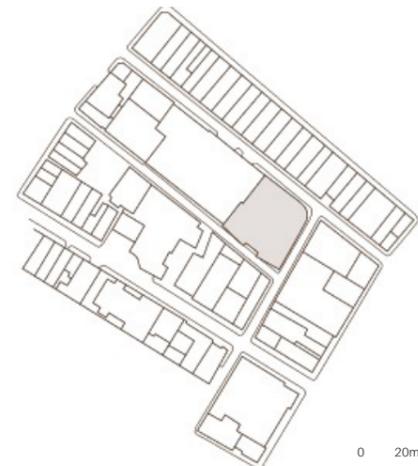


# FACT, LIVERPOOL

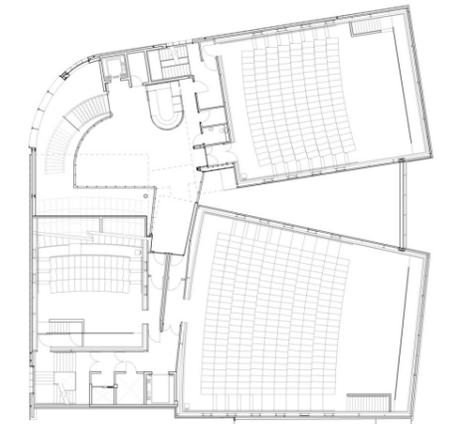
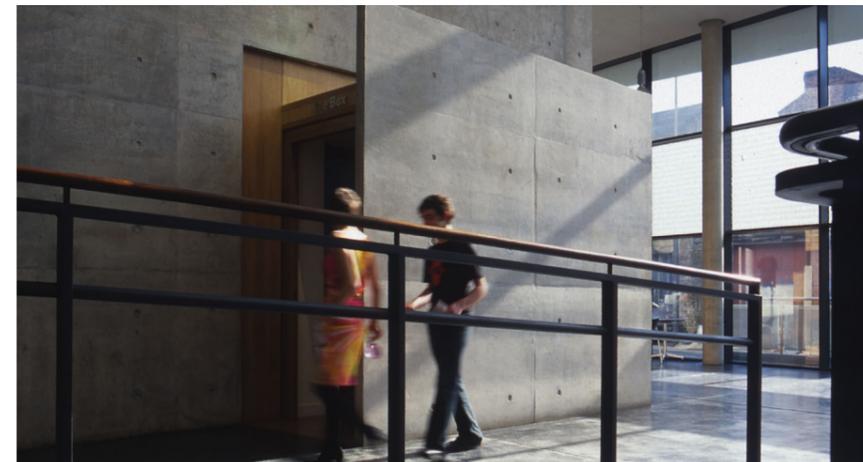
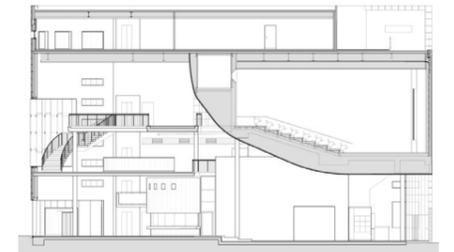


<b>LOCATION:</b> LIVERPOOL
<b>CLIENT:</b> THE FOUNDATION FOR ART & CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY (FACT)
<b>VALUE:</b> £8.1M
<b>SIZE:</b> 3,900M <sup>2</sup>
<b>COMPLETION:</b> 2004
<b>SERVICE:</b> ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE
<b>SECTOR:</b> ARTS & CULTURE
<b>CONTRACTOR:</b> JOHN MOWLEM & CO PLC
<b>STRUCTURES:</b> BURO HAPPOLD
<b>SERVICES:</b> BURO HAPPOLD
<b>COST CONSULTANT:</b> REX PROCTOR & PARTNERS



Site plan

0 20m



The Foundation for Art & Creative Technology (FACT) is Britain's principal electronic arts organisation and Liverpool's first purpose-built arts centre for more than 60 years. It celebrates an ever-expanding visual culture that embraces moving and still pictures, digital imaging, film and interactive creative technologies.

Built on a tight city centre site in the Ropewalks redevelopment area, the Austin-Smith:Lord designed building contains three state of the art cinema screens, two gallery spaces, a flexible events space, creative design laboratories, a media lounge and a bar and café. All have exemplary standards of access for disabled users. The project creates a centre for moving image art and culture unrivalled in its scope, scale and ambition in the UK.

Externally, Austin-Smith:Lord created a show-piece for moving image. The brief was to create a bold landmark building on a site previously occupied by a 1960s garage. In response, Austin-Smith:Lord has created a building very different in character to the surrounding red-brick warehouses. The façade is clad in zinc tiles interspersed with seven programmable LED-illuminated columns. These span the building's full six-storey height, with a large wide-screen bent around two elevations, animated 24/7.

The foyer is a dramatic four storey void providing a dramatic route through the building, linking the new public spaces. Exposed concrete is used on the ceilings and outer walls of the exhibition spaces, with black concrete floors in the foyer, lounge and bar areas - the natural colours providing a suitable backdrop for the artwork. The sweep of the box office desk and the walls of the exhibition spaces are designed to draw visitors to the heart of the building, through multi-level foyers and up dramatic sculptured staircases.

The huge sculptural under-bellies of the cinema auditoria are stacked above the galleries. These forms are strongly expressed at the rear of the building, visible from both the ground and upper floors and used for the projection of moving images from a nearby building.

The galleries are dedicated to moving image and new media artwork, with space for online and streaming media broadcasts. The facility also includes 'The Box', a hybrid gallery and projection space, archiving services for film and video, filming and production services, equipment hire and training. For audiences, FACT provides a point of entry into the arts for film, video and new media. For artists, it is a support system without parallel in the UK.