

Tapestry

Scheme address: 1 Canal Reach, Kings Cross, N1C

Architect: Niall McLaughlin Architects

Client/Landowner: Argent LLP

Scheme description: The Tapestry building is located on the western edge of the new development at King's Cross. At ground level it contains an energy centre, multi-use games area, retail café unit and entrances to residential cores. Above, a multi-storey car park within and apartments with generous balconies arranged around the perimeter taking advantage of sunlight and extraordinary views. At 7th floor level, 2 and 3-storey town houses address a rooftop garden square. Accommodating the St Paul's viewing corridor from Parliament Hill, the southern section of the building is 9-storeys rising to 14-storeys to the north.

The facades are conceived as an architectural framework, unifying the many uses and allowing for subtle variations to respond to the rich context. The terracotta-red cladding is made from lightweight glass reinforced concrete panels to minimise the imposed load on the Thameslink tunnels below.

The judges' view:

The building is the best so far on the Kings Cross estate and its elevations are the most special and accomplished of the 2017 awards – "An elevation of that scale, dealt with in relief, is so rare in London". The building answers a unique set of requirements and the remarkable conjunction of uses makes the achievement of facades all the more impressive; there is just the right amount of shifting and change to articulate the elevations. The building is carefully researched and works at every scale so that the closer you get the more you discover. Credit should also go to the landscape design of the verdant roof garden by Dan Pearson Studio.



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