for all its students, irrespective of their start in life. In particular, its aim is to ensure that every student makes enough progress by age 18 to have real options: to move into higher education or into the career path of their choice. The specialism for the Academy will be Performing Arts along with developing the core skills of numeracy and English.

Client	DCFS/ARK Education
Location	London, UK
Programme	"All-through" academy for 1500 students
Area	13700m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£38m
Status	Completed
Commencement	2007
Completion	2012
Architect	AL_A



# ORIEL COLLEGE

OXFORD, UK



Social spaces are the nexus of college life, where food, drink and conviviality give birth to intellectual stimulation, relaxation and the forging of long lasting friendships. The creation of a new soaring single-volume unlocks the potential of social spaces; a new multipurpose space part common room, refectory, and bar to meet the diverse needs of students and staff alike.

The new space sits beside the adjacent undercroft, and is topped by a dynamic twisting pitched roof. From inside, the eye is drawn upward by the light streaming through glazing that frames views of the historic facade, whilst hindering gaze to student accommodation.

Client	Oriel College
Location	Oxford, UK
Programme	Reprogramming of social areas and new multi-purpose space
Area	1,100 m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£10m
Status	Invited Competition (ongoing)
Commencement	2013
Architect	AL_A



# MAGGIE'S CENTRE

SOUTHAMPTON, UK



This is a building which emerges from an apparently abstract plan with an almost ethereal clarity. The project imagines the haven of a garden transported from the New Forest into the midst of the hospital's concrete landscape. This arboreal context and wild naturalistic topography offers seclusion and protection from the outside world. Subtle, light and with a rainbow of colours from the garden, this is an exquisite design to lift the weight off the shoulders of all who visit and all who work in it.

Client	Maggie's
Location	Southampton, UK
Programme	Cancer care centre
Area	360m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£1.8m
Status	In progress
Commencement	2014
Completion	2015/2016
Architect	AL_A



# MONTE ST ANGELO SUBWAY STATION

NAPLES, ITALY - IN COLLABORATION WITH ANISH KAPOOR

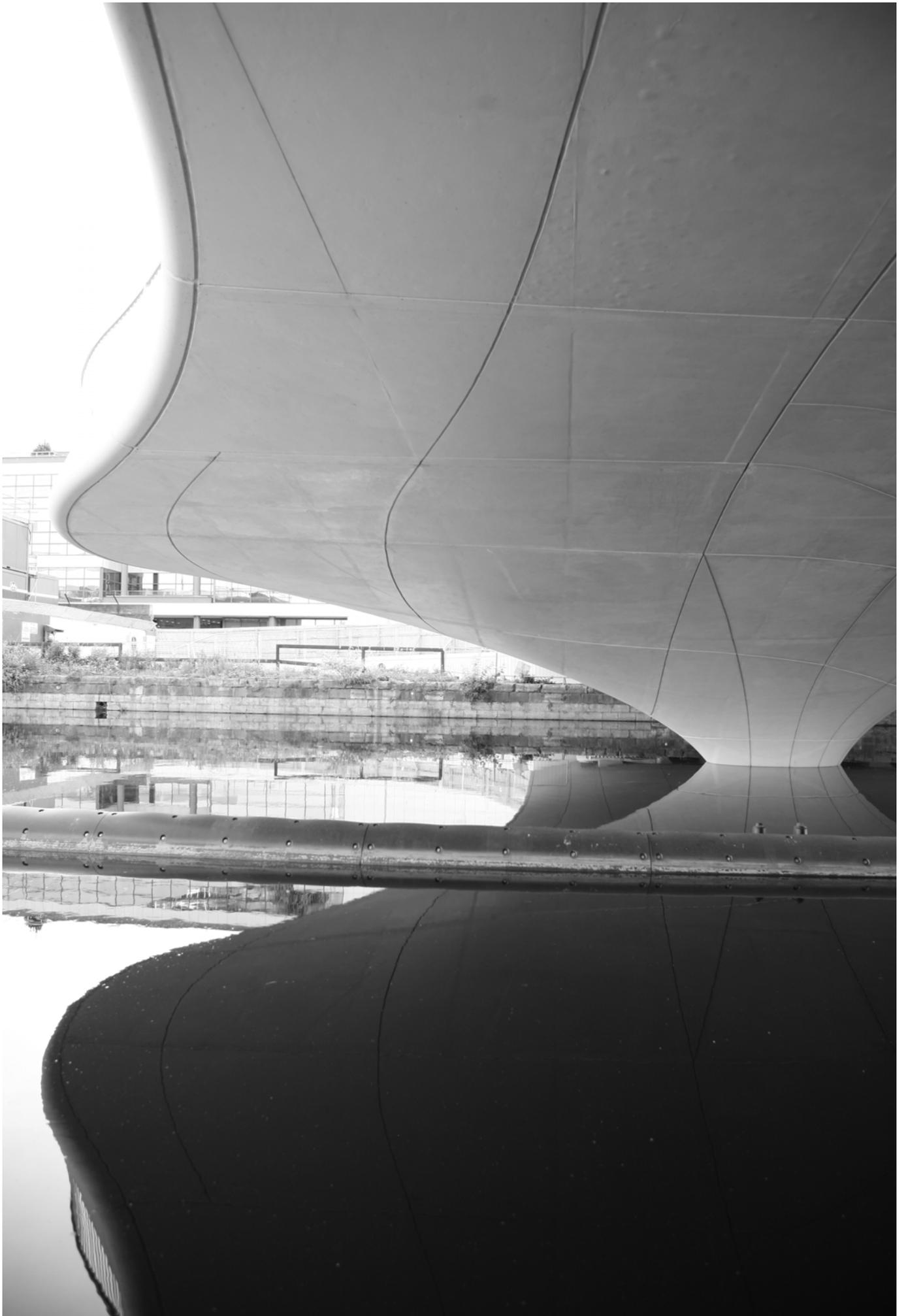


The brief from the City of Naples, to create a fully-functioning tube station that is in itself a work of art, demanded a synthesis of purpose and beauty that was fundamental to our creative process. A second primary point of inspiration was the site. At the surface the station will be the central element in the urban and cultural regeneration of the Traiano district that has suffered in its recent history from infrastructural isolation and neglect.

Simultaneously the network of tunnels and vaults designed and subsequently abandoned midway through a previous tube station project, describes an underworld barely tangible in the gleaming and sanitary underground spaces of contemporary subway projects.

In the shadow of Vesuvius and embedded in layers of early civilisation, these dark and brutal concrete shells have been inspirational to our formal and material approach. We began the process by stretching and moulding plasticine forms, synthesising the primary access requirements within and around the existing negative volumes. As layers of programme were introduced, the eternal tension between form and function was worked through while preserving the singular purpose and integrity of the forms.

<b>Client</b>	SEPSA (Società per l'Esercizio di Pubblici Servizi Anonima)
<b>Location</b>	Naples, Italy
<b>Programme</b>	Subway station entrances & platforms
<b>Area</b>	8000 sqm
<b>Construction Value</b>	£93m
<b>Status</b>	Under construction
<b>Architect</b>	AL_A in collaboration with Anish Kapoor
<b>Consultants</b>	Local Architect: Studio DAZ



# SPENCER DOCK BRIDGE

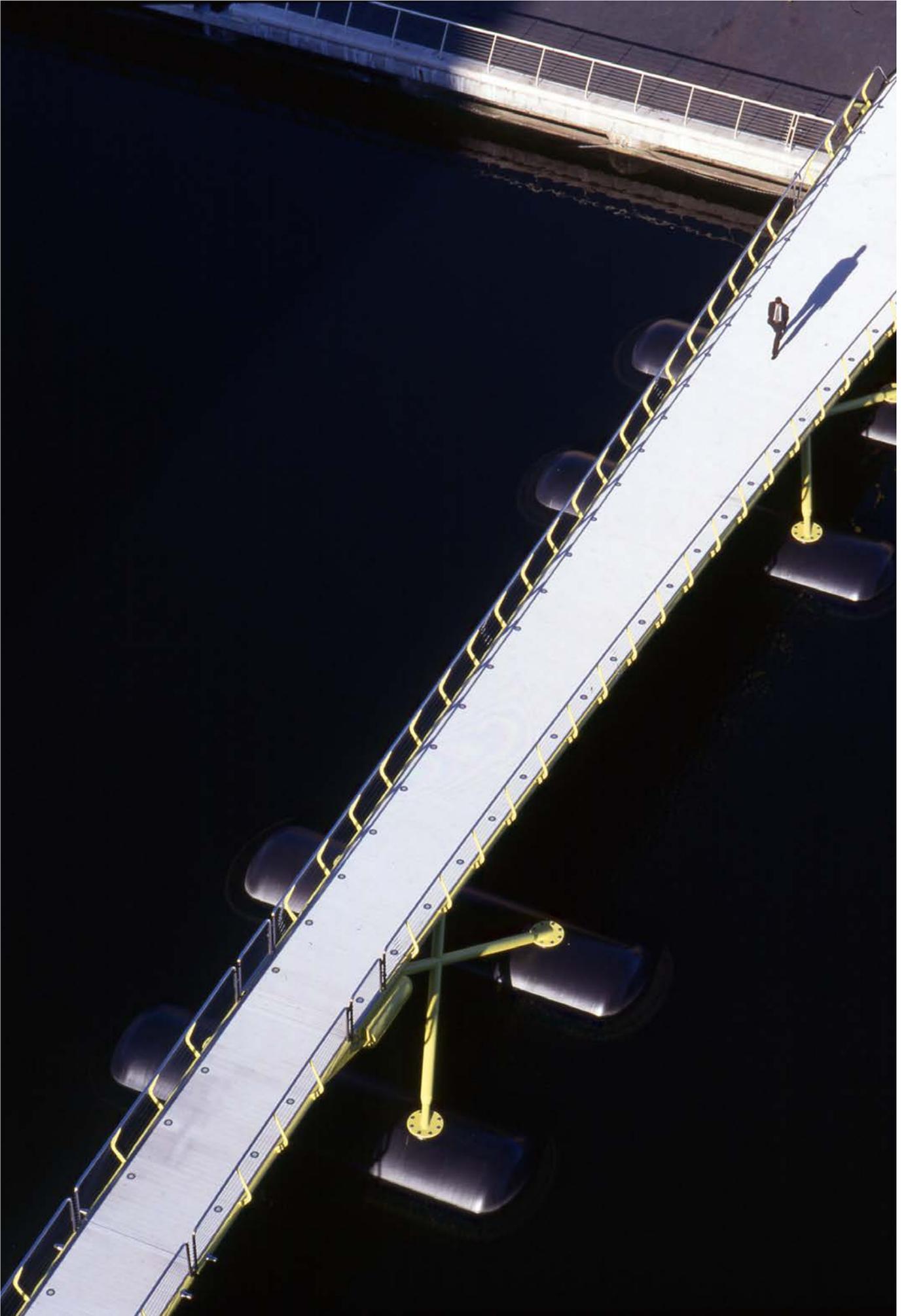
DUBLIN, IRELAND



The 40 metre span bridge with its fluid lines and undulating concrete surface takes trams, traffic and pedestrians across the Royal Canal. The edges of the deck peel down to reveal a space for pedestrians to pause and take in views of the dock and Linear Park which is currently under construction.

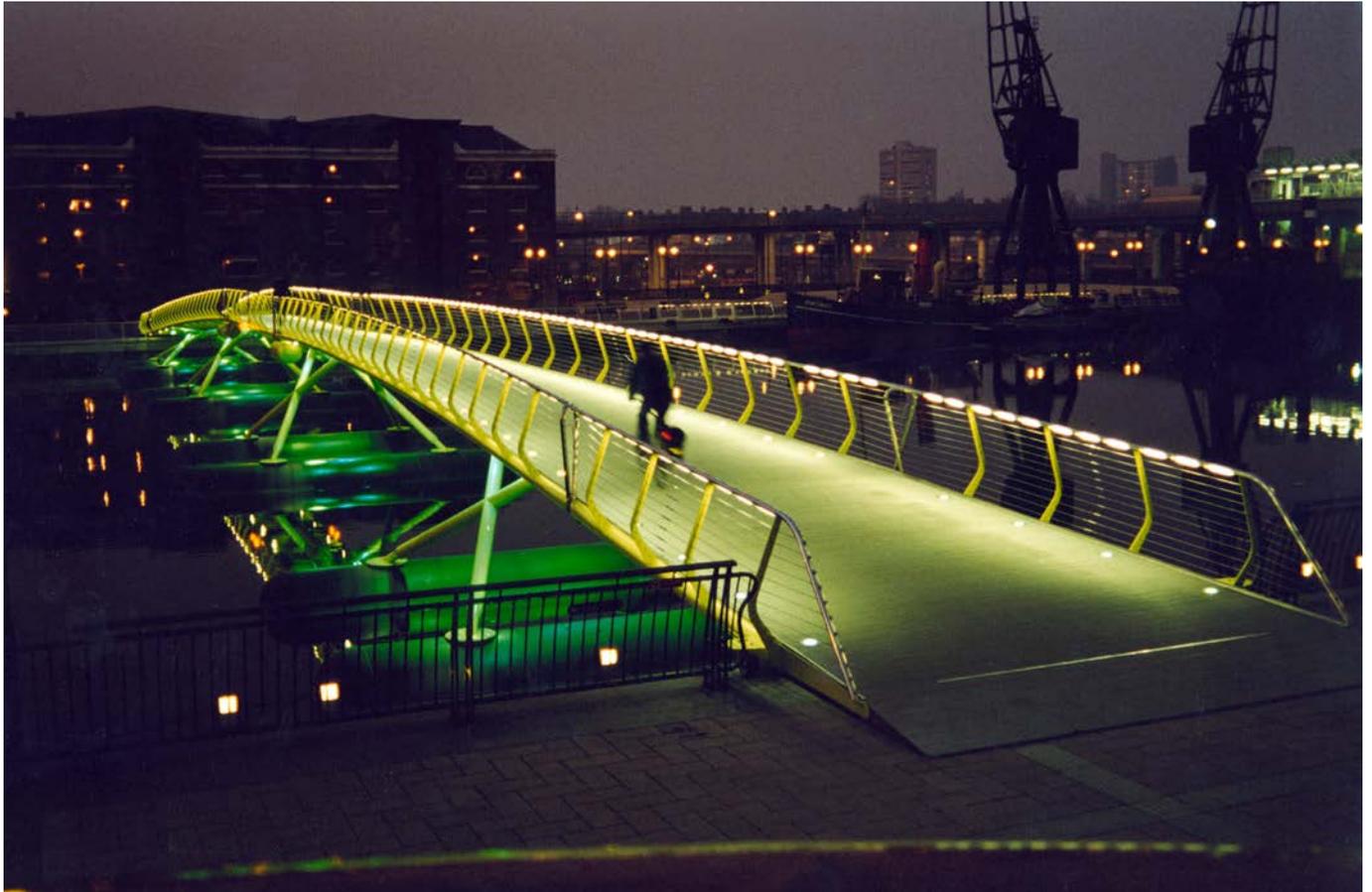
The underside of the bridge merges with the piers in a single movement with joint lines in the concrete designed to accentuate the geometry of the form. The finish of the concrete provides high visibility against the dark water of the canal and at night the structure is vibrantly lit from below, underlining its fluid form. The proportions of the bridge are unusual and the design exploits these by treating the bridge as a piece of landscape. The soft geometry and asymmetry create a piece of infrastructure that resolves the tension between form and function.

<b>Client</b>	Dublin Docklands Development Authority Railway Procurement Agency
<b>Location</b>	Dublin, Ireland
<b>Programme</b>	Bridge for vehicles, trams and pedestrians
<b>Span</b>	40m
<b>Construction Value</b>	£3.6
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Commencement</b>	2006
<b>Completion</b>	2009
<b>Architect</b>	AL_A
<b>Selected Awards</b>	The Chicago Athenaeum International Architecture Award LEAF Award



# FLOATING BRIDGE

LONDON, UK



The bridge links two areas of very different scale. On the one side a vast commercial development and on the other the more delicate proportions of 19th century warehouses and a quayside piazza. By creating a low floating structure emphasis is placed on the horizontal stretch of water rather than the vertical dominance of Canary Wharf.

The slender form of the bridge is evocative of a brightly coloured insect touching the water as lightly as a water skater, offering pedestrians a sense of freedom as they cross. Colour is central to the concept – like a laser beam of light the bridge skims the dock with a piercing lime green line, the sense of perspective exaggerated by the tapering plan of the deck.

Client	London Docklands Development Corporation London, UK
Location	Footbridge across a basin in Canary Wharf; London's business district
Programme	
Length	94m
Construction Value	£1.2m
Status	Completed
Commencement	1994
Completion	1996
Architect	Future Systems
Selected Awards	Civic Trust Award RIBA Award British Construction Industry Award



# KRUUNUSILLAT BRIDGE

HELSINKI, FINLAND



Kruunusillat is a bridge that can realise abstract ideas with simplicity, crossing the Helsinki archipelago of an interlaced landscape of water and city, where natural setting and manmade layers coalesce, and boundaries are blurred. Preserving the flow of landscape, and without the interruption of verticality, we envision the bridge as a thread of light traced in the water; a line drawn just above the water and below the horizon.

Reducing infrastructure to the immediacy and intuition of a sketch, the bridge curves between three landfalls, with threads for trams, cyclists and pedestrians, each woven by their context, providing paths that are sheltered from the worst of the elements and exposed to the beauty of the vista. One strand detaches from the mainline to grace the shoreline of Korkesaari and Palosaari.

Working with the contours of the seabed, the bridge makes visible the submerged topography. As the traveller curves with the bridge, their gaze is directed both outwards and towards their destination, tracing the sinuous line ahead. Speeding up and slowing down, each of the strands changes intensity and flow, as the thickness of the line of a drawn sketch changes with the pencil's pressure.

Client	City of Helsinki
Location	Helsinki, Finland
Programme	Bridge for trams, pedestrians and cyclists
Length	1800m
Construction Value	£47m
Status	Competition- Second place
Commencement	2012
Architect	AL_A



# SKY MEDIA CAMPUS

LONDON, UK

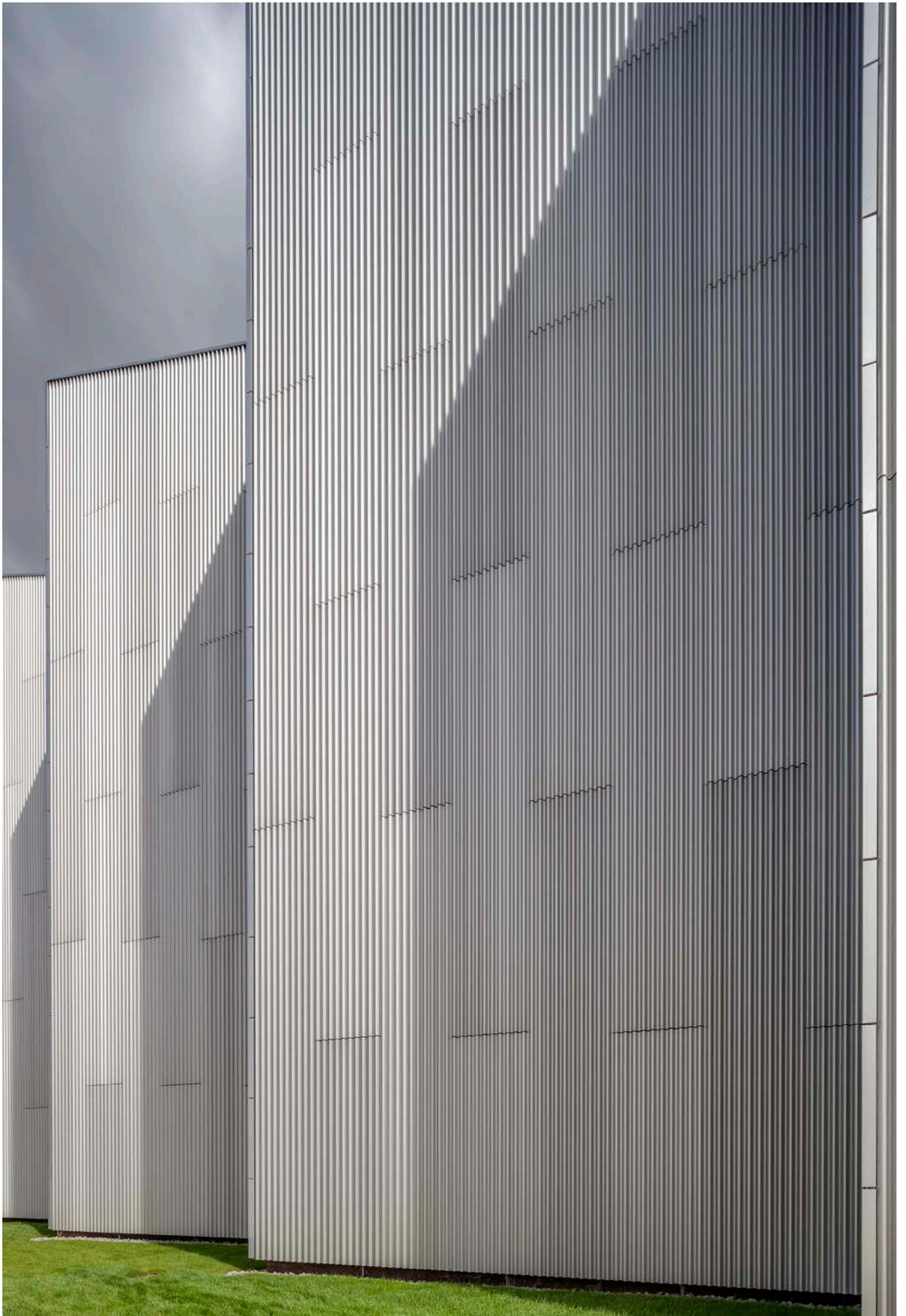


Sky asked AL\_A to create a vision for the new Campus that reflects the workings of the organisation and is connected by the assets that drive the business forward: creativity and people.

The layout is designed to welcome Sky's visitors and audiences, revealing the culture and spaces of the business. Food, landscape, amenities and meeting spaces all become intuitive ways of bringing people together, promoting chance encounters across the workforce and the collision of talent across every strata of the business. Extensive landscaping will surround the buildings, alongside cafes, restaurants, convenience stores, allotments and sports facilities to bring these spaces to life.

This transparency is mirrored in a building typology where all the functions of the business are gathered under a single roof, with Production and Entertainment placed at the heart of the buildings and made explicit to everyone. These open and flexible spaces are designed in clusters of neighbourhoods to accommodate a new type of creative industry, where the traditional distinctions between creative, technical, production and corporate have been broken down.

<b>Client</b>	BSkyB
<b>Location</b>	London, UK
<b>Programme</b>	New media headquarters for up to 12,000 employees
<b>Area</b>	13 hectares
<b>Construction Value</b>	Confidential
<b>Architect</b>	AL_A



# SKY MEETING CENTRE

LONDON, UK



This is the first building to be completed as part of AL\_A's masterplan for BSkyB's media campus.

The Meeting Centre creates a spectacular working environment for 400 people in 65,000 sq. ft. with exceptional daylight from north facing roof lights.

Inspired by Sky's values of transparency and collaboration, the open and flexible spaces are designed in clusters of neighbourhoods to accommodate a new type of creative industry. Traditional distinctions between creative, technical, production and corporate have are broken down by the architectural design.

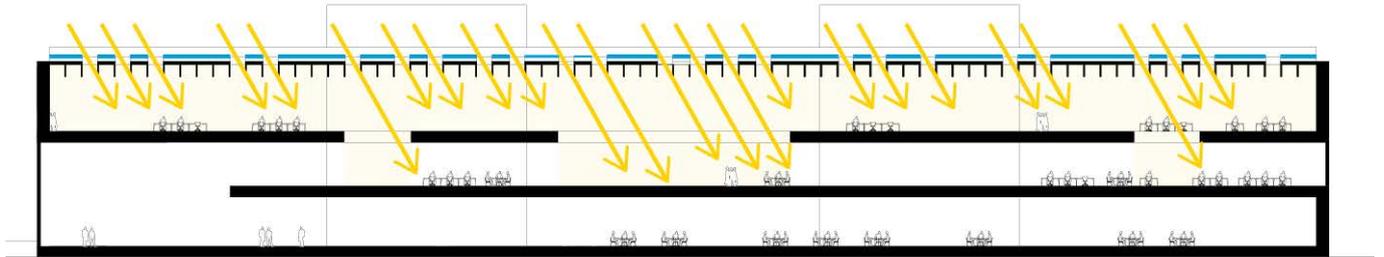
Construction was completed on time and on budget in little over a year.

Client	BSkyB
Location	London, UK
Programme	Offices, conference rooms and restaurant
Area	7095m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	Confidential
Status	Completed
Commencement	2012
Completion	2014
Architect	AL_A



# SKY BUILDING 02

LONDON, UK



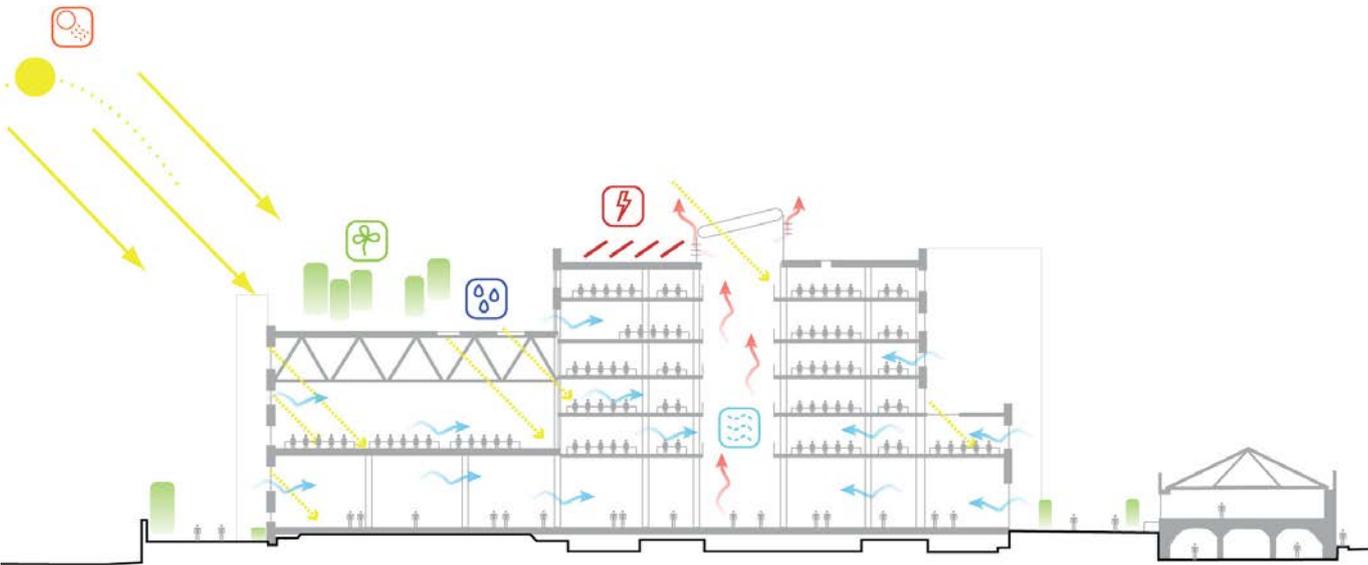
Alongside outline planning approval for Sky's Campus, permission was also granted for the largest single building on the site, Building 02. It houses 4,000 people over three floors, and brings together the corporate and creative sides of the business.

This vast, low-rise and wide-span building is formed from large overlapping voids within deep floor plates that create high levels of visual connectivity. It is topped by a 16,830m<sup>2</sup> aluminium roof, with skylights that allow daylight to penetrate through the building, reducing façade glazing and reliance on artificial lighting.

The large areas of photovoltaic panels generate renewable electricity as part of a wider sustainability strategy. The design targets a BREEAM Excellent rating.

Externally, the building's elevation echoes the roof's arrangement of transparent and opaque: each segment of the façade's recessed glazing has its counterpart in a roof light above. The articulated façade also creates self-shading and storage space for the workspaces resulting in an extremely efficient net to gross.

Client	BSkyB
Location	London, UK
Programme	Offices and broadcast studios for media campus
Area	37,700m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	Confidential
Status	In construction
Architect	AL_A



# NEWS LONDON

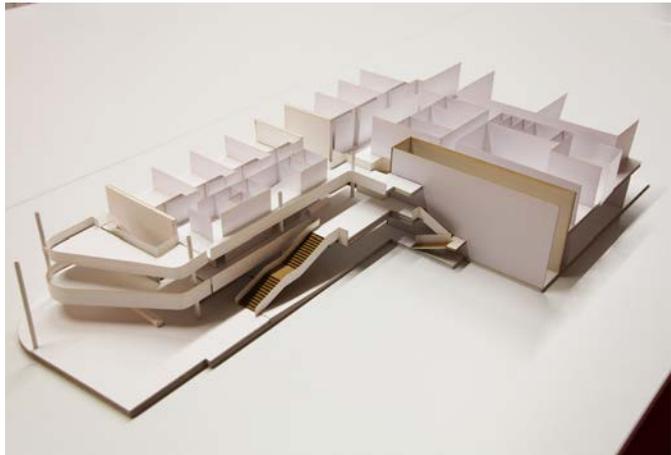
LONDON, UK



The ambition of News International was to create a world class headquarters for four newspapers, Dow Jones, Twentieth Century Fox, and Harper Collins. The project was a transforming opportunity for the business — the combination of News International with the London offices of other major News Corporation businesses in a single building. It was the opportunity for News London to express a coherent identity whilst allowing companies and titles to highlight their own individuality.

Achieving the vision required the extensive remodelling of a huge, nondescript building, initially designed to house News International's printing presses and the creation of the best headquarters in London, a truly landmark building with world-class facilities. News International's move to Wapping in the 1980s was a catalyst for change in the industry — reflecting that legacy, heritage and forward thinking in our design was vital. Stripping back the building to its essential industrial structure opened up an arena for the changing business of media, creating an exciting office environment to match the creative and economic ambition of News International.

Client	News International Ltd.
Location	London, UK
Programme	Media headquarters
Area	98,600m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	Confidential
Status	Planning permission granted
Commencement	2008
Architect	AL_A



# INVESTMENT BANK CONFERENCE CENTRE & RECEPTIONS

LONDON, UK

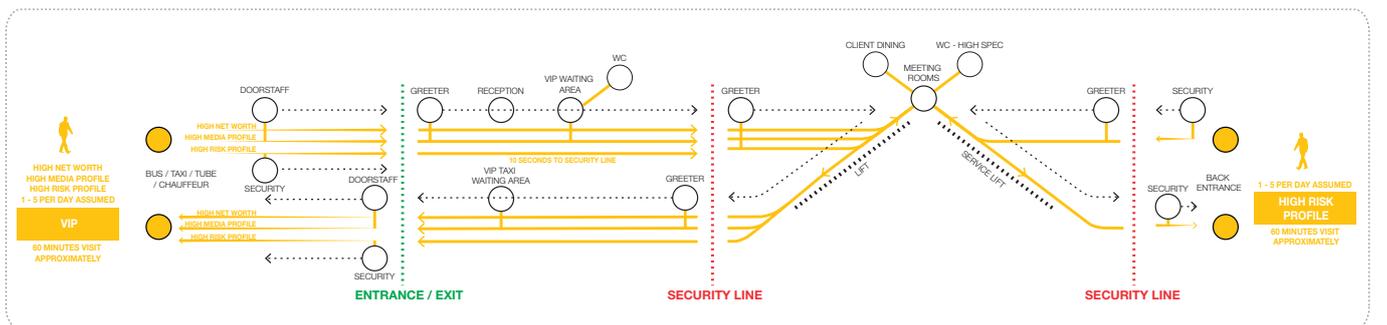


AL\_A are designing the main entrances and three-storey conference centre for the new London headquarters in the City for an American multinational investment banking firm, the latter accommodating large international conferences, events and corporate presentations.

The Conference Centre and the entrance set the tone for the experience of the company and the rest of the building. They are the opening chapters of the narrative that holds the project together. Being the first impressions of the firm, these crucial aspects of the project will express the strength and stability of the firm, and create a window onto the vibrancy and dynamism of the business within.

Exceptional levels of client service, and the environment in which they can be performed, remains paramount. Spaces are to be shared by visitors and employees alike, seeking to encourage and facilitate openness, ease of access, and communication, while maintaining privacy and discretion.

Client	Confidential
Location	London, UK
Programme	Conference centre and entrances
Area	3,900m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	Confidential
Status	Design development
Commencement	2013
Completion	2018
Architect	AL_A



# ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS

LONDON, UK



A new global headquarters is an important moment for this British multinational asset management company, much more than simply bringing together everyone under one roof. It is an opportunity to reflect the firm's culture and values, and to present it more visibly to the city, to clients, to competitors and to itself.

Working with the client to articulate the purpose of this project, we searched for the narrative that holds the project together, drawing it out from an in-depth understanding of who they are. We could then begin to make this visible through a design that expresses their heritage, integrity and forward thinking.

The building's location is a prime piece of the City, which speaks of where the firm have come from and where they will continue to be. Yet as the building has not been designed specifically for them, the experience inside takes on a greater significance and reveals their identity in a way that is profound, not superficial – and be as relevant in 20 years' time as it is now.

Client	Confidential
Location	London, UK
Programme	Interior Design
Area	28,500m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	Confidential
Status	Invited competition
Architect	AL_A



# HILLS PLACE

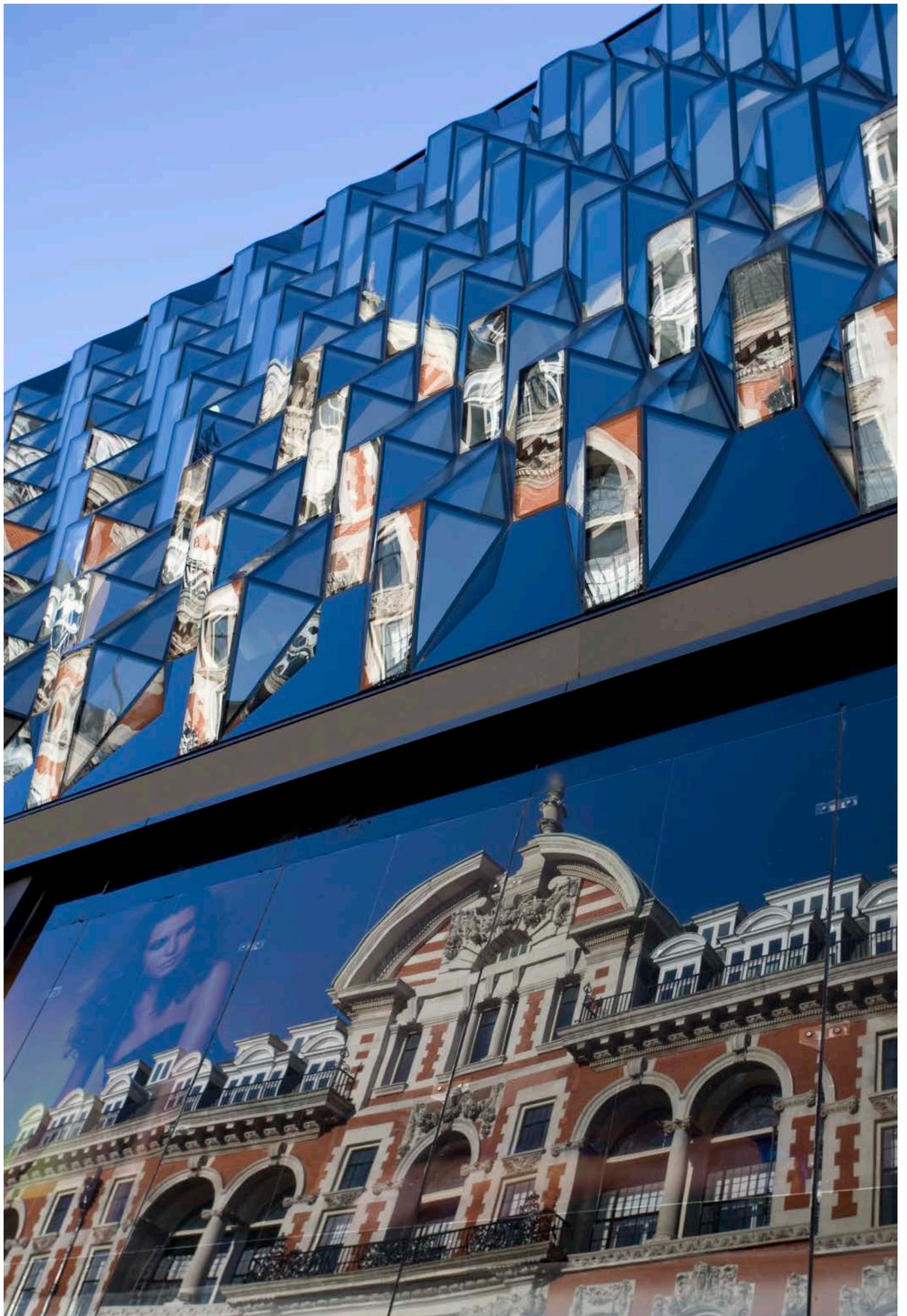
LONDON, UK



Many narrow streets and alleyways off Oxford Street, London are currently misused and underdeveloped. These under regarded areas are ideal not only for improvement, but also for relatively unconventional design opportunities.

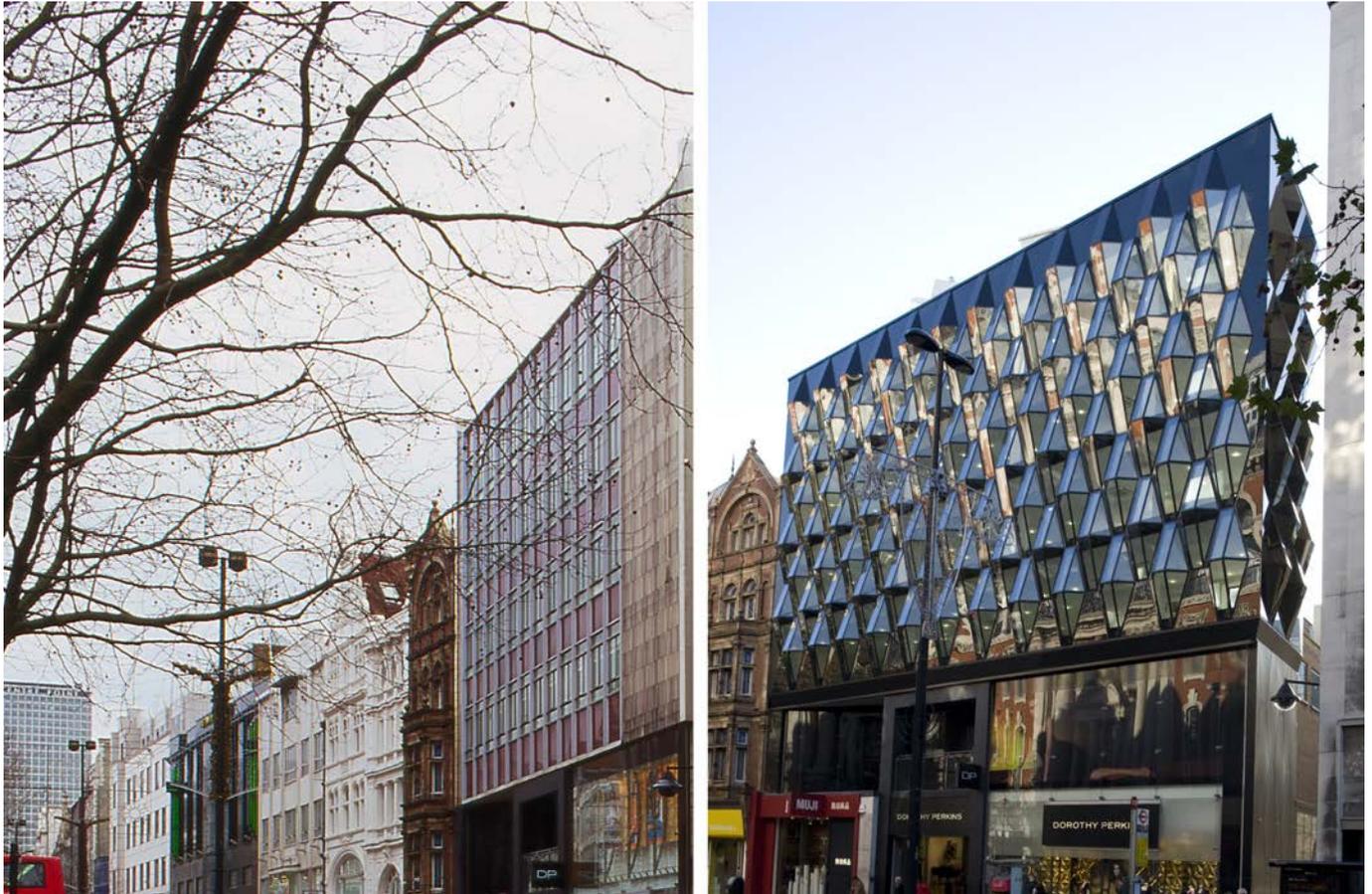
Our proposal acknowledges this by providing an architectural intervention that subtly draws attention to the building through the intrigue of a sculptural façade. Inspired by the art work of Lucio Fontana large glazed areas orientated towards the sky are slashed into the façade, maximising the natural light available in this narrow street.

Client	Clarendon Properties
Location	London, UK
Programme	Offices: addition of 3 floors above existing 2 storey brick retail building, and a new façade.
Area	1,320 m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£4.6m
Status	Completed
Commencement	2004
Completion	2009
Architect	AL_A
Selected Awards	NAS Design Partnership Award CAB Aluminium in Renovation Award, Overall Winner European Aluminium Award, Special Jury Prize for Innovation & Design



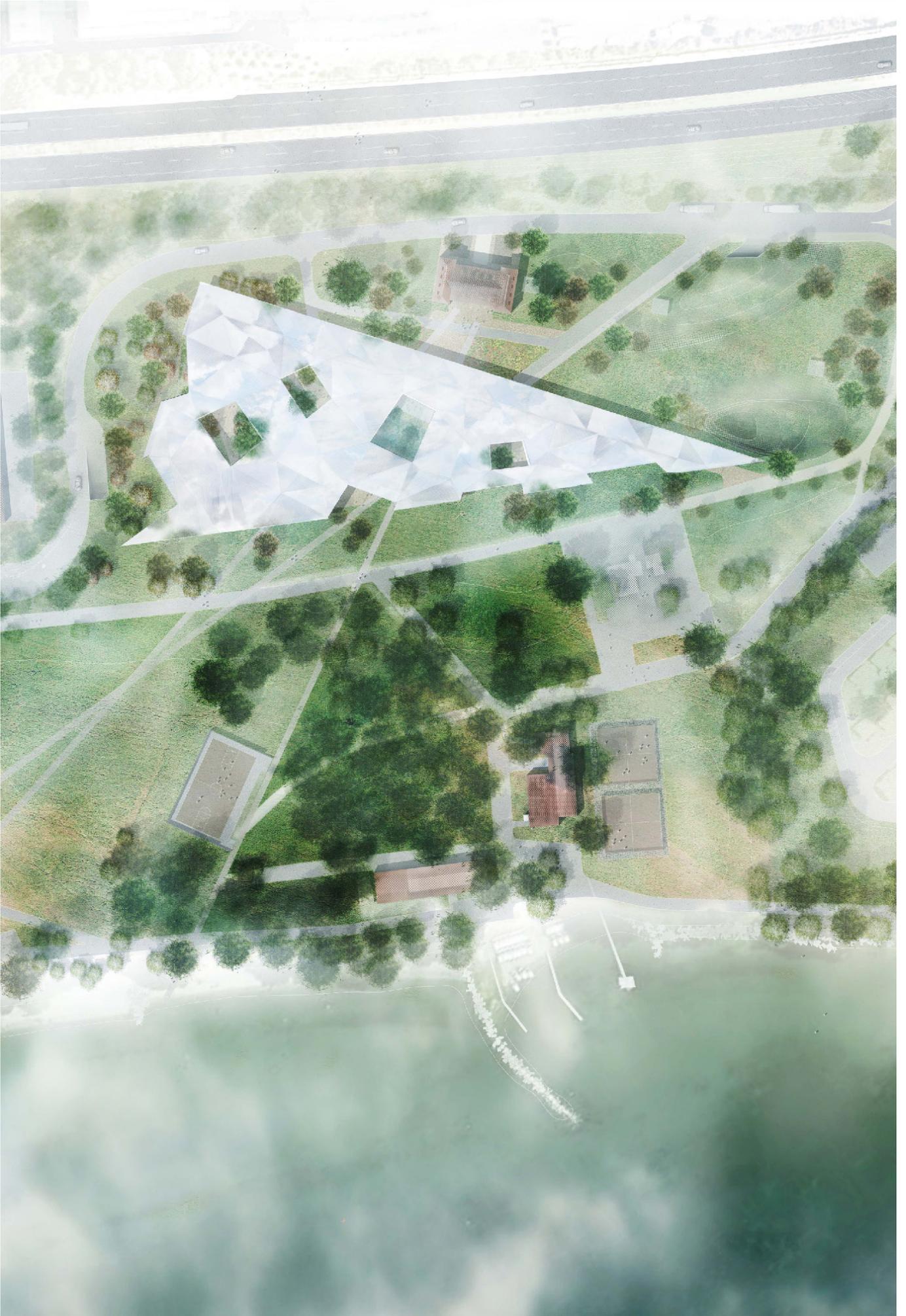
# OXFORD STREET

LONDON, UK



The brief was to transform the quality and appearance of a tired 1960's building at the undeveloped end of Oxford Street. Our proposal removes the brick and glass façade and replaces it with a subtle yet vibrant jewel-like glass frontage that delicately unifies the lower ground and first floor retail units with the office space above. Through the repetition of crystal-like glass bays, a sense of scale and rhythm is created that reflects the grain of the adjacent properties as well as giving the offices panoramic views along Oxford Street. At night the façade will be illuminated from inside giving off a subtle coloured glow. The scope of this scheme includes the addition of 1 floor and 2 new façades.

Client	Private Investor
Location	London, UK
Programme	Additional floor to building and store façade.
Construction Value	£5m
Status	Completed
Commencement	2006
Completion	2008
Architect	AL_A



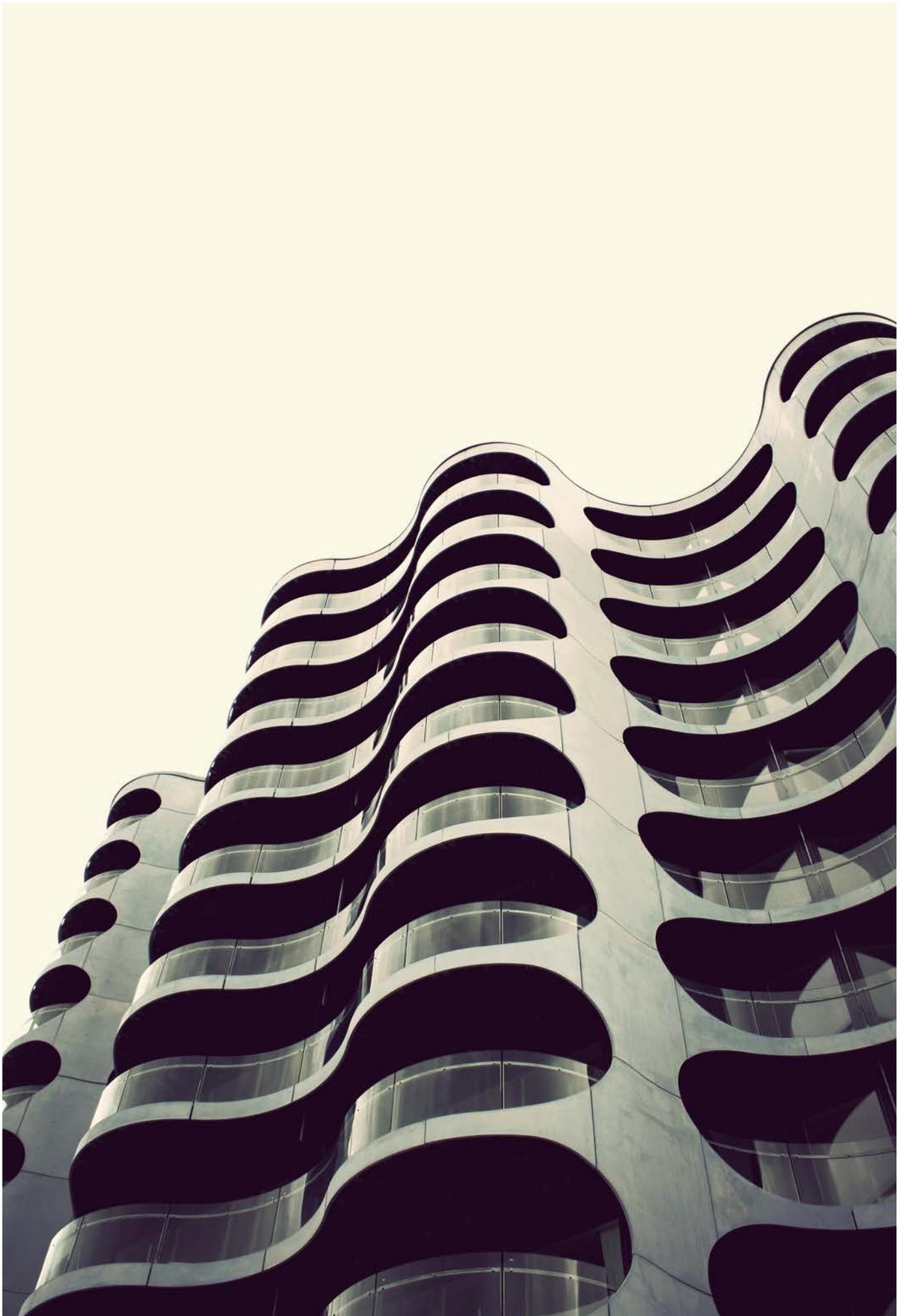
# INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND



The Olympic Campus is the new headquarters of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland, accommodating all 500 members of staff across one site. There is no more unifying organisation than the Olympics. The assembling of continents and nations, pitched against each other in competition while sharing their pursuit of sporting perfection is a noble quest. Our design uses the abstract power of Olympic values to drive the physical form of the building.

Client	IOC
Location	Lausanne, Switzerland
Programme	A new headquarters for the IOC
Area	14,390m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£66.3m
Status	Invited competition
Architect	AL_A



# METROPOLIS

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK



44 luxury apartments sited on a peninsula in the Port of Copenhagen. In order to create a slender profile to this 11 storey high building, the plan of the apartments is conceived as 3 towers linked in a petal formation. The structure is a single pre-cast concrete frame with blue pigmented render as a facing material. Future Systems worked closely with the developer client and the contractor as a design consultant during outline and detailed design stages. All the apartments were sold prior to construction commencing.

Client	Nordkranen
Location	Copenhagen, Denmark
Programme	Luxury residential
Area	14,000 sqm
Construction Value	£11.2m
Status	Completed
Commencement	2004
Completion	2008
Architect	Future Systems
Consultants	Local Architect: KD Arkitekter
Selected Awards	City of Copenhagen Good & Beautiful Buildings Award



# HUNTINGDON ESTATE

LONDON, UK



The mixed-used scheme for the Huntingdon Industrial Estate in the heart of London's East End proposes the radical transformation of a former industrial site into an innovative and energised commercial, cultural and residential centre.

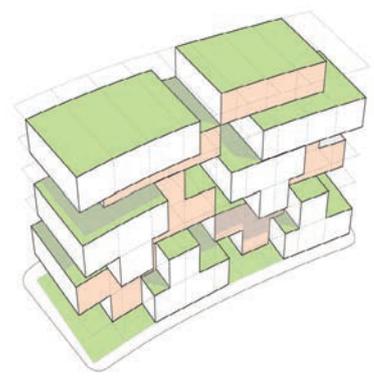
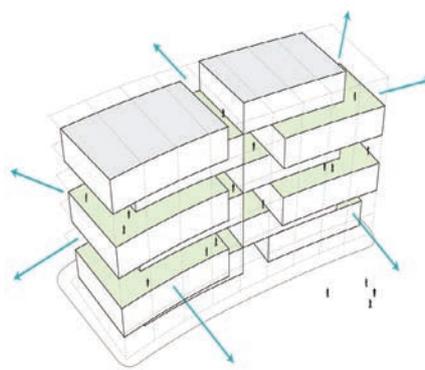
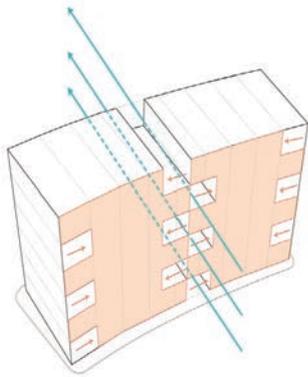
London is a city that continues to evolve and re-invent itself, and Shoreditch is an intrinsic part of this. The density and diversity, and the innovative and creative spirit which defines this area is reflected in the mixed residential and business communities that inhabit it, and the varying scales of building that surround it. AL\_A's design for Huntingdon addresses this complex urban context, and draws on the site's vibrancy and pivotal position on the City fringe.

Client	Londonewcastle
Location	London, UK
Programme	21 storey mixed use commercial and residential tower
Area	16,220m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£40m
Commencement	2009
Architect	AL_A



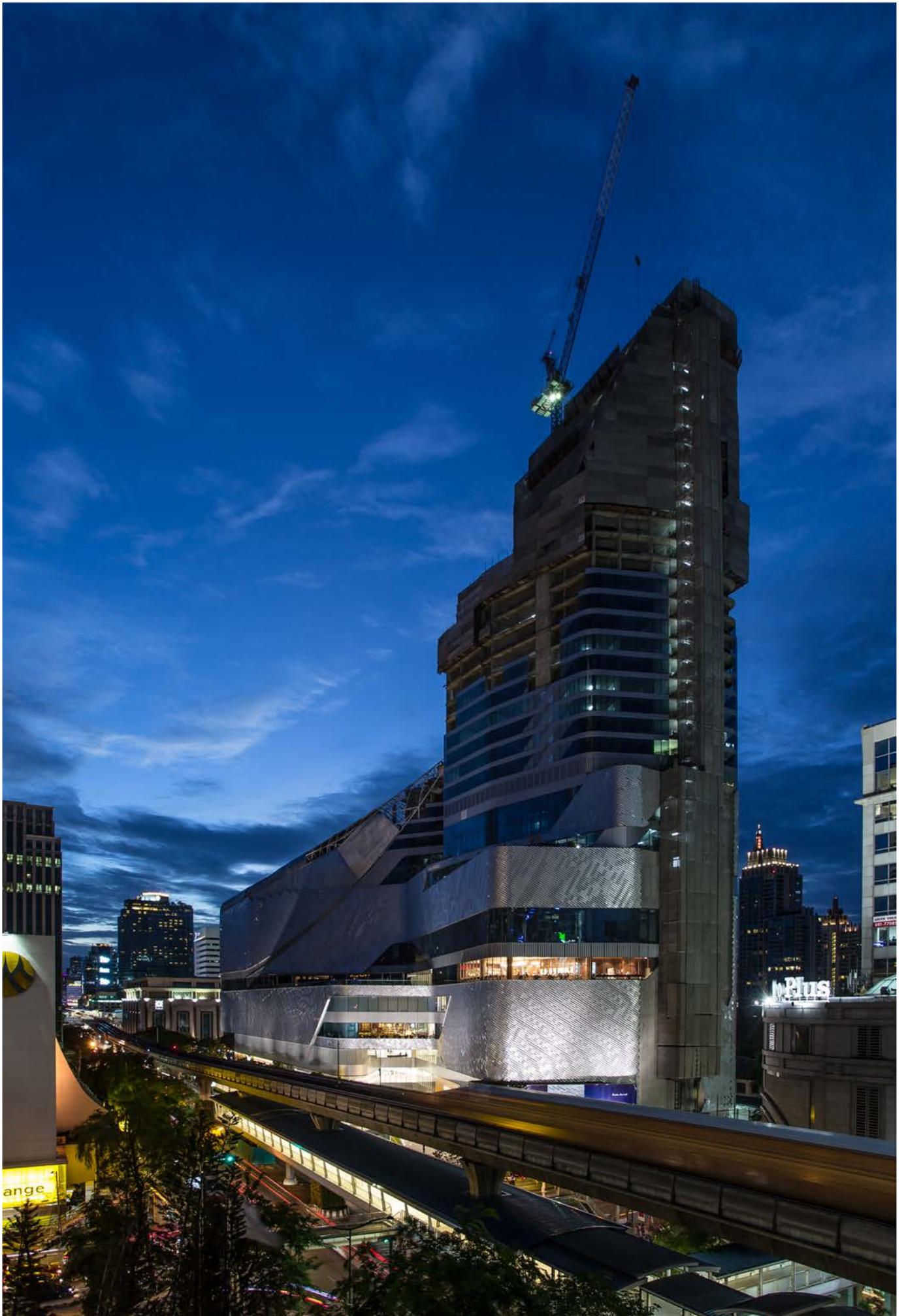
# VILLAS IN THE SKY

NEW PROVIDENCE, BAHAMAS



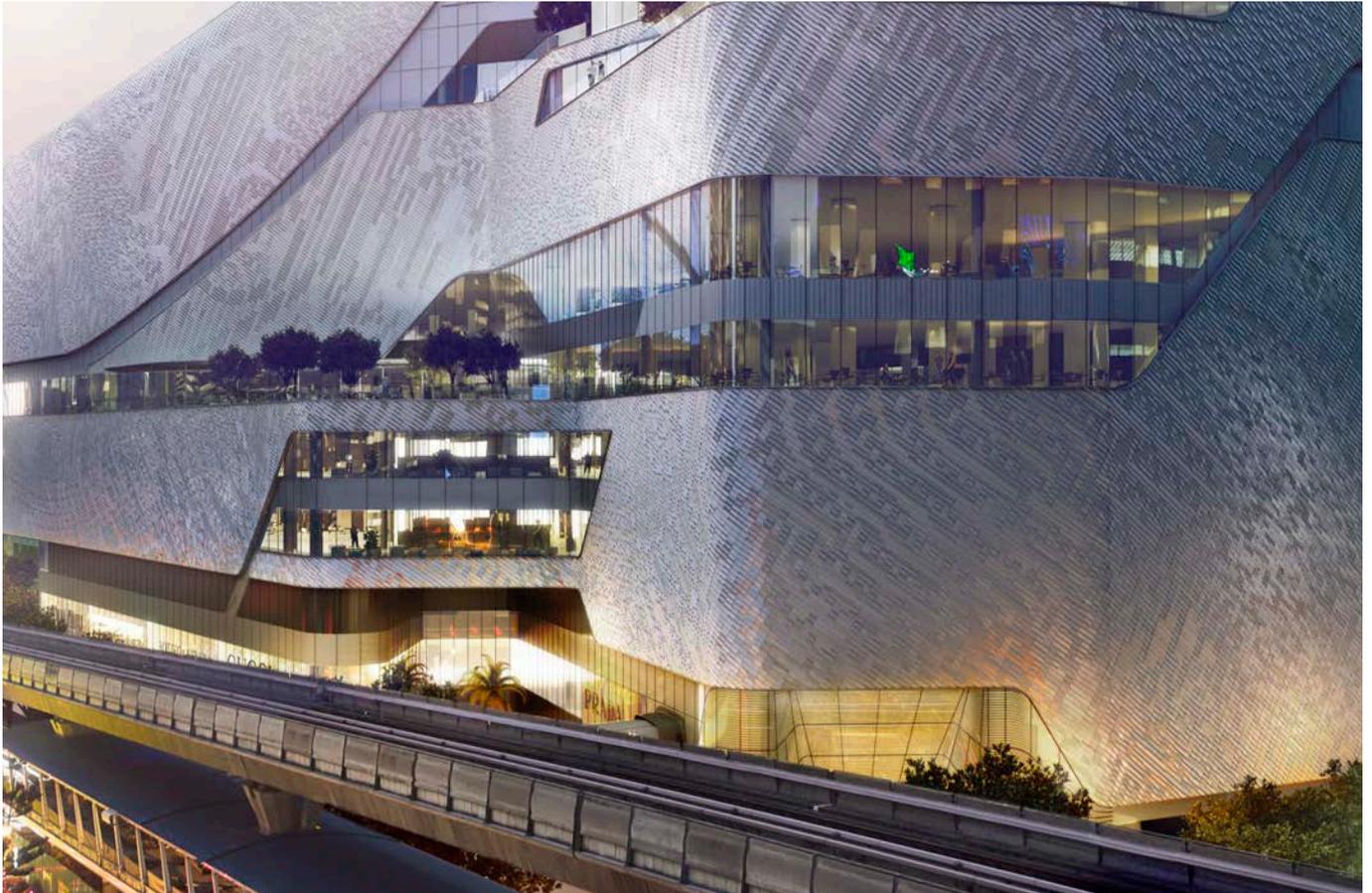
AL\_A have created a building where the apartments are designed to appear as villas in the sky. Efficiency of planning minimised circulation space and maximised living space. It is the interlocking strategy that allows the apartments to be understood as villas. Each villa has its own garden and exclusive lobby with views onto the marina. The large gardens become part of the living space, with areas for both sun and shade.

Client	Finchatton
Location	Albany Marina, New Providence, The Bahamas
Programme	Apartment Building
Status	Invited Competition
Architect	AL_A



# CENTRAL EMBASSY

BANGKOK, THAILAND



Located within the former gardens of the British Embassy along Ploenchit Road, Bangkok's primary commercial artery, the 1.5 million sq ft project merges a seven storey luxury retail podium and a 30 storey 5 star hotel tower into a cohesive and sinuously twisting shape. The elevated form that rises from the podium wraps around two vertical light wells, opening up internal spaces to reveal stepped terraces, and dividing hotel functions: private guest-related programmes face the gardens of Lai Nert Park, while the hotel bar, reception lounge and sky terrace face the city centre.

<b>Client</b>	Central Retail Corporation
<b>Location</b>	Bangkok, Thailand
<b>Programme</b>	Mixed use luxury retail, entertainment and hotel complex
<b>Area</b>	145,000 sqm
<b>Construction Value</b>	Confidential
<b>Status</b>	Under construction
<b>Commencement</b>	2010
<b>Completion</b>	2015
<b>Architect</b>	AL_A
<b>Consultants</b>	Local architect: Pi Design
<b>Contractors</b>	Italian-Thai Permasteelisa



# THONG LO

BANGKOK, THAILAND



Thong Lo sets a new benchmark for eating and drinking destinations in Bangkok. This project seeks to redefine the typology of community malls creating a distinct identity for the district that connects with the community.

A large cut is carved out of the mall to make space for a park that gives a serene character to the development. This quiet pocket of green is connected to the busy street scene encircled by 12 restaurants and an exclusive nightclub at the back of the site.

Client	RS Public Company Limited
Location	Bangkok, Thailand
Programme	Retail destination with restaurants and night club
Area	4730m <sup>2</sup>
Construction Value	£3m
Status	In progress
Commencement	2014
Completion	2015
Architect	AL_A



# SELFRIDGES

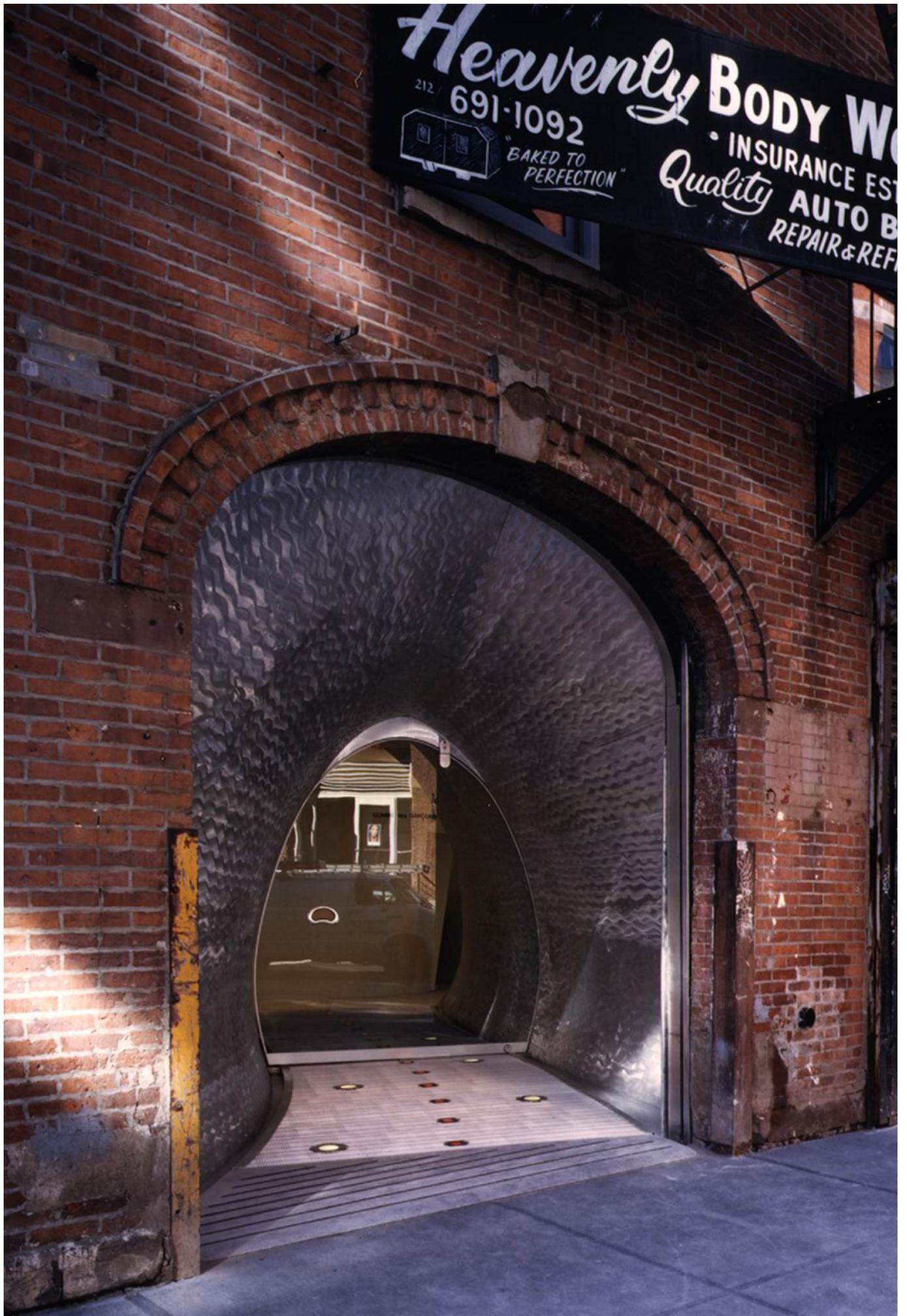
BIRMINGHAM, UK



Our ambitious brief was not only to design a state of the art department store but also to create an architectural landmark for Birmingham so that the building itself would become a genuine catalyst for urban regeneration.

Client	Selfridges & Co
Location	Birmingham, UK
Programme	Department store
Area	25,000 sqm
Construction Value	£66m
Status	Completed
Commencement	1997
Completion	2003
Architect	Future Systems
Selected Awards	Concrete Society Awards RIBA Award for Architecture: Midlands Structural Steel Design Awards: Structural Frame Royal Fine Art Commission Trust: Retail Innovation Civic Trust Award Retail Destination of the Year

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# COMME DES GARÇONS

NEW YORK, TOKYO, PARIS



The brief to create a new kind of space with an atmosphere of experimentation has resulted in three powerful, uncompromising environments, focussing on the threshold between arrival and entry.

## New York

Rather than creating an entirely new façade, which was the original brief, the existing nineteenth century fabric with all the old signage and external industrial fire escapes is retained. Grafted behind the central existing brickwork entrance arch is the link: an asymmetric entrance structure made entirely from aluminium that draws the visitor in from the noise of the New York street. The entrance becomes a transition, not entirely inside or outside, but a fissure through an existing building heading to new environment. The skin has been mechanically formed and then finished to reveal the hands of the maker.

Client	Comme des Garçons
Location	New York, USA; Tokyo, Japan; Paris, France
Programme	Flagship stores
Area	100 m <sup>2</sup> each
Construction Value	Confidential
Status	Completed
Commencement	1996
Completion	1998
Architect	Future Systems



## Tokyo

Two horizontal concrete slabs of a dumb existing building are joined with two ribbons of conical-curved, inclined glass offering a simple liquid entrance where they converge. The glass is covered with a layer of translucent blue dots which act as a filter between inside and outside. At night the movement of people within the shop creates a curiosity for the pedestrian passing the façade.



## Paris

The historic, worn stone façade is protected and enhanced by a sheer skin of pink glass sliding gracefully in front of it. The colour is intensified at the base, fading to clear, to create visual weight.



# TIMBERWAVE

LONDON, UK



Timberwave is the product of its contextual response, yet with no physical interaction with the V&A. It coalesces the expression of material, structure and public engagement into a single beautiful piece. A seamless solution, it does not make distinctions between structure and aesthetic, structure and message, innovation and functionality, social and technological impact.

<b>Client</b>	London Design Festival & American Hardwood Export Council
<b>Location</b>	London, UK
<b>Programme</b>	Temporary entrance to the V&A Museum
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Commencement</b>	2010
<b>Completion</b>	2011
<b>Architect</b>	AL_A
<b>Selected Awards</b>	The Wood Awards Judges' Special Commendation D&AD Awards Spatial Design/ Installations



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