

HARBOURSIDE CENTRE

BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM, 1997–1998

Client

The Harbourside Centre Ltd.

Architect

Behnisch & Behnisch

Competition

1996, 1st prize

Planning and construction

1997–1998

(not realized)

Gross

20.000 m²

Address

Waterfront square /

Anchor square

Bristol

United Kingdom

The planned Bristol Harbourside Centre consists of a concert hall with 2000 seats, a smaller hall for dance and ballet events with 500 seats, a rehearsal room, a public foyer and restaurants. Viewed from the city center, the site is hidden by the historic warehouses at the pier. However, the size and the cultural importance of the new building require it to overtop the surrounding buildings, to overhang into the inner harbor and thus to leave the restrictions of the site and step out of the shadow of the existing buildings. Single elements of the room design meet the needs of this exposed location.

The outsourcing of both, the foyer and the restaurant, out of the main building addresses the importance of the site and the expected scenery. Furthermore, this provides attractive

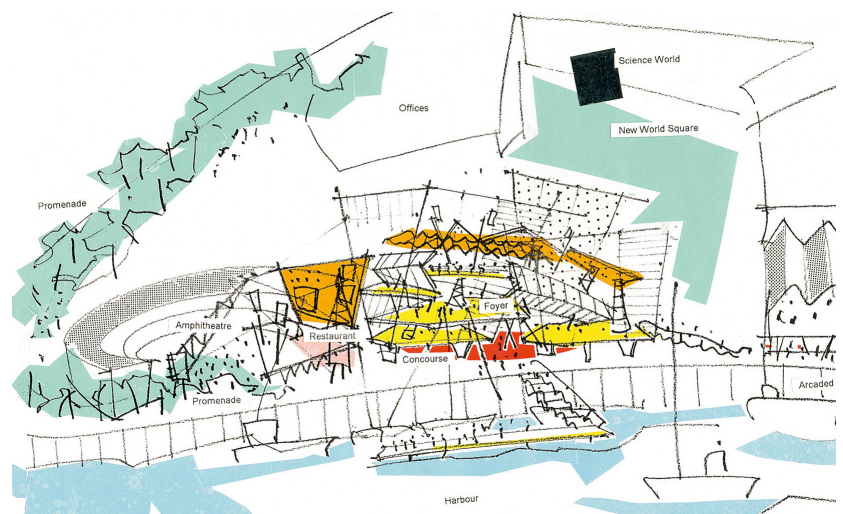
visual axes and various possibilities on a relatively modest dimensioned property. Looking from the higher situated university on the new harbor site, shape and building are clearly noticeable. Through the concise, plastically form of the Harbourside Centre, the overall image achieves an individual profile. As an extension of the ensemble of cultural institutions in the heart of the city, the Harbourside Centre reacts flexibly to the direct existing buildings. Due to the complexity of its outside, the center presents itself in diversifying sizes, depending on the point of view. It has three different views which each adapt the building to the changing surrounding.

From the south and the east, the building appears to be in bigger distance. Scale, composition and effects of light refraction focus the view



– the combination of transparency, depth, light, color, activity and tension results in an image of exceptional attractiveness. Being tough during day time and filled of pictures of the enlightened foyer full of visitors at night, the concert hall illuminates and enlivens the harbor.

Due to financial shortage of the English lottery-fond, with which the building should have been realized, the project has been stopped in 1999 after the detailed planning phase.



Axonometric view

