

Salford Quays

The docklands area of Manchester, Salford Quays, is undergoing radical change. Dockland cranes were demolished and vast tracts of the port disappeared. Large post-modern developments and offices emerged to accommodate the Thatcherite consciousness of the 1980s. More recently, Trafford and Salford City Councils' concern for mixed-use developments and sustainability have led to a rich mixture of projects to reshape the area's future. Michael Wilford's The Lowry was the first Quays flagship project, providing a base for the paintings of Salford's L S Lowry (1887-1976). The Imperial War Museum (North) by Daniel Libeskind is situated opposite the Lowry Centre attracting a further 400,000 annual visitors to the area.

Imperial War Museum [North]

Salford Quays, 2002

Architect[s]: [Daniel Libeskind](#)

Area[s]: [Salford Quays](#)

Theme[s]: [Contemporary Buildings](#) [Museums and Galleries](#) [Regeneration](#)

The Imperial War Museum (North) is Daniel Libeskind's second major project to be built in the UK. With a reputation for designing controversial and complex buildings, his other museums include the Jewish Museum in Berlin and the forthcoming 'spiral' extension to London's V&A. Libeskind's proposal for the museum was selected from a strong field of entrants and its choice demonstrates Salford City Council's determination to foster innovative architectural design.

The museum is located opposite Michael Wilford's The Lowry and together these buildings constitute an important centre for the arts. The client anticipates that the new building will attract more than 400,000 visitors a year, providing a boost to an area over-burdened with commercial postmodern developments. The underlying concept for the museum is the 'shattered globe' of the fragile Earth whose shards represent the cultures and lives lost and destroyed in global conflict. This powerful imagery is the starting point for the museum's disorientated form and dynamic spatial arrangement.

The Lowry Centre

Salford Quays, 2000

Architect[s]: [Michael Wilford & Partners](#)

Area[s]: [Salford Quays](#)

Theme[s]: [Civic](#) [Contemporary Buildings](#) [Museums and Galleries](#) [Regeneration](#)

The centre, adjacent to the Manchester Ship Canal, is one of the few landmark buildings in the northwest that has received substantial funding from the Millennium Commission, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council of England. Dedicated to the performing and visual arts, the centre features the 1730-seat Lyric Theatre and the adaptable 450-seat Quays Theatre, with dressing rooms and rehearsal facilities. Art galleries display the city's celebrated collection of Lowry's paintings and provide flexible space for exhibitions. With a purpose-built public plaza to the front of the building, the Lowry provides a community spirit to the area.