British architect Will Alsop of Alsop Architects has completed a residential building called Chips in Manchester.
The eight-storey building, for developer Urban Splash, was conceived as “three fat chips stacked on top of each other.”

Each “chip” is covered in text referring to the area’s history.

The building forms part of Alsop’s urban plan for the New Islington area of Manchester and contains 142 one, two and three bedroom apartments.
WILL ALSOP’S ‘CHIPS’ BUILDING COMPLETES IN NEW ISLINGTON, MANCHESTER

THREE FAT CHIPS STACKED ON TOP OF EACH OTHER.
A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT LIKE NO OTHER.

Quirky, bold and robust, ‘Chips’ forms the first major development for the Alsop-designed masterplan for New Islington in Manchester. New Islington, Manchester’s Millennium Community, is situated between the Ashton and Rochdale canals on the Northern edge of Manchester City Centre. Launched in 2002, Alsop’s Strategic Framework for New Islington, lays out an exceptional place, modeled around new canal arms and an inspiring landscape.

Commissioned by Urban Splash in 2002, Chips presents the first new apartments for sale in New Islington was designed by Will Alsop whose building was inspired by three fat chips piled on top of one another. The ‘Chips’ building comprises three equal-height, long, thin new build masses (Chips) approximately 100m long by 14m wide stacked and staggered upon one another creating an elevated ground floor and eight levels comprising 142 one, two and three bedroom apartments. The building is clad in a composite wall faced with a cladding covered in newspaper print with text that echoes the industrial heritage of the Ancoats area.
The design provides a mix of living and studio units and commercial space within a single project. The project defines a quality of living by combining outstanding design with technological innovation while embracing key concepts of sustainability, integration into the urban landscape and the provision of inspirational and sensational apartment units. The building’s apartment types range from studio spaces to three bed apartments. There is also a variety of differing external balconies. The apartments are planned internally around a central ‘pod’ unit, housing the bathroom and kitchen areas. The apartments can be open plan or sub-divided by the use of large folding screens. It marks another significant milestone for New Islington, which will become even more of a community once the residents of Chips move into their apartments in 2009.

CLIENT
Urban Splash Ltd

ARCHITECT
Alsop Architects:
Will Alsop, Duncan Macauley, Edward Norman, Caroline Koo, Bonny Yu

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
Martin Stockley Associates

M&E CONSULTANT
Quartzelec and Fulcrum

QUANTITY SURVEYOR
Simon Fenton Partnership

CDM CO-ORDINATOR
Rawlings Consultancy Services Ltd

LANDSCAPE DESIGN
Grant Associates

LIGHTING CONSULTANT
Pinniger & Partners

ACCESS AND ACOUSTIC CONSULTANT
Buro Happold

MAIN CONTRACTOR
Urban Splash Build

Posted by Rachel Blunstone

This entry was posted on Tuesday, June 2nd, 2009 at 12:04 am and is filed under Architecture, all. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.
28 Responses to “Chips by Alsop Architects”

1. matt Says:
   June 2nd, 2009 at 2:16 am

   “Each “chip” is covered in text referring to the area’s history.”
   that’s what i call contextual…

2. NICO ROLA Says:
   June 2nd, 2009 at 2:39 am

   Alright, now that’s a nice waterfront facade. What a cool game played with those three extended blocks.

3. jkl Says:
   June 2nd, 2009 at 5:54 am

   It looks like someone let interior designers loose on the exterior 😄
   They could have at least used helvetica….

4. Gemma Says:
   June 2nd, 2009 at 10:59 am

   I live next to this building, and whilst I don’t mind the shape, I really dislike the writing on it and I think the cladding looks cheap, patchy, incomplete
   and a little like it has just been cobbled together.

   Some of the ideas for the regeneration of this area are brilliant, and I am really looking forward to seeing the area come to life again, but I think this
   particular building will look shoddy and dated too soon.

   I would be interested to see how the inside looks though. Particularly as from the outside the windows appear to be pretty small and I would be
   interested to see how much natural light the flats get.

5. LOW Says:
   June 2nd, 2009 at 3:01 pm

   Hello MVRDV

6. mcmlxix Says:
   June 2nd, 2009 at 4:14 pm

   While I like the concept of form, it’s clever and intriguing anyway, I cannot help but think that this project will be a net minus for the urban landscape.
   And although I’ve never been to Manchester, I echo Gemma’s concern. What’s clever today, can often be a tired joke tomorrow, and if the materials
   are cheap, then exponentially so.

   + for concept – - for articulation

7. Daniel Brown Says:
   June 2nd, 2009 at 4:45 pm

   How did they get this passed UK planning? Did they kill all the NIMBYS?

   Impressive

8. James Says:
   June 2nd, 2009 at 5:52 pm

   super graphic? ekkkkkkk.

9. unlikelymoose Says:
   June 2nd, 2009 at 6:21 pm

   The general form of three stacked blocks is intriguing. The addition of typography competes too much with the seemingly random placement of
   windows. It begins to get cluttered and confusing and takes away from the interesting architectural elements.

10. garth n. Says:
    June 2nd, 2009 at 9:43 pm

    sorry,
    this project makes my eyes sore.

11. DLO Says:
    June 3rd, 2009 at 8:26 am

    I saw this in the Architects Journal with interiors and floor plans. How come tenants in manchester don’t deserve outdoor space? Less than half the
    apartments seem to have balconies and those that there are barely fit a chair on. I’ve never come across a local authority that’s ok with that before, but
then, for starchitects the rules are different aren’t they…..

12. m Says:
June 3rd, 2009 at 10:58 am

Actually, the entire New Islington masterplan is mad by alsop architects – and definitely worth taking a look at even when it is just for the rendering technique

if the rest of the area will look like those renderings, this building would end up being pretty normal.

13. Stan Says:
June 3rd, 2009 at 2:00 pm

I think it is a quite interesting project…These three horizontals are very succesfull in terms of their controlled randomness and urban presence….The text is maybe a bit on top…but in general for me it is a very good

14. paul Says:
June 3rd, 2009 at 2:23 pm

In reponse to JKL, don’t blame it on the interior designers. Perhaps some interior designers should have designed it, instead of architects!

At least then we might have ended up with something that was user centered, experience driven and more considered in its appearance.

You don’t often see the architects wanting to live in the large scale ‘architectural gestures’ that they dream up. Instead, they often choose a nice Georgian house carefully remodelled and renovated a good interior designer.

15. runningforasthma Says:
June 4th, 2009 at 12:58 am

They forgot to add the shopping trolley and white lightning bottles to the canal renders…

16. Fatigued Says:
June 4th, 2009 at 1:49 am

I actually kind of like it.

On an unrelated note…

Is it just me or do the three stacks look like they are engaging in some freaky architectural “love fest”….?

17. Andre Says:
June 4th, 2009 at 4:55 am

Come on Alsop where’s the Blob?

18. PL Says:
June 4th, 2009 at 11:05 am

yuk! what was the inspiration for the colour palette – smarties?

19. Saiman Says:
June 4th, 2009 at 5:08 pm

I have always had a weak spot for chips!

20. preetysandhu Says:
June 5th, 2009 at 8:55 pm

Fatigued, it isn’t just you, the three stacks do look like ‘they are engaging in some freaky architectural “love fest”’… lol.

Lovely movement feelings with stagnant structural lines and the different shaped windows, there is definitely some youthful free spiritedness involved….but not so much innocence…

personally I liked it up till the point I realized it’s apartments for human residents presumably…

It looks like it could be a great studio space to work in…but to live in… I would not, I’ve lived through a window cut into a texy billboard facade before while poor in manhattan and it felt silly, I moved to a brown stone in park slope & lived happily ever after for awhile.

21. Hagus Says:
June 6th, 2009 at 6:05 pm

“The addition of typography competes too much with the seemingly random placement of windows. It begins to get cluttered and confusing and takes away from the interesting architectural elements.” – unlikelymoose

No it doesn’t. You’re just easily confused.

22. Turner V. O Says:
June 8th, 2009 at 12:44 pm

Looks interesting. Would love to see its context wether it fits with its neighbours or is overbearing which I suspect will be the case in this development.

They could have go easy bwith the colours on the eye.

23. Turner V. O Says:
June 8th, 2009 at 1:39 pm
sorry for the typo errors; I suspect it will stick out like a sour thumb in its context. A better use of colours would go along way to help integrate it into its context despite its “conundrum” of windows!

24. architect-cum-food critic Says:
   June 13th, 2009 at 12:19 pm

   With respect to the sales brochure: where is ‘the best chip shop in town?’

25. freedom Says:
   June 27th, 2009 at 8:15 am

   mind you, i like it.

26. ed Says:
   July 24th, 2009 at 3:54 pm

   I think Will Alsop is extremely talented. That is one of the reasons this building exists and why we are talking about it, for better or worse.

27. Andrea Says:
   August 19th, 2009 at 1:02 am

   I’ve just agreed a lease on a two bed apartment at chips. Moving in in two weeks and can’t wait. When I first saw the building I was unsure, and thought it was a bit garish but I love it now! Love the lettering idea too – they spell out the names of local rivers and canals. I think its a cool idea and the inside of the building is great, the apartments are really quite big and finished to a high spec. There are floor to ceiling windows everywhere and the apartments feel very light and spacious. The whole place just feels really modern and funky. It seems to have a ‘young’ vibe but that suits me just fine! Trust me its very deceiving from the outside!

28. Raj Says:
   December 18th, 2009 at 8:24 pm

   I agree with Andrea. I am in a 3-bed and love the high ceilings and floor to ceiling windows. Its -1C outside but the flat retains heat and better yet catches the sun and heats up throughout the day without firing up the central heating. The rooms in my flat are huge and the long hallway breaks up the flat and gives a greater impression of space. The exposed concrete ceilings give the rooms a modern industrial feel consistent with Manchester’s past. The concrete also insulates against sound from the neighbours which is often a complaint when it comes to flat living.

   The flat is better finished then any of the other new developments such as the Greenquarter by Crosby homes eg. Vitra sink/toilet and Hans GroBe shower fittings. The CHPS heating system cannot have been cheap so I disagree with the cheap materials comment made somewhere above.

Submit a comment

See our comments policy

Name (required)
Mail (will not be published) (required)
Website

Daten absenden submit

- Home
- About
- Submit a story
- Advertise
- Dezeenjobs
- Contact
Dezeenfeed daily email
Dezeenjobs feed
Twitterzeen
Facebook

Latest Jobs
- Duggan Morris Architects seek architects
- Duggan Morris Architects seek architectural assistants
- Architectural technicians at Duggan Morris Architects
- Senior industrial designers at Duo
- Graphic designer at Duo
- Administrative director/manager at Neonata/NDL Agency
- Studio Arne Quinze seek interns
- Graphic designer at Studio Egret West
- Junior landscape architect at Studio Egret West
- Studio Egret West seek model-maker

Dezeenwire
Dezeen’s traffic grows 90% in 2009
Review of the decade: interior design - Guardian
Dubai to open world’s tallest building - BBC
Applause competition winners announced
“The best of the worst times” – Building Design
ACTAR buys Birkhäuser
“I.D. magazine folds” – UnBeige
Foreign Office Architects to close as partners split – Building Design
Review of the decade: Jonathan Glancey on architecture – The Guardian
Chelsea Barracks masterplan designers announced – Building Design

Twitterzeen

Dezeen: RT @thingsofrandom: I want that building so much, it actually hurts! RT @Dezeen A copper-clad beauty parlour in Tokyo: http://bit.ly/6Ppe2p
Dezeen: Photos from the Hong Kong half of the Hong Kong & Shenzhen architecture biennale: http://bit.ly/5DvCzC
Dezeen: A church that has the profile of a bird in flight: http://bit.ly/4TOSTN
Dezeen: RT @sanctobin: Gorgeous http://bit.ly/3Gba5M @Dezeen top ten: Japanese projects

Ads by Google

BIM 3D Printing eBook
How to Print Models in Your Office! Easy Building Information Modeling
ZCorp.com/free_3D_printing_50 Hotels in Manchester
Book your hotel in Manchester online. All hotels on a city map.
www.booking.com/Hotels-Ma

TNG Technology Consulting
Developer und IT Consultants mit Hirn und Leidenschaft gesucht!
www.tngtech.de Paris Apartment Rentals
Daily, Weekly, Vacation Furnished Apartments in the heart of Paris
www.ParisFurnishedApartments.com

Live in Tel Aviv
Luxury apartments in a recently renovated Bauhaus style building
www.liveintlv.com

Special feature:
2009 review

Search
• DMY Berlin 09
• RCA show 09
• New Designers 09
• London Design Festival 09
• Dutch Design Week 09
• Tokyo 09

• Monthly Archive
  • January 2010
  • December 2009
  • November 2009
  • October 2009
  • September 2009
  • August 2009
  • July 2009
  • June 2009
  • May 2009
  • April 2009
  • March 2009
  • February 2009
  • January 2009
  • December 2008
  • November 2008
  • October 2008
  • September 2008
  • August 2008
  • July 2008
  • June 2008
  • May 2008
  • April 2008
  • March 2008
  • February 2008
  • January 2008
  • December 2007
  • November 2007
  • October 2007
  • September 2007
  • August 2007
  • July 2007
  • June 2007
  • May 2007
  • April 2007
  • March 2007
  • February 2007
  • January 2007
  • December 2006
  • November 2006