

PAUL BARTLETT

This curved building, wrapped around the corner of Moor Street and Park Street, is probably Birmingham's most iconic modern architecture and a major contributor to its regeneration. Its lack of straight lines singles it out as a landmark compared with most other buildings. Unveiled in 2003, its exterior attracted international attention before it was even opened. Although physically integrated with the Bullring Shopping Centre, its distinct design sets it apart.

Designed by Amanda Levete and Jan Kaplicky of Future Systems, it lives up to their aspiration to be visually striking and architecturally innovative. It challenges traditional preconceptions of space, yet is highly functional. Combining inspiration from technology and nature, its curves and 15,000 circular shiny anodised aluminium discs have been likened to a pregnant Dalek, space fungus, a curvaceous caterpillar, or an armadillo.

It is also described as the biggest piece of art work Birmingham has ever seen, and a creative playground. Therefore I enjoyed photographing what for me is an abundance of ambiguous body forms amalgamated with futuristic science fiction, where each section is instantly recognisable as a part of the same building because of its circular discs.
