

LEEDS CITY MUSEUM



LOCATION: LEEDS
CLIENT: LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
COMPLETION: 2007
VALUE: £27M
SIZE: 6,000M²
SERVICE: LEAD CONSULTANCY, ARCHITECTURE, CONSERVATION, LANDSCAPE, INTERIORS
SECTOR: ARTS & CULTURE
CONTRACTOR: LAING O'ROURKE
STRUCTURES: BURO HAPPOLD
SERVICES: BURO HAPPOLD
COST CONSULTANT: RIDGE
AWARDS: 2009 CIVIC TRUST AWARDS MENTION
LISTING: GRADE II*



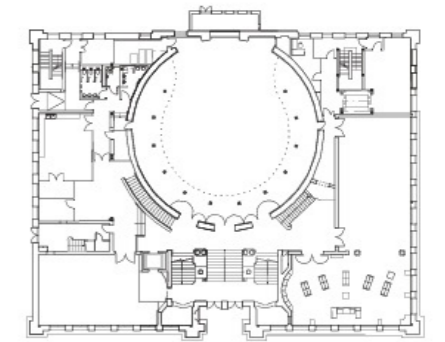
Site plan

Leeds City Museum, located in the 'Cultural Quarter' area around Millennium Square in the centre of the city, is a central hub for Leeds' network of museums and cultural attractions. The Museum is part of a larger scheme which includes the new 'Discovery Centre', a museum collections building located in the Clarence Dock area of Leeds. The Museum is located in the refurbished Grade II* Listed Leeds Institute, an imposing mid-Victorian building designed by Cuthbert Brodrick.

Austin-Smith:Lord prepared proposals for the extensive repair, alteration and restoration of the original building to accommodate a range of state-of-the-art galleries, a museum shop, a café, conference/education suites and back of house facilities.



Section



Ground plan

0 10m

"Austin-Smith:Lord has proved to be imaginative and sensitive."

Martin Gresswell,
Project Development Officer,
Leeds City Council



Austin-Smith:Lord used their conservation experience, working closely with consultants Lloyd Evans Prichard and English Heritage, to carry out the extensive interior refurbishment.

One aspect of this work involved the restoration of the Great Central Arena and incorporation of a multi-media installation. This wonderfully restored grand space now acts as the museum's introductory gallery as well as an impressive venue for banquets, receptions and performances.

Issues relating to sustainability were considered by Austin-Smith:Lord from the outset and many were adopted and implemented. The existing external stone steps to main entrance were re-used and 90% of existing stone paving was lifted, cleaned and re-laid. Internally, a passive heating and ventilation strategy was installed.

Other initiatives included the retention of existing lanterns, use of linoleum instead of vinyl floor coverings and specification of FSC timber and organic timber preservatives throughout.

External works proposals focused on appropriately adapting this important historic building, whilst providing the facilities expected of a contemporary museum.

This included the provision of access for all via the main entrance, originally served by a substantial flight of stone steps. As a result, the building's relationship to Millennium Square was enhanced by this remodelling, achieving a fully accessible entrance and a new café terrace.

This allowed the museum to integrate into its vibrant city centre location, rendering the imposing building more approachable without diluting its civic prominence.