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**CHIPS ON THE MENU AT WILL ALSOP'S SUPERCITY EXHIBITION
20 January – 15 May at Urbis, Cathedral Gardens, Manchester**

Award winning property developers Urban Splash will be launching the first Alsop designed homes in the UK for public sale on Saturday 7 May 2005 and visitors to SuperCity: Will Alsop's vision for the future of the North, which opens at Urbis on Thursday 20 January, will get a sneak preview of the scheme and have the chance to register their interest prior to the launch date.

Urban Splash are the main commercial partners of SuperCity, there is a real synergy between Will Alsop's vision for the north and the reality that is being delivered in Manchester itself.

Alsop designed the strategic framework for New Islington, Manchester's Millennium Community that 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

CHIPS ON THE MENU AT WILL ALSOP'S SUPERCITY EXHIBITION contd...

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 145 apartments ranging from 1 bedroom to 3 bedrooms. The building will also include 100% basement car parking.

New Islington Millennium Community is one of seven Millennium Communities managed by English Partnerships as part of a national programme. New Islington will be the subject of a special fringe event at the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit (30 January – 2 February 05) at Urbis, Cathedral Gardens, Manchester from 1.30pm until 3.30pm on Tuesday 1 February 2005.

www.urbansplash.co.uk

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Notes to Editors

Entry to SuperCity is £5. £3.50 concessions, Under-16's free at Urbis, Cathedral Gardens, Manchester. Chips will be on display in the public ground floor at Urbis.

The Millennium Communities Programme began in 1997 with the launch of the development competition for Greenwich Millennium Village. The programme will aim to deliver somewhere between 5,000 and 6,000 dwellings over the course of a seven- to 10-year period. A range of different types of sites have been chosen to demonstrate that energy efficient, environmentally responsible development is achievable regardless of geographic location.

More follows

CHIPS ON THE MENU AT WILL ALSOP'S SUPERCITY EXHIBITION Contd...

New Islington Millennium Community is a 12.5 hectare (29 acre) site at Ancoats, East Manchester, and was the third Millennium Community to be identified. It is part of a wider regeneration programme being undertaken by New East Manchester Urban Regeneration Company (URC). The development site includes the Cardroom Estate, a local authority housing estate, built in the 1970s and the former Ancoats Hospital adjacent to the Ashton Canal, the former St. Jude's Primary School and a former industrial site next to the Rochdale Canal

For Further Information Please Contact

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