

Over the last 30 years, **Glasgow** has been involved in a process of renewal and regeneration following the failure of long-established manufacturing industries, which left behind hundreds of acres of derelict ground, severe unemployment, and civic dignity and resources sorely stretched. The last ten years of this process (2005–2014) have seen architecture's role take a number of different forms.

Glaswegian resurgence

GLASGOW (UK) — TEXT: ANDREW GUEST, ILLUSTRATION: SYLVAIN TEGROEG

TOUR GUIDE

Exploring a city, region, or theme

On the huge, empty sites of former docks, conference centres, museums, and performance venues have been built by big names like Foster and Hadid. In gaps in the city's central Victorian grid, schools and housing have been sensitively inserted by Glasgow-based practices such as Page\Park and jmarchitects. Redundant buildings have been converted into new uses, frequently as studios and galleries for Glasgow's growing creative community, as in the buildings by NORD and Elder & Cannon in the older areas of the city around the Tron.

This guide has been constructed around Glasgow's distinctive subway system – one of the easiest ways to get around the city and to appreciate some of its diversity. Other forms of transport, such as Glasgow's new bike-hire scheme (see www.nextbike.co.uk/en/glasgow), the suburban trains that connect the centre to Greater Glasgow, the (quite

complicated) bus system (see www.spt.co.uk), or the occasional river bus can be used instead of (or in conjunction with) the subway. The route used for this guide follows the subway's one circular line in its counter-clockwise (inner) direction (see www.spt.co.uk/subway).

Buchanan Street

The exit from Buchanan Street subway (also for Queen St rail station) comes up under a glass canopy into the middle of Glasgow's principal shopping street. **Buchanan Gardens (1)** respects the footprint of the old city block that it replaced, in contrast to the ungainly Buchanan Galleries opposite. While primarily dedicated to retail, it incorporates 49 apartments overlooking an impressive roof garden on its upper floors. The block is carefully modulated to disguise its mass, and terminates with a flourish at the key junction with Bath Street.

Like all of the other hotels of this Netherlands-based group, the **citizenM Hotel (2)** in Renfrew Street uses a formula of stacked prefabricated units. With an 'artist facade' by Glasgow-based Alex Dordoy, this sleek, gridded form fits well into Glasgow's functional but dynamic city frame. Further along, at the top of Hope Street, Page\Park have transformed the 1867 **Theatre Royal (3)**, adding a gold-plated, crown-like corner building that provides improved access, foyer, and gathering spaces on four levels, reached by new lifts and a twisting, wine-red stair that has an appropriately theatrical flair.

Cowcaddens

In April 2014, the new **Reid Building (4)** opened directly across Renfrew Street from Charles Rennie Mackintosh's magnificent Glasgow School of Art (see A10 #52). In May 2014, a fire wrecked half of the Mackintosh building. While the glass-clad exterior of the new building cannot quite disguise its oversized form, the interior, with its core of ramped walkways and 'driven voids of light', does provide a light-filled array of working spaces comparable to its venerable neighbour.

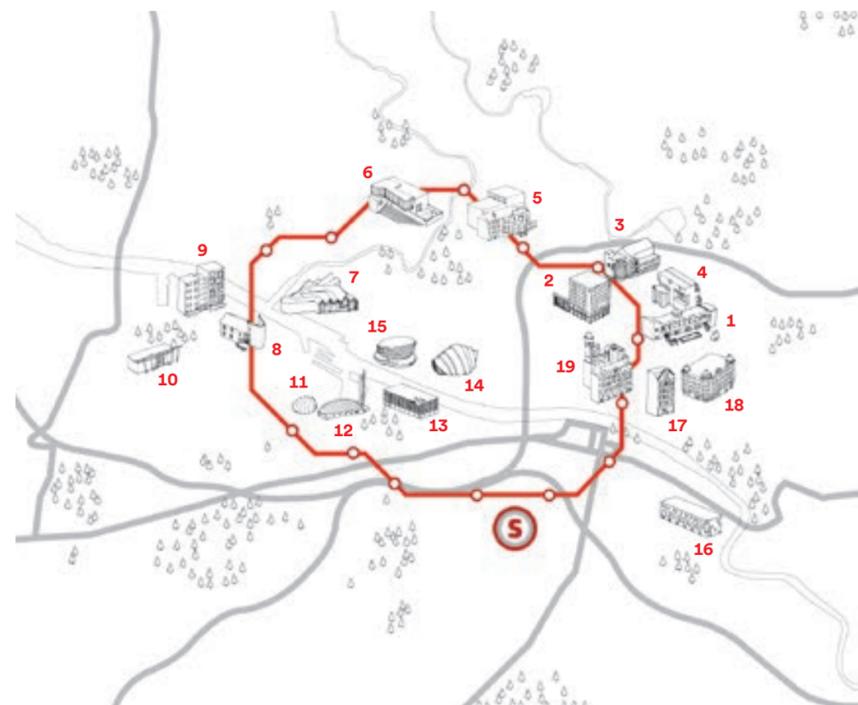
Whilst on Garnethill, it is also worth looking at the Clavius Building (2004) and Junior School of St Aloysius College in Hill Street, two sharp but sensitive additions to this hilltop site by Elder & Cannon.

Kelvin Bridge

Architects in Glasgow have a good record of remodelling existing buildings and maximizing space in courts and back-greens. Behind the sober facade of the Scottish Ballet's former **Ballet School (5)** on 261 West Princes Street, Elder & Cannon removed what was formerly an army shed and built two new four-storey landscaped garden pavilions which, with the remodelled street facade, provide 103 studios for student accommodation.

On the other side of the River Kelvin, Glasgow City Council commissioned jmarchitects to create **Hillhead Primary School (6)** on a gap site feeding into Kelvingrove Park (see A10 #43). A civic-scale block fronts Gibson Street, while the main ▶

'Buildings have been sensitively inserted in gaps in the city's Victorian grid.'



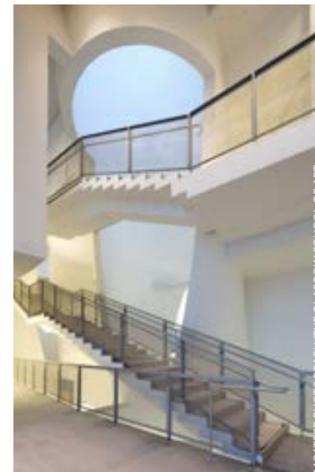
1 BUCHANAN GARDENS (2014)
Architect: Building Design Partnership
Address: Buchanan Street / Bath Street, Glasgow
Info: www.bdp.com



2 CITIZENM HOTEL (2010)
Architects: Concrete Architecture, Keppie
Address: 62 Renfrew St, Glasgow
Info: www.concreteamsterdam.nl, www.keppiedesign.co.uk



3 THEATRE ROYAL (2014)
Architect: Page\Park Architects
Address: 282 Hope Street, Glasgow
Info: www.pagepark.co.uk



4 REID BUILDING (2014)
Architects: Steven Holl Architects, jmarchitects
Address: 164 Renfrew Street, Glasgow
Info: www.stevenholl.com, www.jmarchitects.net



5 THE BALLET SCHOOL (2013)
Architect: Elder & Cannon
Address: 261 West Princes Street, Glasgow
Info: www.elder-cannon.co.uk



6 HILLHEAD PRIMARY (2011)
Architect: jmarchitects
Address: 110 Otago Street, Glasgow
Info: www.jmarchitects.net



7 RIVERSIDE MUSEUM (2012)
Architect: Zaha Hadid Architects
Address: 100 Pointhouse Place, Glasgow
Info: www.zaha-hadid.com



8 BIELD HOUSING ASSOCIATION (2011)
Architect: Austin-Smith:Lord
Address: 10 Pearce Street, Glasgow
Info: www.austinsmithlord.com



9 GOLSPIE STREET HOUSING (2012)
Architect: DO Architecture
Address: 7–21 Golspie Street / 44–48 Shaw Street, Glasgow
Info: www.do-architecture.co.uk



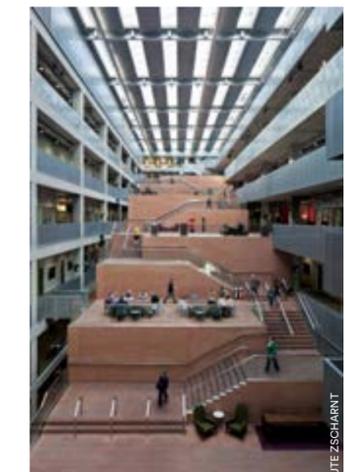
10 SCOTTISH EPILEPSY CENTRE (2013)
Architect: Anderson Bell + Christie
Address: 20 Saint Kenneth Drive, Glasgow
Info: www.andersonbellchristie.com



11 GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE (2001)
Architect: Building Design Partnership
Address: 50 Pacific Quay, Glasgow
Info: www.bdp.com, www.glasgowsciencecentre.org



12 GLASGOW TOWER (2001)
Architects: Building Design Partnership, Richard Horden Associates
Address: 50 Pacific Quay, Glasgow
Info: www.bdp.com, www.hcla.co.uk



13 BBC SCOTLAND (2007)
Architects: David Chipperfield, Keppie
Address: 40 Pacific Quay, Glasgow
Info: www.davidchipperfield.co.uk, www.keppiedesign.co.uk



14 CLYDE AUDITORIUM (1997)
Architect: Foster + Partners
Address: Finnieston Street, Glasgow
Info: www.fosterandpartners.com



15 SSE HYDRO (2013)
Architect: Foster + Partners
Address: Exhibition Way, Glasgow
Info: www.fosterandpartners.com



16 QUEEN ELIZABETH GARDENS (2010)
Architect: Anderson Bell + Christie
Address: Rutherglen Road, Glasgow
Info: www.andersonbellchristie.com



17 TRONGATE 103 (2009)
Architect: Elder & Cannon
Address: 103 Trongate, Glasgow
Info: www.elder-cannon.co.uk



18 WASPS SOUTH BLOCK (2013)
Architect: NORD Architecture
Address: 50–68 Osborne Street, Glasgow
Info: www.nordarchitecture.com



19 THE LIGHTHOUSE (1999)
Architect: Page\Park Architects
Address: 11 Mitchell Lane, Glasgow
Info: www.pagepark.co.uk

(Glaswegian resurgence)

educational block extends behind into the park, and the two are connected by a glass-walled bridge.

While at Kelvin Bridge, go past the offices of architects Anderson Bell+Christie in a converted ground-floor shop at 382 Great Western Road, and next door the showroom of Timorous Beasties, Glasgow's successful and irreverent textile designers.

Partick

The **Riverside Museum (7)** sits on a derelict isolated site on the north side of the river where the Kelvin comes out into the Clyde. This swirling, shiny shed encloses a big space to house the museum's transport and industrial collections. The facade to the river cuts through the section in a strikingly zigzag profile. (Transport advice: The Riverside Museum can also be reached by a fifteen-minute walk, or cycle, along the river from the group of buildings in the area of old docks between here and the centre of the city [see Cessnock below] – or vice-versa.)

Govan

Govan was one of the principal shipbuilding areas of Glasgow, and has retained many buildings that still speak of a wealthy and cultured past. Try and see also the remarkable 10th-century carved stones in the Parish Church. In Pearce Street, Austin Smith Lord have inserted an elegant block of social housing for the **Bield Housing Association (8)**, its seven storeys contained within a simple brick grid of nine boxes on the exposed north side, leaving the facades facing the older buildings more restrained. A more dramatic approach at infill (also for social housing) can be seen in **Golspie Street (9)** where DO Architecture connected pre-existing four-storey stone tenements with a five-to-six-storey block alternating brick with pavilions clad in black rain-screen cladding, enlivened by brightly coloured pods expressing extra interior space (see A10 #46).

A short walk across Elder Park, where shipyard workers in their thousands relaxed under statues of their employers, Mr and Mrs Elder, leads to St Kenneth Drive. Behind the retained railings of a former primary school, the William Quarrier charity opened the **Scottish Epilepsy Centre (10)** in 2013. Part of a deliberate attempt to be upfront about epilepsy, the two-storey building at the front of the site has a prominent, over-sailing roof supported on six props and a glass entrance wall designed by Paula Thompson, the images and layers inspired by neural activity and EEG montage patterns. The practical assessment functions of the centre take place in a single-storey unit at the back of the site.

Cessnock

This group of buildings on both sides of the River Clyde can be reached either from the Riverside Museum (see above) or by train to Exhibition Centre from the centre of Glasgow. The walk from Cessnock subway station takes you past Festival Park (entrance on Lorne Street), created from the remains of the 1988 Glasgow Garden Festival, and built on the former Prince's Dock, one of the first milestones in the regeneration of Glasgow.

The first permanent structure on this site was the cluster of two simple titanium-clad forms that make up the **Glasgow Science Centre (11)**. One is a long form like a ship's hull on its side that contains a four-level exhibition and interpretation centre; the other, a circular form housing a cinema, now separately managed as a Cineworld IMAX. Onto this complex was grafted the **Glasgow Tower (12)**, a fully rotating, 127-metre-high steel tower, frequently closed due to malfunctioning but currently due to be open in the summer months.

Development on this side of the river (now known as Pacific Quay) continues with hotels, offices, and apartments. The most distinguished of the recent arrivals is the new HQ building for **BBC Scotland (13)**. A double-height public foyer and six

floors of offices and digital broadcasting spaces are barely concealed in an elegant, double-skinned glass box, its roof studded with satellite dishes and antennae. The core of the building consists of a stepped structure of red sandstone that both links the building's layers and provides platforms for informal meetings and broadcast events.

Two new pedestrian bridges connect Pacific Quay to the north side of the river: the first, a link between the Garden Festival and the dreary Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), built on the site of the Queen's Dock in 1985; the second was added in 2000. Since 1985, the SECC has enlarged its capacity for exhibitions, conferences, and events with two equally functional but slightly more interesting buildings, both designed by Foster + Partners: in 1997, the 3000-seat **Clyde Auditorium (14)**, now known as the 'Armadillo' for its eight overlapping aluminium shell roofs, and the **Scottish National Arena (15)** in 2013, now known by the name of its sponsor, the SSE Hydro, a vast, muffin-shaped and plastic-walled circular arena that can seat 13,000 people for a sporting event or concert. Note that there is no admittance to these two buildings unless you are attending an event. (Transport advice: From the Pacific Quay/SECC some might prefer to return to the Glasgow's centre by train from Exhibition Centre, or by walking [35 min.] or cycling [9 min.] along the river. The subway can be rejoined at St Enoch.)

Bridge Street

Continuing from Cessnock on the Inner Circle of the subway leads to Bridge Street, in the heart of the Gorbals: infamous as an area of overcrowded housing in the 19th century, and equally infamous for the unpopularity of the 20th-century tower block housing that replaced this. Since 1990, the area has been comprehensively rebuilt under the much-praised Crown Street Regeneration Project, to a masterplan drawn up by CZWG Architects, and with a variety of architects commissioned to design different parts of the scheme. Its final phase, **Queen Elizabeth Gardens (16)**, a block of 85 mixed-tenure flats on Rutherglen Road and Waddell Street, is relaxed in its simplicity but still freshly original, the simple, brick-clad timber structure punctuated by coloured shutters.

St Enoch

Skirting the crude St Enoch Shopping Centre built on the site of the 1876 St Enoch Station and Hotel, you reach the Trongate, now one of the key locations in Glasgow's role as a centre of design and the visual arts. As the older commercial tenants moved out of the area, studios and galleries were attracted to the good spaces and low rents – a move that came to be positively encouraged by the City Council. **Trongate 103 (17)** is the most visible part of this development. The remodelling of an entire city block created a centre for nine separate arts organizations – studios, workshops, galleries, offices, and a café-gallery. Most were based in the previous building, but without any overt connection or shared facilities.

NORD Architecture have recently remodelled the **South Block (18)** behind Trongate 103 at 50–68 Osborne Street as a 4645 m² base for artists' studios and small creative practices. On the same street, one of Glasgow's leading art galleries, The Modern Institute, occupies two former commercial premises: one at 14–20 Osborne Street converted by RMJM in 2010, the other at Aird's Lane, converted initially for their own use by NORD Architecture.

To conclude the tour, take a short walk to **The Lighthouse (19)**, Scotland's Centre for Design and Architecture. Opened for Glasgow UK City of Architecture and Design in 1999, it involved the brilliant conversion of Mackintosh's six-level Glasgow Herald building of 1895 by Page\Park. Despite having lost some of its edge, it is still a venue for a variety of exhibitions about architecture and design, a centre dedicated to Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and a shop and café, of course. ◀

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

EUROVISION: ALBANIA

After centuries of isolation, followed by suppression under a harsh communist dictatorship, Albania has made great strides in opening up to modernization and freedom. As a young but dynamic society, cultural diversity has become a paradigm of creativity and inspiration for change. Architecture is being used as a powerful tool throughout, expressive of political sentiments. Tirana, the largest city and capital, has transformed into a supraregional metropolis, the result of a series of experiments – an urban laboratory for development and architectural aesthetics.



↑ Pyramid Square in Tirana

DEBUT

Studio MAKs recently realized a small single-family house in an old industrial harbour area in Deventer (NL). Injecting efficiency and comfort, the architects have a light-filled, comfortable dwelling that demonstrates an imaginative use of every square centimetre.



↑ Deventer House by Studio MAKs

TOUR GUIDE

From May to October 2015, Milan will be the centre of the world. Or at least, this is what the organizers of the World Expo hope to achieve. The statistics are impressive: 140 participating countries, 1.1 million m² of exhibition area, 20 million expected visitors, and a massive economic investment from the Italian government, estimated at 1.3 billion euros. Despite all the delays and corruption issues which emerged during construction, this is the biggest chance for Italian architecture to rise again from the economic crisis. A10 correspondent Zaira Magliozzi will select fifteen pavilions in the Expo village worth a visit.



↑ UK Pavilion by Wolfgang Buttress, Tristan Simmonds, BDP

SECTION

Interiors

...and much more. A10 #64 issue will be published 1 July 2015.