

St. Peter's Square Regeneration

"The regenerated St Peter's Square will be at the heart of Manchester's Civic Quarter, which is becoming an important new business district for the city." Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council

Background

The 21st century vision for St. Peter's Square was for it to become a world-class and defining component in Manchester's civic and new business quarter; an integrated, pedestrianised square forming a crucial transport link for the city's growing Metrolink network. The square's trees, carefully selected and scattered throughout to soften the appearance of the space are essential to achieve this vision.



Project

An international design competition was held to generate a plan for St. Peter's Square that would realise its £185 million vision. The design – won by Latz + Partner – combines high quality hard infrastructure with a consideration of the benefits that green infrastructure (GI) can provide to a space. The regeneration involved pedestrianising the square and integrating the new 2nd City Crossing Metrolink, forming a crucial transport link. Also considered in the design was the planting of 42 mature trees; a complex and challenging mix of princess trees, pin oaks, plane trees and pagoda trees, ensuring diversity in both appearance and function. The aim was to use species featuring light and open crowns, so the ground below would still be friendly and inviting.

St. Peter's Square, City Centre, MANCHESTER

BENEFITS



**Economic
Growth &
Investment**



**Quality
of place**



**Climate
Change
Adaptation &
Mitigation**

COST



TIMESCALE



Outcomes

Due to St. Peter's Square's complex utility networks, the trees were installed using Greenleaf's modular Stratacell root system, to ensure suitable anchorage, provide adequate lighting, irrigation and ventilation, and align with the paving above. The trees not only provide a visual amenity for passers-by, offering a range of blossoms and flowers, but act as a sunscreen, protecting pedestrians from UV rays. The complex nature of the tree pits not only ensures their healthy growth but also acts as a means to mitigate flood risk, alleviating pressure on the underground drainage system by diverting rain water into their root system.



Learning

The regeneration of St. Peter's Square is a pioneering project and an exemplar of what is possible when Green Infrastructure is given full consideration in the design and realisation of a development. The mixture of trees offers seasonal interest which grabs the attention of passers-by and has become a popular stop for photographs. The square is a functional civic space providing high quality transport infrastructure in an attractive setting which improves air quality and mitigates flood risk.

Future

This level of integration should become the norm for Manchester's developments, ensuring the vision to be an attractive, liveable and global city is realised. High quality and functioning GI offers a wide array of benefits which contribute to improving the overall quality of the space which it inhabits. This example should act as a catalyst for similar projects that contribute to creating a more attractive and resilient city under the increasing pressures of climate change. As the trees mature, they will continue to provide shade, cooling and a fantastic backdrop to the re-energised St Peters Square.

For further information

<http://www.latzundpartner.de/en/projekte/urbane-transformation/st-peters-square-manchester-uk/>
<http://twostpeterssquare.com/st-peters-square-future/>