

Foster and Partners

The Practice

Foster and Partners is an international architecture and design practice led by Lord Foster and four partners - Spencer de Grey, David Nelson, Ken Shuttleworth, and Graham Phillips. Norman Foster's philosophy of integration can be seen in the way the practice's London design studio works; it is essentially one large open space, shared equally by everyone, and free of subdivisions to encourage good communication between the many people who work there.

The practice's projects range in scale from Hong Kong's new airport - the largest construction project in the world - to its smallest commission, a door handle for Fusital. The scope of its work includes masterplans for cities, the design of buildings, interior design, product design, graphics and exhibitions. These can be found throughout the world, from the United Kingdom and Europe to the United States, Hong Kong, Japan, Saudi Arabia and Australia.

Principal projects since the practice's inception in 1967 include: the Willis Faber and Dumas head office, Ipswich; the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich; the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Headquarters, Hong Kong; the Third London Airport, Stansted; the Carre d'Art, Nimes; the Commerzbank Headquarters, Frankfurt; the Great Court at the British Museum, London; the New German Parliament, Reichstag, Berlin; and the Millennium Bridge, London.

The central concern of the practice is design excellence, achieved through active collaboration with clients and specialists - from structural and environmental engineers to cost consultants. Cost management is of great importance - all projects have been built within their respective budgets, sometimes for considerably less - and many of the practice's award-winning projects have resulted from tough commercial circumstances. A wide range of supporting skills underpins the work of the practice, including modelmaking, CAD drawing and visualization, and in-house audio-visual, photographic and printing systems.

Foster and Partners has received more than 190 awards and citations for design excellence, and won 50 national and international design competitions. Lord Foster was appointed by the Queen to the Order of Merit as a Royal Designer for Industry, a Fellow of the Chartered Society of Designers, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and a Gold Medalist of both the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the American Institute of Architects. In 1999 he became the 21st Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate. The practice has been awarded the Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

