Alsop Sparch bags planning for Thames-side hotel

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Alsop Sparch has landed planning permission for its £250 million Puddle Dock hotel scheme on the north bank of the River Thames close to Blackfriars Station in London.

The 27,000m² six-star hotel replaces the brutalist 1959 Mermaid Conference and Events Centre (see below).

The 280-bedroom scheme features a combined heat and power plant, rainwater recycling and photovoltaic cells.

Duncan Macaulay, director of Alsop Sparch architects, said: ‘We are very excited to have won permission for what we believe will be a splendid addition to the Thames riverside.’

Will Alsop had drawn up numerous schemes for the Blackfriars plot - the earliest almost a decade ago - and even secured permission for an office-led scheme back in 2003.

The existing 1959 Mermaid Theatre, Blackfriars