ROTUNDA SQUARE (AREA C)

SIMON FELTON

Rotunda Square is the name of the junction of High Street and New Street marking the entrance to the Bullring shopping centre. It takes its name from the cylindrical Rotunda building, a residential conversion of a former office block, which towers above the space. The node meets Lynch's definition of node as a junction and convergence of paths. There is also literally movement with the number of shoppers visiting the shopping centre and the concentrations of shops that draw visitors to the centre.

The square is home to an artwork comprised of three light wands which act as focal point in the space and are designed to animate the square through wind induced movement (Sculptural Light Wands | Art UK). Nearby, but tucked closer to the Bullring shopping centre itself is Laurence Broderick's wonderful 6 tonne bronze bull which has become an iconic attraction mirrored recently by the bull that sits in New Street Station's atrium from the Commonwealth Games 2022 opening ceremony.

The node is animated by the convergence of paths that enable pedestrians to travel across the square on to Moor Street Station or New Street Station as well as travelling down the Central Street to St Martins in the Bullring parish church. The latter becomes a space for activity and events with the Birmingham Weekender (Birmingham Weekender welcomes 125,000 visitors to free annual festival (whatsonlive.co.uk)) or, more recently, protests.

© Simon Felton

7th December 2023