

Press release

21 June 2001

Exploring the City: The Foster Studio

This is the inaugural exhibition in the Wellcome Gallery and the first major museum exhibition in London devoted solely to the work of Foster and Partners. With a mixture of models, sketches, prototypes, interactive material and video, the exhibition is a striking and dramatic insight into the work of the Studio.

The exhibition explores four main themes in the urban work of the practice and their influence on the Great Court and other projects: light and space - the use of daylight and lightweight roof structures in buildings such as the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts and Stansted Airport; routes and places - urban regeneration and the creation of public space at the Carr d'Art in Nmes and the Music Centre at Gateshead; density and energy - green issues pioneered by the studio are illustrated by the Commerzbank Headquarters in Frankfurt and the Swiss Re Headquarters in the City of London; and finally, old and new - the revitalisation of old buildings is explored through the Reichstag, the Sackler Galleries at the Royal Academy and the Great Court itself.

The second part of the exhibition provides a glimpse of some current building projects. These include the Headquarters for the Greater London Authority, Albion Riverside - a major mixed-use development on the Thames at Battersea, the new Wembley Stadium, the new Music Centre at Gateshead, the Millennium Bridge and the masterplan for the redesign of Trafalgar Square, Parliament Square and surrounding areas.

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It has been curated by Deyan Sudjic (editor of Domus and architecture correspondent for the Observer) and Patrick Uden (television producer).

This exhibition has been made possible by the generosity of Lady Sainsbury and the late Sir Robert Sainsbury. Bentley Systems has generously provided additional sponsorship for state-of-the-art CAD software. Additional support has been provided by IBM, who have kindly supplied the multimedia computer equipment. Sponsorship for lighting has been provided by ERCO.

The exhibition is open to the public from Friday 22 June to Sunday 7 October.

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