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LAST ORDERS AT THE CHIP SHOP

All 142 apartments in Chips are now sold . The first apartment building designed by architect Will Alsop in the UK which will set the standard and pace for the rest of the New Islington development.

Alsop designed the strategic framework for New Islington, Manchester's Millennium Community which is now becoming a reality at the 29-acre site in East Manchester. Urban Splash and its partners, English Partnerships, Manchester City Council, New East Manchester and preferred social housing landlords, Manchester Methodist Housing Group have made great progress on the development and Chips will be the first homes for private sale.

"Chips is the first of a fleet of buildings to take advantage of the exceptional location being created in New Islington, as Alsop's vision for Manchester's Millennium Community is turned into a reality," said Nick Johnson, director of development, Urban Splash. "The apartment building is surrounded by water on three sides - that's water of the new canals being built at New Islington – and is the start of what will transform a once neglected part of the city into a very special place."

The Chips building sits between the first of the newly created canal arms at New Islington, 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 Will Alsop, Alsop Architects. “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.”

More follows

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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 Will. “But surprises on further inspection, it’s a building that you would not tire of looking at or living in.”

The ground floor is divided centrally between bar/restaurant and live/work units, both with canal views. There will be 142 apartments ranging from one bedroom to three bedrooms. Secure parking will also be available for an additional cost.

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For Further Information Please Contact

Lisa Ashurst, communications manager, Urban Splash on 0161 839 2999 or 07973 401123

Email: lisaashurst@urbansplash.co.uk