'Chips' and Chetham's up for architecture award

David Ottewell

August 24, 2009

TWO modern Mancunian masterpieces are in the running the world's biggest architectural prize.

Chips - a quirky 142-flat apartment block - and the new £23m extension for Chetham's School of Music are among 272 new-and-future buildings on the shortlist for the World Architecture Festival awards.

They will be fighting it out with high-profile developments from across the globe - including the new Centre Court at Wimbledon.

A space-age high school in Los Angeles and a bird-house in Geneva are among other rivals.

Chips is the centre-piece of the New Islington development, built on the site of the former Cardroom estate in East Manchester.

Architect Will Alsop has described it as `a place where anyone will be happy to sit and do nothing'.

The Chetham's extension, which will feature a 350-seat concert hall, has not yet been built but has been granted planning permission. It will form the basis of a new `Medieval Quarter' in the heart of Manchester.

The awards feature shortlisted entries from 67 countries and are designed to celebrate and showcase the work of the international architectural community.

They are decided by a high-profile panel of architecture experts from across the globe.

Paul Finch, WAF programme director, said: "In what is becoming the acid test of global architecture, the wide geographical range and the outstanding quality of this year's shortlisted designs provide a true indicator of the current condition and diversity of world architecture."

The awards will be handed out in Barcelona as part of the festival, which runs from November 4-6.
Andanotherthing, Mcr
26/08/2009 at 17:13 Offensive or Inappropriate?
Mr Angry, Bury
Dont you think these guys who design these monsters and have no idea what a good building should look like. I know we have to move on but surely we can move on in stages rather than massive jumps like these terrible designs, just look over the last forty years how many new buildings have been demolished after ten years, Even manchesters finest hour? “The B-OF-THE-BANG that didnt last long because it was flawed just like those flats in hulme and the flats that were torn down on grey mare lane and a host of other buildings that havent stood the time.

Zoomer, The Real World
26/08/2009 at 16:51 Offensive or Inappropriate?
Mr Angry, Bury
and where is New Islington "Its where old Islington was"

Zoomer, The Real World
25/08/2009 at 17:20 Offensive or Inappropriate?
and where is New Islington ? I've never heard of it. Henry Piggot-Smythe, Prestbury

Its quite close to where Henry Smythe-Phillips met his glorious end. Over to you.

Andanotherthing, Mcr
24/08/2009 at 18:57 Offensive or Inappropriate?
Chips !! What were the planners thinking of. It is an abomination and the development of East Manchester is in danger of becoming a hotch potch of architects' ego's and colour impaired council officials who should know better. They must have been high on vinegar !

Boom Boom , M4
24/08/2009 at 18:36 Offensive or Inappropriate?
Chips looks like a few builders storage containers stacked on top of each other and where is New Islington ? I've never heard of it.

Henry Piggot-Smythe, Prestbury
24/08/2009 at 15:27 Offensive or Inappropriate?
Zoomer, just to show there is nothing new in the world consider the following, critics "decried the design as being too dissimilar from churches that already existed in England at the time to suggest any continuity within the Church of England"

About what you ask? St Pauls catherderal
citycentre, manchester
24/08/2009 at 15:15 Offensive or Inappropriate?
I never want to see Chetham's . As for the comment "The former Cardroom Estate" The Cardroom was formerly New Islington....Rebuilding the past we eradicated, always for the better.

Andanotherthing, Mcr
24/08/2009 at 15:10 Offensive or Inappropriate?
And yet another building that will be outdated within five years. Its ok building these modern buildings but its like labels on clothing it goes out of fashion and looks dated within a short time. Just look at all the 70s buildings that have been demolished and rebuilt only to be demolished within five years again.modernd building design dont last long "The arndale project for instance" Nobody liked it from day one only a few idiot councillors and the architect. Just like piccadilly gardens will be demolished and re-built as it was before….You cannot beat a classical design, it lasts.

Zoomer, The Real World
24/08/2009 at 14:11 Offensive or Inappropriate?
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