

Press release

20 June 2006

30 St Mary Axe to appear on new 1st class stamp

The Royal Mail has launched a set of six modern architecture stamps today to coincide with this year's Architecture Week (16 - 25 June), with Foster and Partners' 30 St Mary Axe taking pride of place on the new 1st class stamp. All six stamps showcase some of the very best examples of contemporary architecture created this millennium and every building featured has won or been shortlisted for RIBA prizes.

Lord Foster commented: "As an architect, it is inspiring to see contemporary architecture celebrated by Royal Mail on its stamps. This is a bold initiative to increase awareness of six new buildings - to raise the profile of the kind of architecture that has the potential to transform our towns and cities."

All the buildings featured were designed by home-grown architects with the exception of Dundee's Maggie's Centre on the 42p stamp, the creation of world famous American Frank Gehry. The network of Maggie's Centres helps to manage the emotional and physical support of people living with cancer.

Future Systems' Selfridges Birmingham features on the 44p stamp; while The Downland Gridshell designed by Edward Cullinan (the new home of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum in Chichester), decorates the 50p stamp.

The Isle of Tiree is the setting for the 64p stamp. The building titled An Turas, which

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means 'a journey' in Gaelic, was conceived by Sutherland Hussey and is a ferry shelter located on the windswept Hebridean Isle of Tiree.

Sammy's Point is where the Humber joins the Hull River, but it's also home to The Deep (72p). Designed by Terry Farrell and Partners and billed as 'the world's only submarium', this stunning building is home to thousands of sea creatures, including seven species of shark.

Julietta Edgar, Head of Stamps at Royal Mail, said: "Modern architecture has transformed our towns and cities in recent years and the very best examples of these exciting new buildings have been chosen for this issue. Since the millennium, Britain has been at the forefront of contemporary architecture, and Royal Mail is proud to celebrate that achievement."

Architecture Week is an initiative of the Arts Council England and the Royal Institute of British Architects, and is celebrating ten years of outstanding architectural festivities throughout the UK.

For more information and full details on Architecture Week please visit www.architectureweek.org.uk