

# A slow start for the new landmarks

The legacy of the recession means 2014 will be about beginnings rather than completions, says **Ellis Woodman**

As the UK economy finally begins to right itself after five difficult years, the next 12 months should see many long-delayed projects breaking ground. Completions, however, are another matter. Not many major buildings are set to open in the UK in 2014; and of those that will, almost all are to be found in London.

Exceptions include Steven Holl's expansion of Glasgow School of Art, and Reiach & Hall's Bannockburn visitor centre — both set to open on important sites of Scottish identity in a year when the union will be contested.

Meanwhile Manchester will see two cultural projects complete in September: MUMA's Whitworth Gallery extension and Mecanoo's home for the Cornerhouse and Library Theatre Company. Conceived as the centrepiece of the city's First Street development, the latter will take its place alongside new offices and a hotel by Ian Simpson Architects.

## London calling

In Liverpool the main event is the reopening of the Everyman Theatre after a £28 million remodelling by Haworth Tompkins — but otherwise one has to look to the capital for major openings. **Among the first will be O'Donnell & Tuomey's LSE Student Centre.** The Dublin-based practice has been shortlisted four times for the Stirling Prize. It has yet to win but its first new-build project in the UK has to be a strong contender for next year's award.

Rogers Stirk Harbour has a string of projects scheduled for completion in London, including riverside housing in Battersea, 122 Leadenhall Street (aka the Cheesegrater) and the World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre at the British Museum.

**O'Donnell & Tuomey's first UK new-build has to be a strong contender for the next Stirling Prize**

Budgeted at £135 million, this last scheme is just one of a number of expansions currently being conducted by London's major cultural institutions.

Amanda Levete's work at the V&A and Herzog & de Meuron's at Tate Modern are both a couple of years from completion but 2014 should see the National Theatre open its new workshop extension, the first phase of a £35 million remodelling of Denys Lasdun's building conceived by Haworth Tompkins.

## All the world's a stage

Theatre-goers can also look forward to the opening of the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at the nearby Globe Theatre. Designed by Allies & Morrison on the basis of a drawing by Inigo Jones, the venue will seat 340 people and be lit only by candles. Supplementing the adjacent outdoor theatre in the round, the venue will allow the Globe to stage productions in winter months for the first time.

Damien Hirst is also in the process of building a completely new cultural institution, a gallery for the display of his own collection which has been designed by Caruso St John. Incorporating three listed buildings, the project extends down the entire length of Newport Street in Vauxhall and will provide a larger display area than the Whitechapel Gallery.

## No place like homes

The resilience of the high-end housing market over the course of the downturn is reflected in a number of completions. Niall McLaughlin and dRMM will both finish residential developments at King's Cross Central, while David Chipperfield is set to complete De Vere Gardens, a £600 million development in Kensington for the Candy Brothers.

Finally, 2014 should be the year when Peter Salter's extraordinary Walmer Road development for Baylight is finally realised. The scheme has been close to a decade in development but work on the architect's first building in his home country is scheduled to finish in the spring.



Clockwise from top left: Caruso St John's Newport Street Gallery, Vauxhall; Peter Salter; the soon-to-complete Cheesegrater; the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse; Steven Holl on site in Glasgow.