



Above: Winter Garden roof profile with parabolic structure in larch



**Sheffield City Council**  
 1,570 m<sup>2</sup>  
 £5.5 million  
 1996-2002  
 RIBA Award for Architecture  
 2003, Royal Fine Art  
 Commission Jeu d'Esprit  
 Award 2003, Wood Award  
 finalist 2003.

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WINTER GARDEN, SHEFFIELD

“Rooted, in part, in the majestic shopping and promenading galleries threaded through Milan and Naples in the late 19th century, Sheffield’s Winter Garden and Millennium Galleries are a generous urban ideal realised in deft modern design by the architects Pringle Richards Sharratt. The galleries bring together clear-spirited, clean-cut architecture with high-quality art of every sort, while the Winter Garden is a delightfully Gothic-spirited design that soars above the governing roofline. Here is the sort of covered meeting place British cities have been lacking for so long. This brave and popular new complex of permeable, public city centre buildings may prove to be a template for town and city centres elsewhere in Britain, cold or hot, north or south.”  
 The Guardian – Jonathan Glancey

The Winter Garden was the second phase of the Heart of the City project, following the Millennium Galleries. The building was conceived as a covered galleria, an integral part of the network of pedestrian streets which together with the Millennium Galleries forms a pedestrian hub linking the Civic, Arts and University quarters of Sheffield – a cultural route through to the city centre.

The soaring arches and curved glass roof of the exotically planted Winter Garden is a skilful blend of the traditions of glass-roofed public spaces established in the C19 by glasshouses, shopping arcades and railway stations. Spanning a space 70m long by 22m wide (230 ft x 72 ft) its frame is formed from twenty-one parabolic arches of laminated strips of untreated larch, which are gradually weathering to a silvery grey. Slender timber purlins

and glazing bars create a fine framework between the arches to hold over 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of glass. The primary arches are supported at ground level on sculptural steel cradles, while the intermediate arches finish at wall height and sit on elegant wooden raking struts. From the arches at each end, which lean outward to create canopies over the street entrances, they step up to the 22m high central section. This will allow the taller species of trees, including Norfolk Island Pine and Eucalyptus, to reach an impressive maturity, creating a luxuriant canopy above the paving and planting below.

Pevsner Architectural Guide to Sheffield  
 By Ruth Harman and John Minnis published by  
 Yale University Press



Left: 70 metre long Winter Garden seen across the Peace Gardens  
Below: canopy over Peace Gardens entrance



Left: Tudor Square façade

Right: original planting from 2002 is now well established and flourishing in the Winter Garden environment

