



Ancoats & New East Manchester

Ancoats has the distinction of being the first Industrial Suburb in the world. Its history attached to images of dark satanic mills and billowing smoke from 19 century factories. The area is currently planned for major redevelopment with local organisations producing masterplans for its 21st century renaissance. The Ancoats Urban Village Company has been instrumental in defining an appropriate future that embraces the next phase of its life whilst sensitively respecting its past. Significant mills that can be discovered in Ancoats include Beehive Mill, Murray Mill and Royal Mill.

Commonwealth Stadium

Eastlands (nr Ancoats), 2002

Architect[s]: [Arup Associates](#)
Area[s]: [Ancoats & New East Manchester](#)
Theme[s]: [Contemporary Buildings](#) [Regeneration](#)

This showpiece stadium was originally designed to house the 2002 Commonwealth Games and to provide a new home for Manchester City Football Club. Funding came from Manchester City Council (£13 million) and Sport England (£77 million), using National Lottery funds. Only a mile from the city centre, it has revitalised the neglected eastern side of Manchester. It is part of the Sportcity complex, linking together the Velodrome, a new all-purpose sports academy, athletics facilities, a national squash headquarters and an in-door tennis centre, effectively turning the area into a centre of sporting excellence. Designed to be built in two stages, the first featured 38,000 seats for spectators watching athletic events, then the second stage extra seating totalling 48,000 was added for the new home of Manchester City football club who moved their in 2003.

Daily Express Building

Great Ancoats Street, 1939

Architect[s]: [Sir Owen Williams](#)
Area[s]: [Ancoats & New East Manchester](#)
Theme[s]: [Early Modern \(Interwar\)](#) [Grade II Listed](#)

The Daily Express Building - Manchester's only listed 1930s landmark has been converted into luxury offices. Built in 1939, it is one of three buildings designed by Sir Owen Williams for Beaverbrook newspapers the others are located in London's Fleet Street and Glasgow. The building, now sleek and elegant, is situated to the east of the Northern Quarter and brings life to a particularly run-down and uncompromising part of the city. After Express Newspapers vacated the premises in the 1980s the building was left to decay much like its neighbours - derelict mills and warehouses, the remnants of the textile industry. The interior has been completely gutted to install suspended ceilings, access floors, new services, lifts, WCs and means of escape - all the requirements of modern office space. Basement parking, plant, and storage space has been provided by the insertion of a new ground-level floorplate supported by steel columns. Funded by the Express Group and regeneration grants, projects like this are fundamental in the preservation of architectural heritage. The architects have brought this magnificent building back to life and created a landmark within a decaying urban area.



National Cycling Centre

North East Manchester (nr Ancoats), 1994

Architect[s]: [Faulkner Brown Architects](#)
Area[s]: [Ancoats & New East Manchester](#)
Theme[s]: [Civic Contemporary Buildings Regeneration](#)

To the north of the city centre, the National Cycling Centre, opened in 1994, is Britain's first purpose-built cycling stadium, also housing the British Cycling Federation headquarters. The centre started its life on the drawing board of architects HOK who designed the overall concept; it was constructed as a design and build project by AMEC. The form of the building was determined by the highly complex cycling track, designed by R V Webb Ltd. The track is 7 metres wide and 250 metres long, constructed from Siberian pine and contoured to provide a surface for international-standard indoor cycling. Another significant factor dictating the building's form, particularly the roof, was the structural steelworks and fabrication of the complex 3D forms. The architect points out that 'there is a clear analogy with modern cycle technology and in particular the form of the cyclist's helmet.' Silver cladding and blue engineering bricks complement its dynamic form. The building is restrained and elegant, a subtle backdrop for the spectacle inside.

Waulk Mill

Redhill Street, 2003

Architect[s]: [Total Architecture](#)
Area[s]: [Ancoats & New East Manchester](#)
Theme[s]: [Contemporary Interiors](#) [Grade II Listed](#) [Regeneration](#)

In November 2000 Total Architecture was appointed by Urban Splash to carry out the repair and conversion of a collection of Grade II* listed mill buildings known as Waulk Mill, to provide quality office space.

The relationship of old to new is at the heart of the architectural concept and informs both the overall development and its constituent parts. In essence, the design solution is concerned with revealing and expressing the layers of history that exist within the existing building so that its inherent character was enhanced.

It involved removing all those interventions that currently weaken its character, including internal partitions, suspended ceilings, to clearly reveal the underlying structure and fabric of the building, including historical modifications that have been made to it. In this context, new interventions are treated as a further layer, clearly expressed as such through visual separation from the historic fabric and the use of contemporary materials.

This approach, together with the careful integration of new facilities and services, resulted in clarity of expression between the various component parts that serves to enhance the quality of the existing historic building.