

Foster + Partners Information

The company:

- Foster + Partners is an international studio for architecture, planning, engineering and design
- Started as Foster Associates in 1967
- Led by its founder and chairman, Lord Foster
- Work ranges in scale from the largest single building on the planet, Beijing International airport, to its smallest commission, a range of door furniture.
- The scope of its work includes masterplans for cities, the design of buildings, interior and product design.
- Projects can be found on seven continents throughout the world
- F+P have worked in 80 different countries
- Foster + Partners employs more than 1100 staff, almost 1000 are based in the London office
- Other offices: New York, Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Madrid and Buenos Aires.
- We also have a presence in another 12 cities. (Brazil, Cupertino, Edinburgh, France, Glasgow, Kuala Lumpur, Kuwait, Munich, Riyadh, Singapore, Sweden, Vietnam).
- Staff speak over 45 different languages
- 8 design groups- none of which specialise in building types or geographical location
- More than 600 awards received
- F+P has won more than 120 national and international competitions
- Three model shops in London
- Materials research library
- Technical library
- Book library with over 13,000 books

Specialist teams include:

- Structural engineering
- Mechanical engineering
- Electrical engineering
- Public health engineering
- Urban design
- Project management
- Interior Design
- Workplace consultancy
- Industrial Design
- Specialist modelling group
- Applied research and development

Riverside:

- Riverside is a pioneering example of a site that combines living and working in one location.
- The practice moved into Riverside in February 1990
- The site previously existed only as a scene of urban dereliction.
- The strategy for its renewal involved creating a new network of pedestrian routes and the rehabilitation of the adjacent dock.
- Albion Riverside (completed in 2003), Albion Wharf (completed in 2004) and 7-11 Hester Road are also all Foster + Partners projects.

Main Studio:

- The building has eight storeys
- Foster and Partners' studio occupies the lower levels
- 30 apartments located on the upper floors
- The office space is 60m long, 24m deep and 6.5m high with mezzanine along core edge.
- Underneath the mezzanine is an extensive library and a model shop, which is enclosed behind glass panels.
- There are 13 specially designed desks in the main studio, each 11 metres long at right angles to glazed wall to allow everyone a view.
- The office has a fabric ceiling, minimal finishes, concrete, glass and stone.

“Everyone in the studio, whatever their job description, has a place at one of the long workbenches; the arrangement is very fluid with no division between design and production. Open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the building is animated by its young and cosmopolitan staff (the average age is about thirty and as many languages are spoken). Most offices keep visitors at arm’s length. The Foster studio, by contrast, is completely open. Visitors can enjoy the bar – the social focus of the office – while meetings, whether formal or informal, occur in the midst of the creative process itself.”