

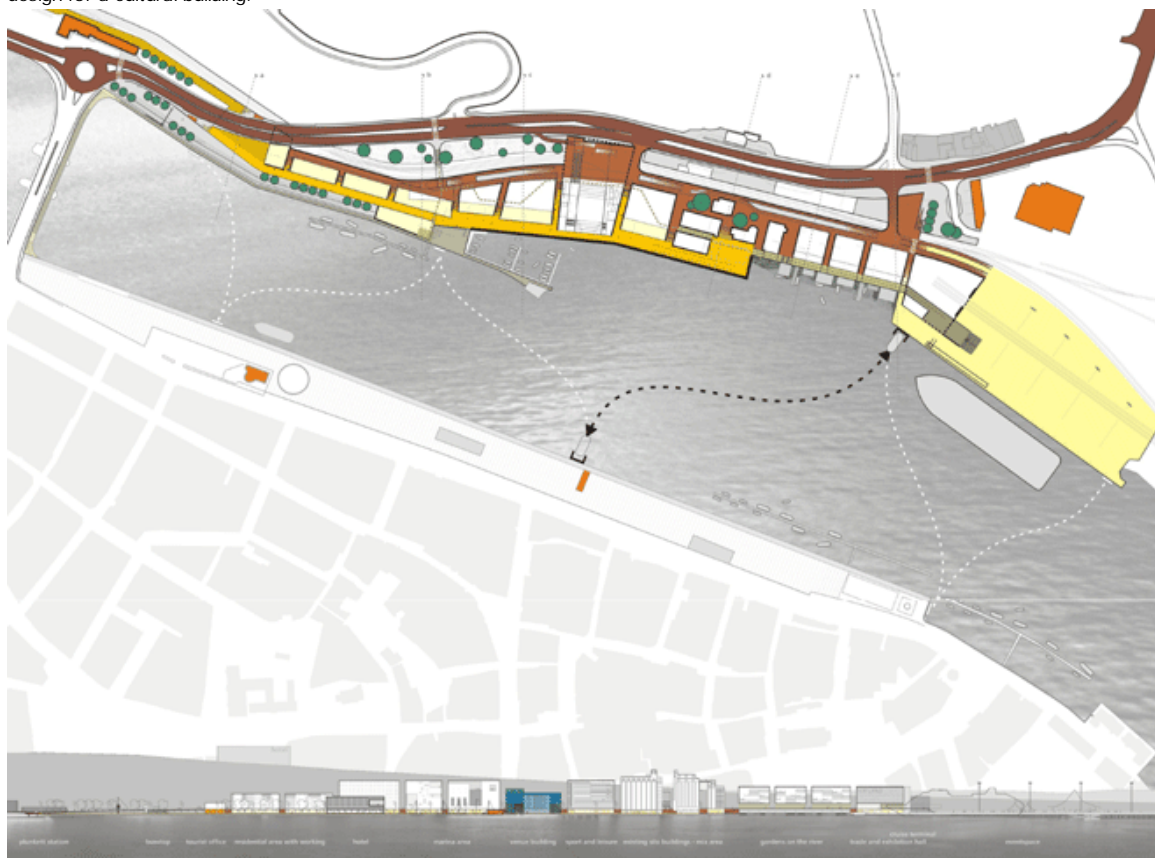
## 057 Waterford North Quays PRINT



<b>Location</b>	Waterford
<b>Commissioner</b>	Must
<b>Team</b>	Must with K2 architects
<b>Size</b>	-
<b>Year of design</b>	2002
<b>Year of construction</b>	-
<b>Product</b>	Urban design

The Irish town of Waterford lies on the south bank of the river Suir, but will be colonising the opposite bank over the next 20 years or so. The industrial north bank will soon be transformed into a second waterfront. An international design competition was held for the stretch of riverbank directly opposite the historic town centre. The design brief contained two elements: a master plan for regenerating the north bank and an architectural design for a cultural building.

Working with architects K2, Must drew up a plan for the regeneration of the north bank of Waterford. The plan displays an interesting combination of a flexible masterplan with different ground levels and a flexible cultural building with adjustable floor levels.



The design for the north bank embraces the river. It consists of a framework that draws together external forces to generate a dynamic urban environment along the river. The prime element in this framework is a series of five lines that regulate movement and access to the location. Each line has its own character arising from the speed of movement, scale and position, both in relation to the river and the ground level. The regional road lies on the highest point, at the foot of the hills. An access deck high above the quay crosses the railway line, creating space for parking underneath. The quayside path is reserved for pedestrians and gives direct access to the nearby station. The path along the marina connects the site via the existing bridge to the

town centre. Finally, an internal route links together all the building volumes and guarantees a minimum level of public access. Criss-cross paths, the bustle of busy people and the different transport speeds generate lively public spaces along the north bank with different intensities of use, functions and appearance. In total there are six places, each with its own distinctive character, function and significance. For example, there is a large cultural or events square that makes use of the existing quayside infrastructure. But there is also an intimate water square squeezed between two silos, and a little further on is a bustling embarkation point for the ferry to the town centre.

## See also

### PRODUCTS

Urban design

### DICTIONARY

Love

Meeting places

Restructuring

Water

### LOCATIONS

Waterford

Ireland



The development programmes for the blocks relate to the meanings of the lines. Offices and industrial companies are located near the entrance route. Trade and commercial uses line the internal route and the quayside. Housing development will stretch along the full length of the quayside, with views over the river. The other elements in the plan are a few landmark developments where the lines intersect. A tourist office near the station and the bridge form the entrance to the town and the site and a hotel stands at the head of the promenade along the marina. Many of the routes in the area come together around the old silos, making them especially suitable for a broad mix of facilities and businesses. To guarantee movement along the full length of the quayside, the cruise terminal/exhibition centre is located on the farthest point of the site. The cultural complex is located in the heart of the site where most lines in the framework meet..



The idea behind the cultural complex, developed by K2, is based on the link between Culture and culture: the special and the everyday. The lines in the urban plan are blended in the building to form interiors designed for maximum flexibility: car, quayside and event are fully integrated. The auditorium is the heart of the building. It is a large flexible space of three levels with a movable floor and can be turned into a theatre, an arena or a forum directly opening onto the quayside, depending on the event. The hall is divided from the quayside by an enormous glass façade. When the curtains are open, the public is treated to a panoramic view over the medieval heart of Waterford.

