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New Islington – IAN SIMPSON ARCHITECTS

ANCOATS HOSPITAL: BORN AGAIN

Ian Simpson Architects was invited by Urban Splash and its New Islington partners, to design a scheme for the site of the former Ancoats Hospital. The proposals recently received planning permission.

The Ancoats Hospital Dispensary is dated 1874, and is a Grade II Listed building. Over the years, the fine Victorian structure had been surrounded and obscured by later additions. These have been cleared, and Ian Simpson Architects bring the original features to the fore, in the skilled and sensitive conversion into 12 apartments and two ground floor retail units.

The refurbished Dispensary will be joined on the site by two new complementary buildings that make the most of the new public realm created between the new canal arm and New Mills Street. The new apartment buildings strike an imposing form, curving upwards from the level of the Dispensary, towards the city. South facing elevations are fully glazed, with balconies that take advantage of the aspect and outlook.

North elevations are clad with timber shingles, which will weather over time. Each apartment spans the width of the building, with bedrooms and bathrooms set to the north, and living spaces to the south, maximising sunshine and views.

“Ian Simpson Architects has developed a thoughtful and provoking solution to the Ancoats Hospital Site,” said Nick Johnson, development director, Urban Splash. “What we really like about it is that the architect, well known in Manchester for their landmark glass clad buildings have developed their style as an appropriate response to New Islington and it is exactly what our vision and ambitions demand.”

“Our scheme comprises two site-responsive forms tapering and turning towards the sun, integrating the Listed Dispensary building and rising toward the city,” said Ian Simpson, Ian Simpson Architects. “Working on this project has been extremely rewarding. The spirit of collaboration and willingness to challenge convention has taken it in a completely new direction, we have also worked with Alsop in an analytical, critical and creative way which has achieved major benefit for both practices.”

More follows

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It is expected that work will commence on site in the autumn with completion late summer 2005. The Listed building is situated in one of the most prominent positions in New Islington, on Old Mill Street and next to the new waterway arm at the Ashton Canal.

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Notes of Editors

Ian Simpson Architects is a practice whose founding Directors, Rachel Haugh and Ian Simpson, have worked together for over 15 years, providing excellent award-winning architecture, such as No 1 Deansgate and Urbis. Current projects include the Beetham Hilton Tower, Manchester, Holloway Circus Tower, Birmingham, and the Jam Factory, London. The practice was a semi-finalist in the World Trade Centre Competition 2002.

For Further Information Please Contact

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