

THE CUBE (AREA 5)

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If you approach central Birmingham on a canal, chances are that one of the first landmarks you will see is the Cube. Also known as 'the plus sign building' to bright six-year-olds. It was designed by Ken Shuttleworth (a Brummie), better known as contributing to the Gherkin. His inspiration for the Cube was Birmingham's industrial and jewellery heritage. It looks like an ornate jewellery box.

It was the final phase of the Mailbox redevelopment, finished in 2010. There were massive construction challenges due its location next to the canal and unstable ground. The building is hollow, partly to help to alleviate the structural problems posed by the site.

The Cube houses offices, a hotel, private flats, bars and restaurants. It's also got the biggest fully automated underground car park in the UK.

You can see it from are most of Broad Street, the Alexander Theatre and Victoria Square. Take a look inside and you will see bronze statues by local street artist Temper.

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28th July 2023