

DESIGN MATTERS

WORLD CLASS BUILDINGS BY UK ARCHITECTS



Foreword

The case studies in this report showcase work that RIBA architects have taken across the globe. These projects demonstrate the talent, skill and ambition of RIBA architects, who have worked to ensure that UK architecture is, and continues to be, world leading.

To help support our members globally, the RIBA has also been expanding, opening two new offices in Shanghai and Sharjah. Our international team lead a programme of activity and engagement to champion good design.

The UK is looking to establish new international trade deals. This presents an opportunity for RIBA chartered architects, their practices and those who work alongside them to further increase their contribution across the world, driving design excellence globally.

I hope these case studies will inspire you to think and design with global ambition.

Professor Alan M Jones
RIBA President





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The RIBA is a global professional membership body driving excellence in architecture, with more than 47,000 members worldwide. Through our work we champion better buildings and places, stronger communities and a sustainable environment. We provide the standards, training, support and recognition that put our members both in the UK and overseas at the peak of their profession.

The UK is a global architectural hub. Architecture directly contributes £4.8 billion to the UK economy every year, with a further £1 billion a year embedded in the exports of the other industries it supports – from banking to museums, transport to IT services. In 2019, the architecture sector exported £625 million of creativity, innovation and expertise across the world.

This report showcases just some of the projects that RIBA members have worked on globally; sharing their expertise and architectural ambition around the world. These buildings exemplify design excellence and many deliver meaningful social impact.

Read more about RIBA members international work at [architecture.com/international](https://www.architecture.com/international).



Photo credit: ©David Leech

EUROPE

A House in a Garden

Location

1 Dublin, Ireland

Architect **David Leech Architects**

Client **Private client**

Use **Residential**

Internal area **120 m²**

This three-bedroom house is situated on a site within a suburban garden at the end of a terrace of a typical 1950s housing estate. This project is a contemporary translation of the ordinary suburban house. The house is built using everyday materials and techniques easily sourced and knowledgeable for a local builder but translated through design coordination and assembly into something more delightful and exciting, yet familiar.

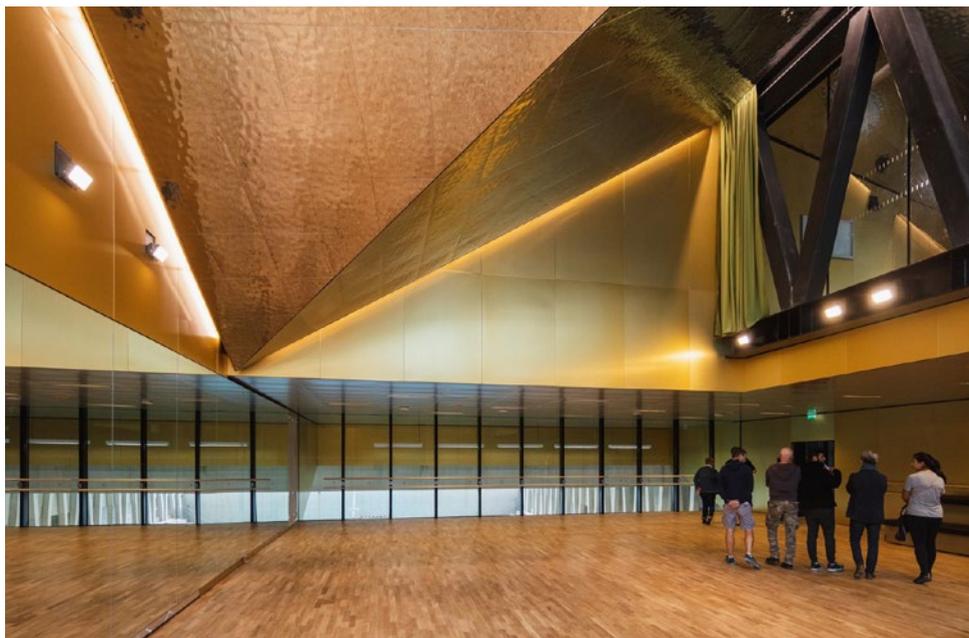
A cross-shaped core with a kitchen, bathroom and storage divides the ground floor plan into four public rooms, a hall, kitchen, dining and living room.



Photo credit: ©David Grandorge

The folding doors at ground level can slide back from their corners allowing the house to spread outside – reducing the house's footprint to the structural core and increasing the area of external garden and outdoor amenity.

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EUROPE

Lot O4A Batignolles

Location

2 Paris, France

Architect **Brisac Gonzalez Architects**Client **Paris Habitat OPH**Use **Mixed use**Internal area **16,747 m²**

Situated in central Paris in the 17th district, the site is part of a new neighbourhood built over a former railway and around a new park. The site itself stretches between the park and an artificial street, and is comprised of 144 social housing units, a 15-classroom primary school and a regional level sports centre.

The aim of the project was to ensure that the density would not be felt either at the city level or by its users by creating a sense of lightness and openness. The design features shared amenities such as a



shared roof garden, a bicycle repair workshop, a shared function room, and a sky terrace.

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EUROPE

Musée d'arts de Nantes

Location

3 Nantes, France

Architect Stanton Williams

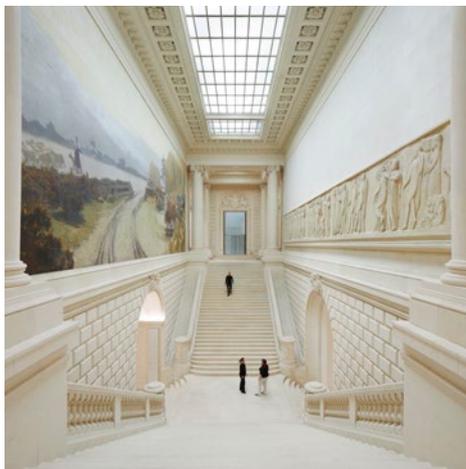
Client Ville de Nantes and Nantes Métropole

Use Cultural

Internal area 17,000 m²

The extension of the Musée d'arts de Nantes included both designing the interior of the several buildings that make up the new museum and landscaping for the streets and public squares adjacent to the museum complex. The renovations also included a new auditorium, library, new educational facilities, archive and external sculpture court.

The new museum has been conceived around the existing collections to create an intimate dialogue between art and architecture. The Musée d'arts de Nantes has been transformed into a vibrant, democratic and welcoming contemporary space that is open to the city and its people.



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EUROPE

Tànger 66

Location

4 Barcelona, Spain

Architect **Buckley Gray Yeoman**

Client **Blue Coast Capital and Urban Input**

Use **Office**

Internal area **7,500 m²**

Tànger 66 is a departure from the norm in Barcelona where market convention tends much more towards scrapping a building of this age and rebuilding. The aim was to repurpose and dramatically improve a building without sacrificing the edgy urban character of the surrounding area. The result is a delightful piece of architecture that has transformed the area.

With the right interventions, the building was perfect for conversion into workspace. A scheme that focused on improving the building envelope, replacing the window glazing and improving the building services was undertaken.



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EUROPE

Wingene Care Home

Location

5 Wingene, Belgium

Architect **Sergison Bates architects**

Client **Amphora vzw**

Use **Health care**

Internal area **10,825 m²**

The building is compact with clear internal connections between different areas. At ground level a day-care facility and community service centre are accessed independently via a covered walkway, while 'assisted living' and 'short-stay' apartments have separate front doors. On the upper floors 145 rooms are organised in 15-room household clusters. All rooms have views of the



landscape and communal spaces are linked by wide circulation areas that create a social atmosphere and encourage interaction. Window openings are framed by hand-painted ceramic tiles which give character to the project and mark out individual elements of the building, making them legible to visitors and residents.

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EUROPE

Andermatt Concert Hall

Location

6 Andermatt, Switzerland

Architect **Studio Seilern Architects**

Client **Andermatt Swiss Alps & BESIX**

Use **Cultural**

Internal area **1,764m²**

The Andermatt Concert Hall in the Swiss Alps is part of the development of the traditional village of Andermatt into one of the world's finest year-round destinations for alpine and off-piste skiing. The world-class concert facility is located at its heart.

The project transformed an existing underground concrete box that was originally intended to be used for conventions and events for the hotels nearby. By lifting a large section of the existing



roof, the capacity increased to be able to host a 75-piece full symphony orchestra and a total of 663 audience seats. By adding a glass façade, the concert hall is awash with natural light. In winter, the audience would be surrounded by a whirlwind of snow and in the summer, by nature and sunshine. From street level, the acoustic reflectors appear to be floating over an empty space, like a sculpture that has been placed as public art.

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EUROPE

Cloud Cuckoo House

Location

7 Black Forest, Germany

Architect **ÜberRaum Architects**

Client **Private client**

Use **Residential**

Internal area **220 m²**

Cloud Cuckoo House in the Black Forest, Germany, sits at an altitude of 800m above sea level. When fog drifts into the valley, the family home floats above the clouds, with a magical view across the fairy-tale landscape of the Upper-Rhine area.

The steeply-sloping site was home to a humble suburban detached house, which the occupants had outgrown. Part of this was removed, leaving



a one-storey concrete platform with new rooms and a new building which now soars above the platform, providing a series of open-plan living spaces under one big roof. An eight-metre wide gallery window gives panoramic views 50km down the valley.

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EUROPE

Lille Langebro

Location

8 Copenhagen, Denmark

Architect WilkinsonEyre

Client Realdania Byg A/S

Use Transportation

The Lille Langebro cycle and pedestrian bridge enhances Copenhagen's waterfront and contributes to its reputation as the world's best city for walking and cycling. The 160m horizontal swing bridge across the Inner Harbour seamlessly connects several key areas of Copenhagen.



The bridge follows an elegant curve in plan which aligns with and continues the sweeping ramparts and moat of the historic Christianshavn beyond the opposite bank. The bridge profile affords a surprising visual spectacle when the two swinging sections open for marine traffic.

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EUROPE

Salerno Maritime Terminal

Location

9 Salerno, Italy

Architect Zaha Hadid Architects

Client Comune di Salerno Palazzo di Città

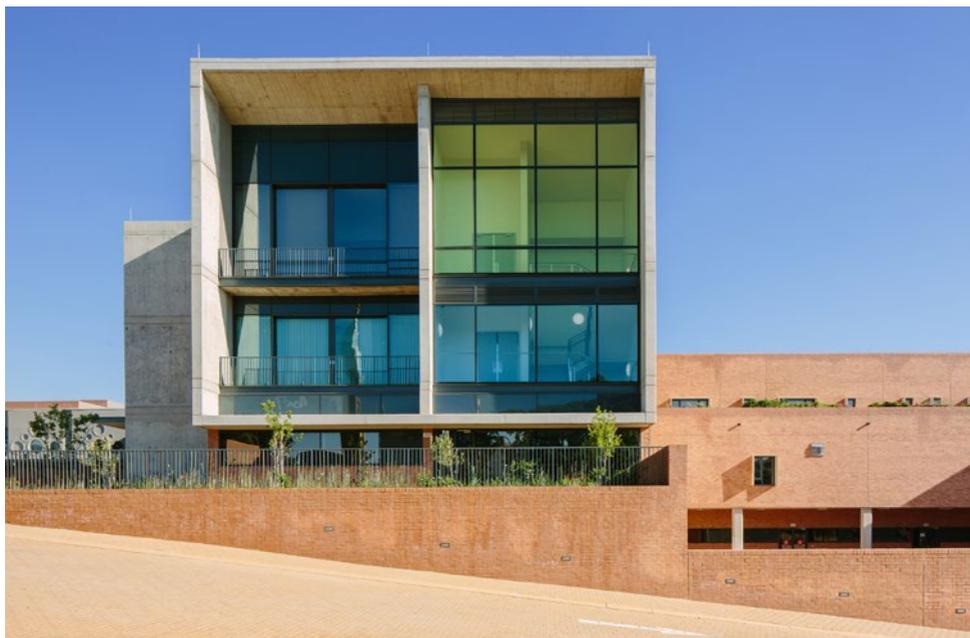
Use Transportation

Internal area 4,500 m²

The Salerno Maritime Terminal was designed in the shape of an oyster with a hard-asymmetric all-concrete outer shell that seamlessly integrates land and sea. The asymmetric structure is designed in such a way that it supports wide, column-free interiors. The design helped reduce the thickness of the terminal's roof and the number of support points, thereby freeing up interior space.



Blue and grey ceramic tiles cover the roof, in a similar fashion to the artisan tiles of historic buildings in the city. The surface of the roof sparkles like the surface of water and provides insulation from high temperatures during summer. The Terminal's terrace and windows offer views of the Amalfi Coast and the Gulf of Salerno. At night, the terminal is illuminated in order to serve as a lighthouse to the port.



AFRICA

Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital

Location

10 Johannesburg, South Africa

Architect **Sheppard Robson**

Client **Nelson Mandela Children's Fund**

Use **Health care**

Internal area **29,900 m²**

Sheppard Robson and John Cooper Architecture (JCA) collaborated in 2009 to win an international design competition for the new Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital in Johannesburg. The design broke away from housing all departments in a single 'box' building, which often leads to the patients and staff having little contact with the outside world.



Sheppard Robson and JCA's concept revolved around creating six wings, each with its own specialism. This composition increased the length of the perimeter of the building and allows natural light to flood into the building. This plan also created opportunities for five internal therapeutic courtyards and three exterior therapy gardens for occupational therapy and children's play.

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Photo credit: ©Allies and Morrison LLP

MIDDLE EAST

Msheireb Downtown Doha Masterplan

Location

11 Doha, Qatar

Architect **Allies and Morrison**

Client **Msheireb Properties, a subsidiary of Qatar Foundation**

Use **Mixed use**

Internal area **764,000 m²**

Msheireb is a 31-hectare mixed-use masterplan for the regeneration of the historic heart of Doha. Traditional designs have been reinterpreted in a contemporary way to create a portion of the city with shaded, pedestrian-friendly spaces and to bring Qatari families back to dwell in the city centre. This included designing buildings, such as civic buildings and cultural institutions, homes for



Photo credit: ©Gerry O'Leary

families, spaces for worship, offices, hotels, shops and restaurants, that were distinctively 'Qatari' whilst encouraging sustainable behaviours. Enabling infrastructure, including a district energy system and sustainable transport including a new metro station and tram system, were also included in the project.

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ASIA

Sharanam Centre for Rural Development

Location

12 Pondicherry, India

Architect Jateen Lad

Client SARVAM, a unit of Sri Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry, India

Use Community

Internal Area 1,773 m²

Hand-built from the red earth of the site by local people trained on the job by the architect, this community centre in rural southern India is an exemplar sustainable development and a force for social change. Extensive planting and environmentally sensitive buildings transformed the ecologically damaged site into an accessible place of beauty, tranquility and well-being. Thin masonry vaults, built without formwork, span over a delightful interior of community, working and



private spaces. A massive granite *thinai* defines a large hall designed for conversations, workshops and performances. Deep verandahs and ponds merge into landscaped gardens connecting to offices, a kitchen and washing courtyards. The socially empowering delivery resulted in a quality and care in workmanship and enabled construction funds to be directly invested into communities improving long term livelihoods.



ASIA

Xiao Jing Wan University

Location

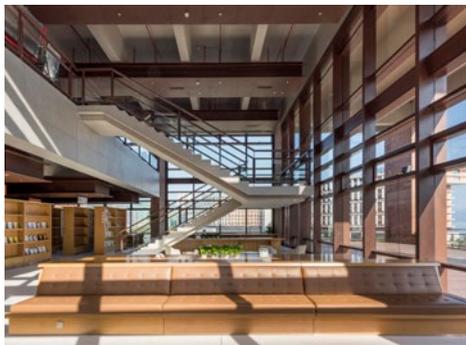
13 Shenzhen, China

Architect **Foster + Partners**

Client **China Resources Land (for China Resources Group)**

Use **Education**

Internal area **55,000 m²**



Xiao Jing Wan is a coastal university-style campus for China Resources Group. Its purpose is to provide management training for its 450,000 employees in inspiring and dignified surroundings. The institute accommodates 500 students, with residential facilities for up to 300 students and 35 staff. The campus sits on a beautifully landscaped site. Teaching and administration buildings are at the higher level, with residential buildings below. Apart from a below-ground car park, there is no vehicular access to the rest of the site.

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ASIA

Raffles City

Location

14 Hanzhou, China

Architect **UNStudio**

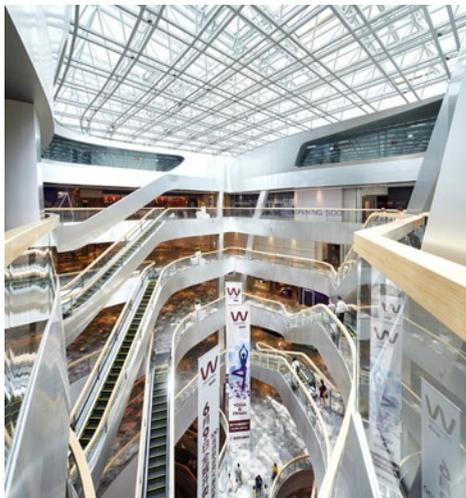
Client **CapitaLand China**

Use **Mixed use**

Internal area **196,977 m²**

Raffles City Hangzhou is a sustainable urban hub for living, working and leisure located in Hangzhou, China. Situated 180 kilometres south-west of Shanghai, Hangzhou is one of China's most prosperous cities, especially renowned for its scenic landscapes.

Raffles City accommodates retail, restaurants, leisure facilities, parking and has a direct underground connection to the metro. This wide range of mixed use functions not only provides residents and those working or staying in the



complex with a healthy and socially integrated environment, it also ensures that programmes are active around the clock, creating a safe and lively neighbourhood for all.



ASIA

Oasis Terraces

Location

15 Singapore

Architect **Serie Architects**Client **Housing & Development Board, Singapore**Use **Mixed use**Internal area **24,700 m²**

Oasis Terraces is a new healthcare facility, retail and community centre for the Punggol neighbourhood of Singapore. The design of Oasis Terraces focuses on community space with garden elements. The landscape serves as a connective element creating a continuous pedestrian walk from the adjacent waterway



to community gardens on the roof. On the water's edge is a four-storey tall column free space serving as a sheltered community plaza. The plaza at the heart of the scheme is framed by a series of garden terraces sloping towards the waterway.

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ASIA

School of Design and Environment 4

Location

16 Singapore

Architect **Serie Architects**Client **National University of Singapore**Use **Education**Internal area **8,588 m²**

The School of Design & Environment is the first net-zero energy building of its kind in the tropics. Its green design is intended to reflect the school's remit to promote design, sustainability and education in southeast Asia. The roof hosts more than 1,200 solar panels while a hybrid cooling system provides a comfortable, energy-efficient working environment. A range of verandas, terraces and balconies facilitate natural ventilation by promoting cross breezes to flow through the rooms.



A range of flexible teaching spaces promotes a variety of uses, while enhanced interaction with the rest of the campus is promoted by an open architecture that creates visual and spatial connections with the outdoors.

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ASIA

Inagawa Cemetery Chapel and Visitor Centre

Location

17 Hyōgo Prefecture, Japan

Architect David Chipperfield Architects

Client Boenfukyukai Foundation

Use Cultural

Internal area 490 m²

Inagawa Cemetery is located in the Hokusetsu Mountain Range, approximately 40 kilometres north of Osaka. The cemetery is laid out across terraces and divided by a monumental flight of steps leading up to a shrine at the highest point – an axis that orients the whole project.



The visitor centre and chapel are designed as a marked threshold between the outer world and a quieter space within for contemplation. Aligned with the central staircase, and as a counterpoint to the shrine, the visitor and chapel spaces are gathered around a courtyard.

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Photo credit: ©Rodrigo Vargas

OCEANIA

EY Centre

Location

18 Sydney, Australia

Architect Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp

Client Mirvac Projects Pty Ltd

Use Office

Internal area 43,935 m²

At the heart of this project is both workplace design and city making. The use of sandstone to clad the core of the new tower brings together past and present. The indigenous artwork carved into the stone highlights the rich cultural history of the site. Embracing natural materials, it appears in the city as a tower made of timber rising out from the greyness of its neighbours. This is achieved through a façade made from multiple layers including a sealed double-glazed high-performance insulating unit. The result is a façade that outperforms any of the surrounding grey glass buildings and looks nothing like them.



Photo credit: ©Brett Boardman

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OCEANIA

Lower Hatea River Crossing

Location

19 Whangarei, New Zealand

Architect **Knight Architects**

Client **Whangarei District Council**

Use **Transportation**

The brief for this project was to provide a relief highway around the northern New Zealand city of Whangarei while expressing the art and culture of the local people. The project involved a 265m-long crossing of the tidal Lower Hatea River including unlimited headroom for river users.

The structure is a rhythmic series of 25m-long spans with a central opening part to allow vessels taller than 7.5m to transit the bridge. The structural steel deck supports are a graphic interpretation of the fishhook motif that is widely used in Maori culture.



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NORTH AMERICA

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

Location

20 Washington D.C., United States of America

Architect **Adjaye Associates**

Client **Smithsonian Institution**

Use **Cultural**

Internal area **36,882 m²**

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) is situated on the last five acres of the National Mall in Washington, D.C., which was once the epicentre of the United States' slave trade. The NMAAHC sits on a prominent site just across from the Washington Monument.



The design comprises three stacked volumes – each covered in bronze plates perforated with patterns that reference the history of African American craftsmanship. The density of the pattern can be modulated to control the amount of sunlight and transparency into the interior. With more than half of the museum situated below ground, the basement charts the horrific treatment suffered by African Americans over the centuries.

Sir David Adjaye OBE recipient of the Royal Gold Medal 2021

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NORTH AMERICA

Duke University West Campus Union

Location

21 North Carolina, United States of America

Architect **Grimshaw**

Client **Duke University**

Use **Education**

Internal area **34,137 m²**

Fostering social interaction, inspiring healthful lifestyles and delivering state-of-the-art culinary excellence, the West Campus Union brings the Duke community together in an exciting environment that unites the University's storied history with an active, communal and contemporary experience.

First opened in 1931, the West Campus Union was the social centre for the emerging University. The reconstruction process included restoring the nearly hundred-year-old structure to its original



architectural significance while the central core of the building has been replaced and reimagined. The new design focuses on the introduction of lightness and softness to the structure, inviting students in from all directions. The social hub offers a variety of comfortable and dynamic spaces that encourage students, faculty and alumni to congregate and interact.

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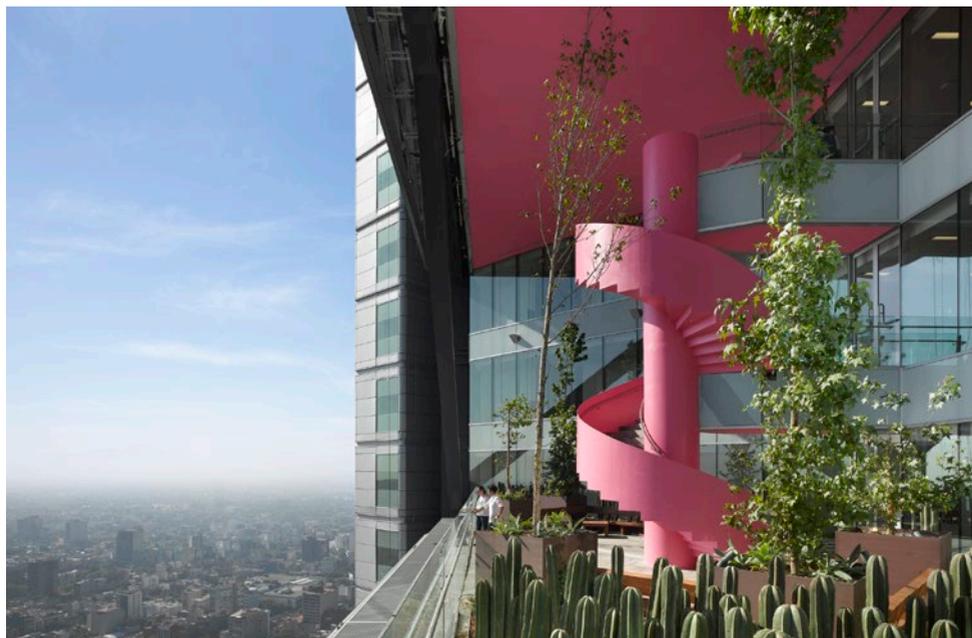


Photo credit: ©Roland Halbe Courtesy of Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners

CENTRAL AMERICA

BBVA Bancomer Tower

Location

22 Mexico City, Mexico

Architect Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners

Client Grupo Financiero BBVA Bancomer

Use Office

Internal area 188,777 m²

A new urban landmark for the skyline of Mexico City, the BBVA Bancomer Tower is both architecturally contextual and distinctive. To combat solar gain from Mexico's strong sunlight, a lattice façade system shades the exterior of the building allowing daylight in and views out. The building is based on the reinterpretation of traditional office space organisation, offering a variety of new flexible working environments for all users. Sky gardens on every ninth floor create outdoor space within the tower and provide meeting and break-out areas where people can enjoy spectacular views.



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Photo credit: ©BAS MAGIC

ANTARCTICA

Base Y on Horseshoe Island

Location

23 Antarctica

Architect **Kennedy O'Callaghan Architects**

Client **UK Antarctic Heritage Trust**

Use **Infrastructure**

In 2016 the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust asked Kennedy O'Callaghan Architects to provide conservation advice for 6 sites in Antarctica, starting with Horseshoe Island Conservation Management Plan.

Built in 1955, the huts were prefabricated, shipped out and erected by a team of scientists and geologists posted to set up weather stations in strategic locations in Antarctica.



Photo credit: ©Kennedy O'Callaghan Architects

The Conservation Management Plan was based on research from original drawings and reports at British Antarctic Survey archive in Cambridge.

A scope of work for a specialist expedition team to carry out emergency repairs and to gather site information was prepared. This included establishing the condition of the huts and their contents through photogrammetry, to enable the scope and specification to be drawn up for their conservation.

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