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New Islington – ALSOP ARCHITECTS

URBAN BARNs AND CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING AT NEW ISLINGTON

Alsop Architects has designed two exciting schemes for New Islington, in addition to the Strategic Framework. Both schemes have now won planning consent.

The Chips building sits between the first of the newly created canal arms, and the Ancoats Hospital site buildings designed by Ian Simpson Architects. Why “Chips”? That is what the design team decided the building looks like. It could have been a rectangular block, however Alsop Architects sliced it horizontally into three storeys that angle and wiggle against each other, like chips on a plate.

“With Chips we wanted to reduce the scale of what is quite a tall building,” said Christophe Egret, Alsop Architects director responsible for the Stirling Prize winning Peckham Library. “We have introduced a visual twist to make a clear statement of difference to its surroundings, we wanted humour and attractiveness. The twist on the traditional rectangular shape also creates interesting shadows and depth to the façade and opens up spaces at ground floor level for public routes and a bar.”

The building will be clad in a resin core timber veneered rain screen system, with black frame composite aluminium windows set into it. This is the first time the system has been used in the UK.

To add further intrigue and delight to the building homage will be paid to Manchester’s historical context as the birthplace of the industrial revolution, and the first global exporter via the canal network.

Names such as Bombay, Istanbul and Yokohama will be screen printed on to the cladding system with multi-coloured glass fins, which project at right angles to the façade casting various shadows.

“The intention is to design a façade that presents a coherent whole,” said Christophe Egret, Alsop Architects. “But surprises on further inspection, it’s a building that you would not tire of looking at.”

More follows....

URBAN BARNs AND CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING AT NEW ISLINGTON Contd...

The ground floor is divided centrally between bar/restaurant and live/work units, both with canal views. Alsop Architects plan to create 145 apartments for Urban Splash ranging from 1 bedroom to 3 bedrooms. The building will also include 100% basement car parking.

Urban Barns – a Step Closer to Realisation

First mooted in the Strategic Framework for New Islington, the Alsop Urban Barn concept has now moved a step closer to realisation with planning permission granted for 21 barns.

Barn conversions are a popular feature of contemporary rural living. Alsop Architects is determined to take this a stage further, and bring barn living into the city. The barns will compliment the waterside location and green spaces of New Islington, and are a deliberate play on the notion of a rural idyll in the heart of the city. The barns are set to make flexible exciting family homes.

The barns will be double height in space with a glazed elevation and balconies. They will be raised seven metres above the garden area on stilts. Some of the barns will project over the new waterway. At this stage, there is a lot of flexibility over what happens with the interior spaces.

“The Barns present a totally different and new concept for city living,” said Christophe Egret, Alsop Architects. “The idea of the barns in this setting is both surprising and a delight, we think they could well become some of the most popular homes in the City.”

“The Chips and the Barns are the first step towards a dream for New Islington, “ said Christophe Egret, “a dream which mixes water, wildlife and people, with a definite emphasis on pedestrian movement above the car.

The dream is tempered by a realistic and responsible attitude towards the procurement of the project, covering community, design, sustainability and finance. The existing community will benefit from improved facilities, public spaces and employment opportunities; the buildings are intended to be a variety of styles and forms.

More follows

ALSOP ARCHITECTS CHIPS AND URBAN BARNs AT NEW ISLINGTON Contd...

The Chips and the Barns aim to set new standards for sustainable development, with environmental and community sustainability as the cornerstone. Urban Splash will be marketing the barns towards the end of 2004.

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For Further Information Please Contact

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