

Project

Riverside Museum

Location

Glasgow, Scotland

Date

2004 / 2011

Client

Glasgow City Council

Status

Built

Size

11,300m²



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The Riverside Museum is derived from its context. The historic development of the Clyde and the city of Glasgow is a unique legacy. Located where the Kelvin joins the Clyde, the museum's design flows from the city to the river; symbolizing a dynamic relationship where the museum is the voice of both, connecting the city to the river and also the transition from one to the other. The museum is situated in very context of its origins, with its design actively encouraging connectivity between the exhibits and the wider environment.

The building, open at opposite ends, has a tunnel-like configuration between the city and the Clyde. However, within this connection between the city and river, the building diverts to create a journey away from its external context into the world of the exhibits. Here, the internal path within the museum becomes a mediator between city and river, which can either be hermetic or porous depending on the exhibition layout. Thus, the museum positions itself symbolically and functionally as open and fluid, engaging its context and content to ensure it is profoundly interlinked with not only Glasgow's history, but also its future. Visitors build up a gradual sense of the external context as they move through the museum from exhibit to exhibit.

The design is a sectional extrusion, open at opposing ends along a diverted linear path. This cross-sectional outline is a responsive gesture to encapsulate a wave or 'pleats'. The outer 'pleats' are enclosed to accommodate support services and the 'black box' exhibits. This leaves the main central space column-free and open, offering greatest flexibility to exhibit the museum's world-class collection.



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Design
Zaha Hadid Architects

Project Director
Jim Heverin

Project Architect
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Project Team
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Acoustics
Buro Happold
(Bath, UK)

Fire Safety
FEDRA
(Glasgow, UK)

Cost Consultants
Capita Symonds

Project Management
Capita Symonds

Zaha Hadid says: "Through architecture, we can investigate future possibilities yet also explore the cultural foundations that have defined the city. The Riverside Museum is a fantastic and truly unique project where the exhibits and building come together at this prominent and historic location on the Clyde to enthuse and inspire all visitors. The design, combining geometric complexity with structural ingenuity and material authenticity, continues Glasgow's rich engineering traditions and will be a part of the city's future as a centre of innovation."



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