

# Ideas, Places + Buildings

Glenn Howells Architects

**We create projects that are sustainable and enhance our environment**

**We imagine how future cities can enhance lives and adapt to change**

**We transform cities by making places that people enjoy**

# ABOUT US

We are a design studio that works closely with our clients to help them realise their ambitions. Underpinning our work is an approach rooted in the exploration of how places, buildings and things are made and how these can improve the lives of individuals and communities.

Since our beginning in 1990 we have built an experienced and creative team of based in Birmingham, London and Dublin. We have also grown long-term creative relationships with our clients and collaborators which allow us to push boundaries to make transformational, remarkable designs.

London City Island makes the most of its distinctive 'island' location where the River Lea bends for the last time just before it joins the River Thames.

# LONDON CITY ISLAND

LONDON

Ten residential buildings sit alongside cultural, commercial, and leisure facilities to create a collage of strong forms, amplified by bold brick colours, which have a striking and changing appearance when viewed from different locations across the water.

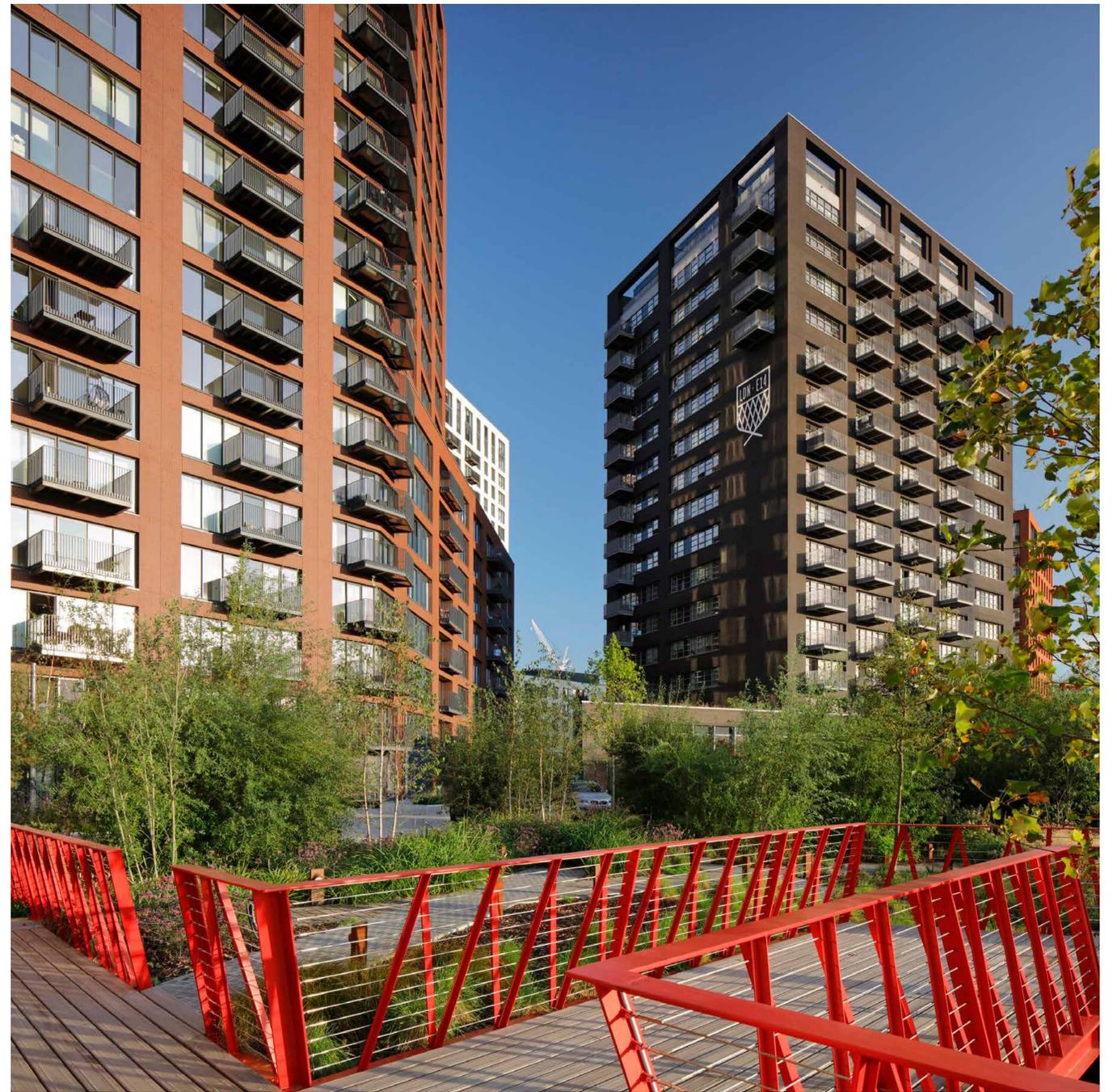
All the 1,706 new homes at London City Island have been delivered to the highest build quality using prefabricated brick and concrete panels developed with the Dutch firm, Byldis. This modern method of construction allowed each of the strikingly coloured buildings to be assembled from highly crafted and modelled facade units—some weighing as much as 28 tonnes.

Key to the development's success is the balance between residential and active daytime uses which has led to a complex mix of workspaces that will bring a range of makers and artists to the island. Central to this is the new headquarters for the English National Ballet and the London Film School located at the heart of the scheme.



IMAGES SHOW THE ORIGINAL BROWNFIELD SITE AND THE 'ISLAND' INHABITED





This transformational project for English National Ballet (ENB) has successfully enabled the ENB School, rehearsal and administration functions move from west to east London and into London City Island's 'Mulryan Centre for Dance'.

# MULRYAN CENTRE FOR DANCE

LONDON CITY ISLAND, LONDON

With a long and distinguished history, ENB was founded in 1950 and is one of the UK's leading arts organisations and one of the foremost touring companies in Europe. The new home at London City Island will become the focal point for ballet in the capital and on the world stage.

The building is significantly larger than ENB's previous accommodation with eight rehearsal spaces, one of which has full stage rigging equipment which can be used as a performance space in its own right. The facilities are also shared with the ENB School that has its own dedicated dressing and rehearsal spaces. The design of the building opens up the activities of ENB to the public through the incorporation of large windows onto public spaces and through external performance spaces.

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IMAGES SHOW THE PERFORMANCE SPACE WITH FULL STAGE RIGGING AND THE DORFMAN ENTRANCE FOYER WITH FEATURE STAIR





Taking inspiration from London's Great Estates, Royal Wharf is an entirely new neighbourhood along the Thames riverfront in east London.

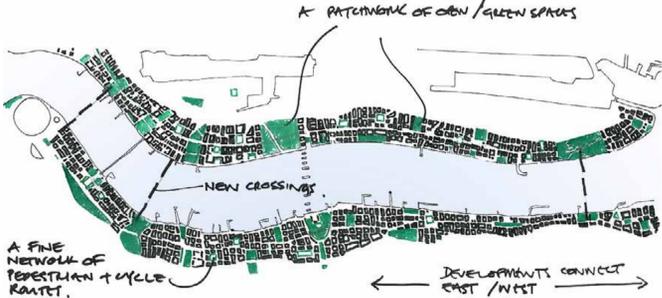
# ROYAL WHARF & RIVERSCAPE

LONDON

We masterplanned all 15.2 hectares of the former brownfield site for Oxley and Ballymore, creating a community of homes for 10,000, including family townhouses, Royal Wharf School, Royal Wharf Community Dock (community centre) and the Thames Clipper pier.

As well as providing the detailed design for 1,700 homes out of the nearly 3,385 in total, we acted as the scheme's design champion for the London Borough of Newham. This included guiding the involvement of other selected practices that worked on building envelopes, liaising with the GLA, and ensuring that a legible layout with active frontages was achieved in practice.

Located adjacent to Lyle Park, the fourth and final phase Riverscape will complete the estate. Providing a further 769 homes, picture windows of up to 3.1m wide will provide residents with stunning uninterrupted panoramic views out over the park, river and beyond.



IMAGES SHOW OUR WIDER VISION FOR THE WATERFRONT





**Paradise is the comprehensive reworking of one of the most complex and strategic urban sites in Birmingham, if not in Britain. It is where the city's sensitive historic and civic core has been sliced through by layers of post-war redevelopment and by the multi-level ring road that disconnects it from areas to its west.**

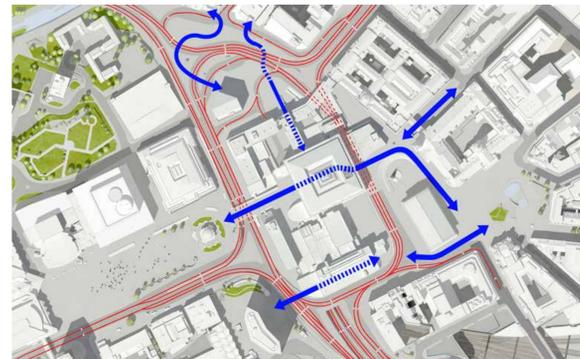
# PARADISE

BIRMINGHAM

Our task for MEPC (formerly known as Argent) and Birmingham City Council has been to transform the area into a contemporary multi-purpose business, residential and leisure quarter that is sensitive to the Grade I and II\* listed buildings adjacent and that reconnects the city's ruptured public space with a new pedestrianised realm.

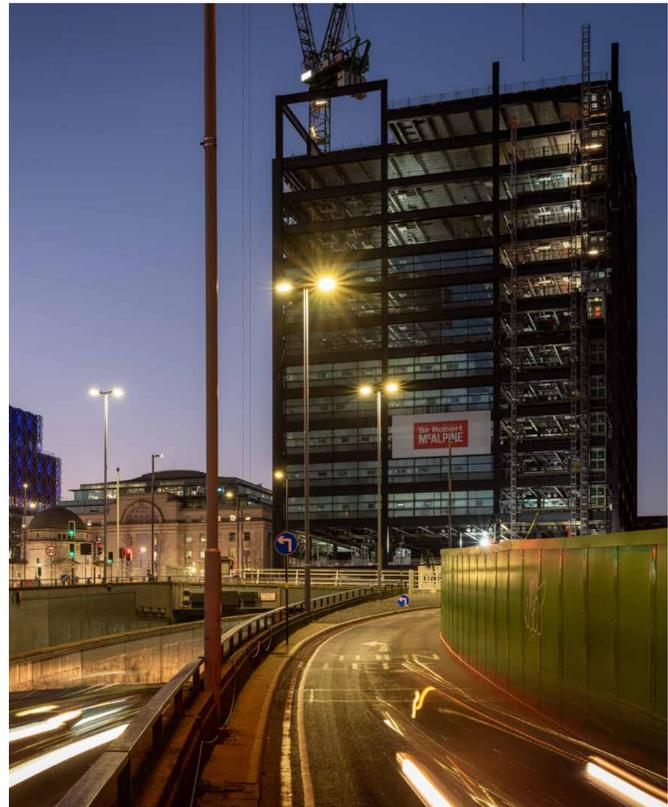
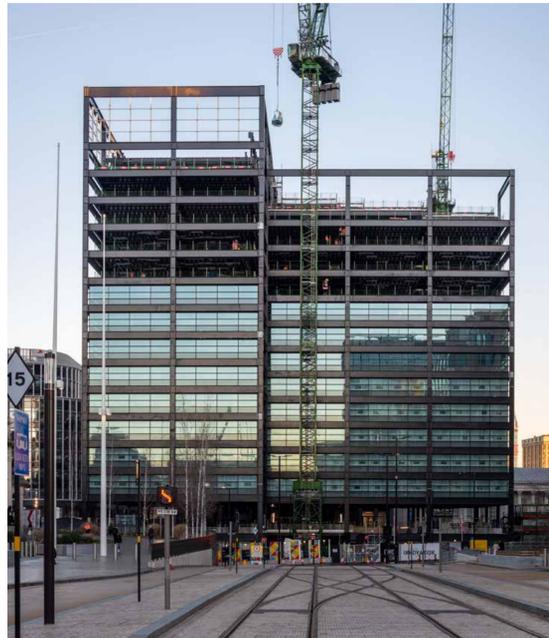
Phase one was completed in early 2021 and saw the transformation of one of Birmingham's most significant public spaces, Chamberlain Square and the delivery of two commercial buildings, One and Two Chamberlain Square (TCS). Our design of TCS has successfully delivered a Grade A, spacious and flexible office building with the highest specification for today's business needs.

We are currently working on the next exciting phases of Paradise which include One Rafcliff Square, a luxury boutique hotel, One Centenary Way, an innovative commercial office building and Octagon, a unique landmark building offering 370 new build to rent homes all built around two completely new public squares and opening up new connections across the city centre.



IMAGES SHOWS THE INTERRUPTED PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS BEFORE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MASTERPLAN





IMAGES SHOW THE COMPLETED CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE, PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS THROUGH CENTENARY WAY, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE CENTENARY WAY.



Full wrap-around balconies signal the distinctiveness of this pair of residential towers at Canary Wharf.

# WARDIAN LONDON

LONDON

EcoWorld Ballymore approached us to resolve a difficult dockside site where a previous development had failed. We worked in a highly collaborative way with Tower Hamlets and the GLA to achieve planning in just six months.

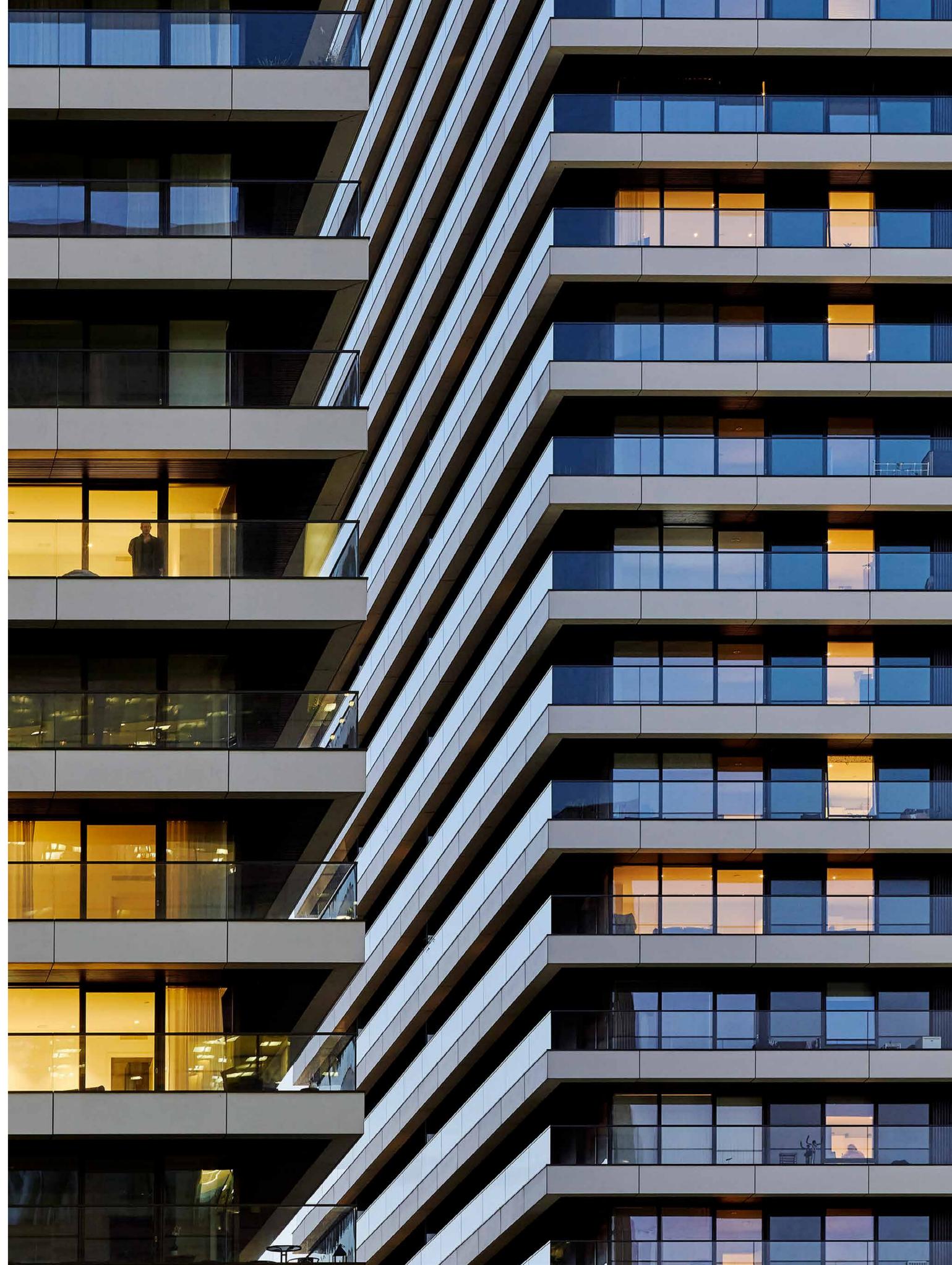
A particular constraint was the elevated DLR track, so the residential element of the 55- and 50-storey blocks sits above a podium containing the elegant lobby, communal facilities, retail and a waterfront café that also serves to animate an otherwise dead area beneath the tracks.

Throughout the design process we strived to create a carefully proportioned exterior that flowed from a plan where the quality of living spaces and internal views was the starting point. The towers, distinguishable by their balconies, slender footprint and articulated masonry façades, are offset to allow sunlight to reach the north facing dock.



IMAGES SHOW THE ENTRANCE AND LOBBY SHOWING THE WARDIAN CASE, WHICH IS UBIQUITOUS THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING





Providing 1,150 homes, Port Loop is Birmingham's rediscovered island. This major development is being delivered by Places for People and Urban Splash in association with Birmingham City Council and the Canal & River Trust.

# PORT LOOP

BIRMINGHAM

Surrounded by a historic canal and just a fifteen minutes walk from Birmingham city centre, this transformational new island neighbourhood has already come alive as a sustainable and healthy place to live.

The first phase of new adaptable low-carbon and high-quality homes is now complete. Residents are already making the most of the communal gardens and green spaces to arrange events, including open-air cinema and pizza nights. The Floating Front Room—an outdoor coffee shop on the canal—is already open for business, as is YARD, Birmingham's first Art House.

Future phases will be masterplanned by ourselves and will include a variety of typologies that utilise Modern Methods of Construction, including our tactile Brick House alongside Shedkm's Town House and Row House.



IMAGES SHOW THE MASTERPLAN AND ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE COMPLETED DEVELOPMENT





PLAY OUT  
TILL TEA...



