

MANCHESTER STUDIO

DESIGN THAT MATTERS

DLA Design is renowned for creating inspiring places.

Be it for cultural, commercial or residential means, our 100+ strong practice brings unique perspectives and possibilities to deliver award-winning schemes.

The secret behind engaging, enriching and sustainable places? We believe it's our close affinity with nature, clients and communities, honed over 40 years.



20 years in the original northern powerhouse

DLA Design is a multi-disciplinary practice encompassing architecture, landscape design, interiors, graphics and project services, working nationally across studios in Leeds, London and Manchester. Our Manchester studio was formed in November 2001 but our impact on the city extends back to the mid-1990s in the midst of significant urban regeneration.

Built over 20 years ago, Manchester Arena, designed and delivered with our US partners Ellerbe Beckett, is one of the biggest and busiest multi-purpose indoor arenas in the UK. The project involved considerable technical challenges in order to accommodate the 21,000 seat facility and is now an integral part of the Manchester's economic and cultural landscape. Central to the success of the scheme is its ability to transform easily from a sporting venue to major performance and live music arena.

Travel less than five miles to the west of the arena and you will find the Lowry Outlet and Imperial Point. Opened in 2001, these developments are located close to The

Lowry and the Imperial War Museum North in Salford Quays, incorporating retail, cinema, health and fitness club, bars and restaurants, with residential apartments forming part of a world-class business, cultural and residential area.

Finally, in 2011 we were invited by Temple Primary School in Cheetham Hill, an exemplar PFI Pathfinder scheme originally designed by DLA Design in 1996, to design and deliver an extension in response to rising pupil numbers in the Manchester area. The proposals included the addition of a first floor atrium and additional classrooms and a roof-top playground.

Our growing Manchester studio has selected the following projects from our portfolio which highlight our contribution to the regeneration of the city centre and the enrichment of the urban landscape of the North West region.



MASTERPLANNING

At DLA Design, we believe an effective masterplan captures a clear vision for how we aim to live, work and play together in the future. Having passed a tipping point with more than half the world's population now living in cities, the art of masterplanning has arguably never been more important.

The starting point for our masterplanning projects is people. A collaborative process with stakeholders and communities balances a place's unique tradition and character with passionate aspirations, ultimately informing a deeper sense of place.

It is from this tension that transformative renewal and regeneration is borne, uniting a series of projects often many decades apart.



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- 1 ST PAUL'S CENTRE
 - 2 BEACON CENTRE
 - 3 SIR BILL TAYLOR FUTURES CENTRE
 - 4 REGIONAL AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY HUB
 - 5 BLACKBURN SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRE
-



Established in 1888, Blackburn College helps 10,000 students achieve their academic aspirations every year.

Starting in 2005, a new masterplan was conceived by DLA Design to modernise the College. Tasked with creating a world-class student experience based on an improved relationship with the campus, it focused on consolidating the College's estate onto one town centre site and replacing outdated buildings.

The resulting masterplan reimagined a number of teaching departments and introduced new architectural landmarks, improved the circulation of the campus and dramatically reduced the floor area of the College's buildings to improve cost effectiveness and efficiency.

Blackburn Sports and Leisure Centre and the RATH (Regional Automotive Technology Hub) formed the final two phases of the masterplan and were completed in 2015.



Beacon Centre, Blackburn College

Blackburn, Lancashire

Blackburn College
Further Education / Masterplanning
Building Awards 2012 – Public Building – High Commendation

The Beacon Centre at Blackburn College provides 8,600m² of valuable teaching, library, social and administrative accommodation on a constricted island site.

Multiple specialisms at DLA Design came together to design and deliver the £13.5 million project with a brief that aspired to BREEAM 'Excellent' status with low capital and running costs, whilst acting as the central hub to tie together a fragmented campus. This community spirit was delivered inside the building as the fluid transparent spaces at ground floor level have encouraged new levels of student interaction.

The Beacon Centre was devised as a key pillar in the College's ambition for 25% carbon reduction over the next four years. The finished building remained true to this vision, delivering the best possible balance of efficiency in terms of structure, teaching spaces, day lighting, natural ventilation and cost. This achievement in such a short timeframe, at modest cost, demonstrates that interesting, sustainable and functional architecture can be achieved without breaking budgets.



".....This hulking, stained slab of a building offers a character as brooding and dramatic as the East Lancashire hills that surround the former mill town of Blackburn. With its forceful massing, interlocking volumes and deep, crevice-like openings, the Beacon Centre emits a geological intensity that pays homage to the rugged landscape that surrounds it. Add to this the hard materiality of its shimmering black brickwork and perforated dark-blue stainless-steel cladding and the new college building provides a defiant and distinctive mix of local industrial heritage and bold contemporary expression....."

Building Magazine



Kingsway Business Park
Rochdale, Lancashire

Wilson Bowden Developments Ltd
Industrial / Office / Masterplanning

Kingsway Business Park is a £15m centre of innovation and logistics, conceived in response to Greater Manchester’s growing business needs.

The 420 acre site strategically located on the M62 sits amongst breathtaking natural surroundings with 70 acres of parkland and nature integrated into the site.

Working collectively, DLA Design have been involved with the evolving Kingsway scheme for nearly 20 years, developing the masterplan and more recently co-ordinating the planning and implementation of the infrastructure works including ecological, archaeological, highways and landscape elements.

Set against the backdrop of the Pennines, the Business Park has been developed with the intention of protecting and extending areas of wildlife habitat and conserving and enhancing biodiversity, including the planting of 11,000 trees to create new woodlands and picturesque cycle routes and walkways.

The Kingsway Business Park concept uses a number of urban design principles to unite the unique design of individual units in a strong, cohesive development.



INSPIRING WORKPLACES

Landmark offices must tick a number of boxes. Equal parts striking and sustainable, productive and inspiring, they are required to work for their neighbouring areas just as much as their professional workforces.

Our portfolio across the north includes everything from state-of-the-art call centres and next generation multi-use developments to stunning conversions of listed buildings and dynamic R&D centres. This diversity employs a range of materials and techniques, drawing on the full breadth of skills of the studio's integrated team.



Etihad Airways Global Contact Centre
Manchester Airport

Etihad Airways
Office / Refurbishment
BCO Awards 2015 – Fit Out Workspace – Shortlisted

The national airline of the United Arab Emirates, Etihad seeks to reflect the best of Arabian hospitality – cultured, considerate, warm and generous.

At the heart of this promise is Etihad’s on-the-ground customer care centre at Manchester Airport. Designed by DLA Design as a turnkey package, the 20,000 ft² office facility integrates a call centre, state of the art training facility and various support facilities, including finance and sales.

The design included modification of the landlord core areas to exacting standards and the creation of communal staff WCs, showers and change facilities. Set over two floors of an existing building, a self-supporting helical stair was added by creating a void between the third and fourth level reception areas. All existing raised floors and suspended ceilings were also removed and replaced.

Our involvement extended to furniture purchase and commissioning, delivering a ready-to-use facility for Etihad Airways upon completion.





90 Duke Street

Liverpool, Merseyside

Network Space Development Ltd
Office / Refurbishment
Manchester Architects Awards 2015 –
Commercial Project of the Year (Unbuilt) – Winner

A shining light in the regeneration of RopeWalks Conservation Area in Liverpool, 90 Duke Street is the new purpose-built headquarters for Atlantic Container Lines (ACL).

Comprising 62,000 ft² of Grade A office space across four floors, the building blends a contemporary glazed entrance lobby, inviting light into the space, and a renovated former vinegar warehouse at the rear. The building is centred around an external courtyard which acts as a social meeting point for the workplace.

In response to the area's Victorian buildings, the Duke Street façade is designed as the principal elevation, with a recessed ground floor, bronze-clad attic storey and double-height vertical glazed openings to the intermediate floors. The side and rear elevations carry a simpler design in brick and glazing. The interiors benefit from floods of light provided by splayed reveals along the Suffolk Street façade.





REGENERATION

Respectful regeneration.

As welcome renewals of an area's past fortunes, regeneration schemes hold added significance in our work in and around Manchester.

Over the years we've helped to energise the transformation of a wide range of conservation areas, derelict districts and forgotten brownfield sites into thriving destinations.

We take great pride in weaving the new into the special character and spatial attributes of the old. It's this meeting point of ideas that captures the imagination of the public, often acting as a catalyst for the wider development of their towns and cities.



Churchill Way

Macclesfield, Cheshire

Insite Asset Management / Zerum Consulting
Regeneration / Leisure

Our designs for this mixed-use leisure scheme in Macclesfield envisaged a natural extension of the town centre and the catalyst for its further regeneration.

The proposed scheme was to house a seven-screen cinema, restaurants, coffee shop, food hall, gym and car park, all arranged around an open landscaped courtyard offering a popular external event space. The emphasis being on a visitor experience that encourages movement and enjoyment of multiple leisure offers.

The project was rooted in place and time through its materiality and attention to detail. A combination of traditional materials such as red brick and stone paving related the scheme to the existing urban context of terraced houses and details such as clerestory glazing and ‘floating’ roofs provided a distinctly modern design.

The design optimised the topography of the site, with the larger cinema and gym block situated at its lowest point. Careful consideration was also given to prominent civic buildings in the surrounding area, with details such as the double-height colonnade referencing the nearby Heritage Museum and Salvation Army Citadel.





Denton Wellness Centre

Denton, Greater Manchester

Network Space Development Ltd
Regeneration / Leisure

Denton Wellness Centre aims to proactively engage local people in improving their overall wellbeing. This ethos is woven into the design, with glass façades revealing the hive of activity within and inviting passersby into the space. The scheme includes leisure, fitness and ancillary facilities for all ages and abilities.

These include wet leisure, comprising an eight-lane competition swimming pool with spectators and a learner pool with a moving floor to facilitate pool-based fitness classes and scuba diving pool. Dry fitness facilities include two exercise studios, spin studio, a fitness suite with equipment to serve both health and rehabilitation from injury, and a thermal suite. Community facilities include a community centre, a multi-activity room, a children's soft play area and an open plan café incorporating a library.

Strategically positioned at the junction of the new link road and Stockport Road, close to Junction 1A of the M67, the development will catalyse the wider regeneration of the local area, providing new housing and a new link road.



LEISURE & HOSPITALITY

Welcoming guests from near and far, contemporary hospitality is designed to act as a place for both relaxation and participation.

We address this dual challenge by creating ‘mini worlds’ that feature state-of-the-art facilities and lifestyle zones inside inviting structures and landscapes.

Whilst new technologies and luxuries advance the hospitality offered, we believe the most successful schemes remain rooted in their simplicity and function.



Blackburn Sports and Leisure Centre
Blackburn, Lancashire

Blackburn College / Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Leisure / Education

Blackburn Sports and Leisure Centre is the town’s new community hub and centre for excellence in sports education.

This shared purpose is embedded in the design philosophy, ensuring the building has the capacity to adapt to simultaneous social and community needs.

The sports facility provides an eight-lane 25m pool, learner pool with movable floor, leisure slides, health suite, 80-station gym, aerobics studios and squash courts. In addition, the building accommodates further education teaching facilities for college students, including two four-court sports halls, segregated changing facilities, performance assessment labs and teaching spaces. All of its facilities are fully accessible.

The scheme is a clear articulation of the town’s ambition, as an architectural icon and state of the art development in the heart of the town that will serve the community and College for many years to come.





Village Hotel
Ashton Moss, Greater Manchester

Village Leisure Hotels Ltd
Hotel / Leisure

Village Hotels have consistently pushed the concept of affordable luxury in hospitality for over 20 years.

The boutique brand recently relaunched with a new 'Village Hotel Club' vision and the two DLA-designed hotels – in Manchester and Leeds – continue to be the pride of the portfolio.

Originally completed for DeVere hotels in 2008, the 120-bed hotel retains many key features and 'lifestyle' facilities. Much more than a place to rest your head, the DLA-designed guest experience extends beyond the bedroom to include an inviting public bar, outstanding restaurant facilities, a state-of-the-art leisure club boasting 4,500 members, and much more.



CONTEMPORARY RESIDENTIAL

Continuing the theme of home comforts, DLA Design's award-winning residential experience spans sky-high apartment buildings and sensitive redevelopments through to student halls of residence and companion public spaces.

Each scheme tells its own story, reflecting the ambitious character of the client at large whilst keeping true to its historic context in detail.



Halo Manchester

Forshaw Land & Property Group
Residential

Halo is a striking residential development providing 66 apartments in the heart of the Angel Meadow area of Manchester.

Evocative of its historical context but with a modern twist, the scheme incorporates a simple palette of materials – red brick, grey zinc cladding and glazing – and clean, crisp detailing throughout to achieve distinctiveness in Manchester's busy skyline and embrace more recent developments in the area.

The scale of the six-storey building is offset with columns of recessed balconies that work in harmony with the listed Co-Operative Printing Society building opposite.

The building follows the city's established urban grid and utilises the topography as access for basement car parking off New Mount Street.

Work is due to commence on site in early Spring 2017, with a construction period of approximately 18 months.





Dunning Road
Middlesbrough

Williams Tarr
Student Accommodation
Manchester Architects Awards 2015 –
Community Project (Unbuilt) – Runner Up

We've designed a number of purpose-built student accommodation schemes in recent years.

Dunning Road, Middlesbrough is a great example, introducing new levels of service, safety, and comfort to the sector. The development comprises 600 study bedrooms in clusters, adding a communal dimension to the privacy of a single room.

On the ground floor, the student experience is maximised with a shared lounge area, state-of-the-art gym, laundry facilities and computer room. It also includes secure cycle and refuse stores.

The site is located close to the Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, the central library and the magistrates court – providing a vital link to the town centre to the north with the University of Teesside to the south. The scheme is now to be further developed following initial discussions with Middlesbrough Council's planning department.



LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

DLA Design has been asked to conceive a number of next generation learning environments across the north.

Meeting the changing face of education increasingly involves coupling flexible, modern teaching spaces with social counterpoints, new media facilities and performance spaces. Schemes must also embody the principles and objectives unique to each institution, making a distinct architectural contribution to the campus and wider city in the process.



Shorehead Building, University of Huddersfield
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

Bardsley Construction Ltd
Higher Education

DLA Design partnered Bardsley Construction on their bid for the University of Huddersfield's landmark new teaching facility.

The £27.5 million, six-storey building would provide an exciting new home for the School of Law and the School of Music, Humanities and Media, in addition to a number of lecture theatres, staff offices and ancillary spaces.

The scheme held wider importance as a key driver in the University's aspiration to consolidate its campus in Huddersfield town centre. The proposed design responded to the challenging site topography by introducing a series of split levels which in turn provided the opportunity for interesting views throughout the building.

Teaching spaces embraced a simple design, stacked in linear blocks running perpendicular to the street, forming a series of small atria inbetween. Tiered lecture theatres and general teaching spaces were stacked vertically on the prominent corner of the site. This simplicity would carry through to rendering, with a stone plinth to the perimeter of the building and feature gold steel cladding to the lecture theatres.





FURTHER PROJECTS

Helping our clients to make their mark in every industry imaginable.



- 1 BLACKPOOL SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
- 2 ST PAUL'S HOUSE, LEEDS
- 3 BURY UNITED REFORM CHURCH
- 4 ST JOHN'S GARDENS, LONDON
- 5 BURNLEY COLLEGE
- 6 CONCORDE VISITOR CENTRE, MANCHESTER AIRPORT
- 7 THE BRICKWORKS, YORK
- 8 NESTLÉ PRODUCT TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, YORK
- 9 NORTHWICH CULTURAL CENTRE
- 10 CENTRIX HOUSE, NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS
- 11 CENTRAL SQUARE, LEEDS
- 12 UNILEVER ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CENTRE, WIRRAL
- 13 CLAPHAM ONE, LONDON
- 14 LEEDS COLLEGE OF ART



- 1 VANGARDE SHOPPING PARK, YORK
- 2 THE MAJESTIC, LEEDS
- 3 BEAL HIGH SCHOOL, REDBRIDGE
- 4 SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
- 5 WARREN BRUCE COURT, MANCHESTER
- 6 15 STRATFORD PLACE, LONDON
- 7 ECHO, LEEDS
- 8 THE LIFT, THE HUMBER BRIDGE EXPERIENCE, HULL
- 9 B. BRAUN INNOVATION, COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION CENTRE, SHEFFIELD
- 10 ONE BREWERY WHARF, LEEDS
- 11 ARLA FOODS DAIRY, AYLESBURY
- 12 VENTURE POINT, SPEKE
- 13 PENDLETON COLLEGE, SALFORD
- 14 HESSLE HIGH SCHOOL



- 1 SNOASIS, SUFFOLK
- 2 INTEGRATED CARE FACILITY, BELPER
- 3 BURY COLLEGE
- 4 GLOSSOPDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- 5 THE MARKET HALL, BOROUGH MARKET, LONDON
- 6 UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE, PRESTON
- 7 OXFORD STREET, NEWCASTLE
- 8 VICTORIA QUARTER, NEW BARNET
- 9 GENTING ARENA, BIRMINGHAM
- 10 ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY, BEDFORDSHIRE
- 11 ACCRINGTON & ROSSENDALE COLLEGE
- 12 EXTRACARE CHARITABLE TRUST, SHIRLEY, SOLIHULL
- 13 THE BOAT HOUSE, ST PETER'S SCHOOL, YORK
- 14 CORONET, LONDON
- 15 MOORGATE PRIMARY CARE CENTRE, BURY



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