Alsop Architects
Chips
New Islington
Manchester, UK

Quirky, bold and robust, "Chips" forms the first major development for Alsop's masterplan for New Islington, Manchester's Millennium Community.

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 local area.
Alsop Architects - Chips - New Islington, Manchester, UK

http://www.arcspace.com/architects/alsop/chips/chips.html

09/11/2009
Inspired by three fat “chips” piled on top of one another the building is comprised of three equal-height, long, thin build masses approximately 100 meters long by 14 meters wide, stacked and staggered upon one another.

The scheme was conceived to give variation and unique apartments within a high-density block. An important part of the design strategy was that all residents would be near water, able to see water and to be able to use the new canal arms as a recreational facility.

The mix of apartments, studios, workshops and restaurants stitched into the overall building form creates a diversity of use. The apartment types, arranged on eight floors, range from studio spaces to three bedroom apartments, with a variety of external balconies. The building was raised off the ground so that all units and users are elevated above the ground plain.
The apartments, planned internally around a central "pod" unit, housing the bathroom and kitchen areas, can be open plan or subdivided by the use of large folding screens. All apartments are accessed via a glazed lobby to the centre of the building.
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 apartment units.

The completion of Chips marks another significant milestone for New Islington, which will become even more of a community once the residents of Chips move into their apartments.
Total gross area: 16,200 square meters

Completed: 2009

Client: Urban Splash Ltd
Architect: Alsop Architects
Project Team:
Will Alsop
Duncan Macaulay
Edward Norman
Caroline Koo, Bonny Yu
Main contractor: Urban Splash Build Ltd
Structural engineer: Martin Stockley Associates
M&E consultant: Quartzelec
Quantity surveyor: Simon Fenton Partnership
Landscape Designer: Grant Associates
Lighting designer: Pinniger & Partners
Acoustic consultants: Buro Happold
Approved inspector: HCD

Photographed by Christian Richters

Launched in 2002, Alsop's Strategic Framework for New Islington, lays out an exceptional place, modeled around new canal arms and an inspiring landscape.
Alsop developed the scheme in close collaboration with the local community. Using the Alsop strategy of engagement, the masterplan and Chips building design were developed from an extensive community consultation exercise over a six-month period. Local residents were taken on site visits to high-density residential developments that support the sustainable infrastructure that the community wanted. In addition, Alsop led workshops where the residents were directly asked what type of accommodation they wanted and the facilities that they felt the community would require. The final design is a direct result of the consultation process.

Chips meets the Sustainability guidelines as set out by the UK Homes and Communities agency as apart of the “Millennium Community” Program.