Liverpool Arena & Conference Centre
by WilkinsonEyre

WilkinsonEyre was chosen by Liverpool City Council to transform Liverpool’s King’s Waterfront after winning an international design competition.

Forming a focal point for the city’s European Capital of Culture celebrations during 2008, these new civic buildings provide a 10,000 seat multi-purpose arena, a conference centre incorporating a 1,350 seat auditorium, and an 7,500m² exhibition facility, supported by a major new public piazza, a 1,600 space multi-storey car park and 96 residential units.

The brief for this high profile project demanded architectural design of the highest quality, due to its historic setting next to the Albert Dock and adjacent to the World Heritage Site on the Mersey riverfront. The development has an iconic status, defining Liverpool’s regenerated waterfront with a landmark structure. The team therefore created architecture that expresses the development’s varied functions as a series of visually unified forms, relating to a series of exciting new public spaces rich in art and activity.

The arena – the first part of the building to be completed – was opened to the public in January 2008, with ex-Beatle Ringo Starr performing as part of the launch event for Liverpool’s European Capital of Culture Year.