

Foster the head
architect for the
design.

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Foster and Partner is a British international studio for integrated design and architecture, with its headquarters being in London. The practice which is led by its chairman and founder, Norman Foster, has constructed many famous buildings all over the world with glass-and-steel being its key material. The practice was established in 1967 by Norman Foster as Foster Associates shortly after he left Team 4. The firm was renamed again in 1992 as Sir Norman Foster and Partner Ltd and then shortened to Foster and Partner Ltd in 1999, to reflect more accurately the influences of other new architects that joined the company.

A private equity company called 3i took a stake in practice in the year 2007, which was bought back by the firm in June 2014 to become completely owned by the 140 partners at the firm. Norman Foster born in Manchester in 1935 graduated from the Manchester University School of Architecture and City Planning. In the year 1961 joined Yale University by winning the Henry Fellowship from where he achieved his master's Degree in Architecture. (BlogSpot, 2008).

Whilst studying at Yale University Foster met Richard Rogers and the both became a part of the architecture world's elite. Team 4 was created after graduating from Yale university together with Richard and Su Rogers, Wendy Cheesman (his future wife) and her sister Georgina Wolton. In 1967 Norman Foster broke off on his own to form his own firm called Foster Associates which later became Foster and Partner. (Norman Foster, Biography. com, 2016). Foster's career as an architect really escalated after he opened his own firm where he worked with other professional architects.

1970 was the year when Foster had his big break where he designed the Willis Faber & Dumas headquarter located in Ipswich. It was a low-rise building which had a nature-oriented interior, together with the use of escalators and contoured facades and idyllic making it an innovative design. In 70s till mid 80s Foster and his team was working on headquarter for the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation which was a modern three-towered edifice, whilst in 90s the architect and his firm was seen working on the Reichstag in Berlin where they were rebuilding the glass dome after the East and West Germany's unification.

Foster also contributed to the iconic skyline of New York with his design of Hearst Tower which is a 44-story high skyscraper with a triangulated façade. (Norman Foster, Biography.com, 2016). Another senior architect that worked on The Sage project was Spencer de Grey. He was the head architect for the design. Spencer de Grey graduated from Cambridge university, studied under Sir Leslie Martin who was a leading purveyor of the International Style which defined the early to mid 20th century architecture style. De Grey has been involved in many projects in the education sector and has earned a lot of respect in the field. Projects in his early career involves working for the London Borough of Merton, where he was responsible to build one of the first middle schools in England.

Even after joining the team Foster Associates in 1973 he continued his work in education sector and worked on the Palmerston Special school in Liverpool. (Cambridge University, Biography). Currently de Grey has been responsible for many projects in the US which includes the new Winspear Opera House in Dallas, the new Boston Museum of Arts and the National Portrait Gallery

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courtyard at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC which is also a competition winning scheme.

He is also the Chairman of the Building Centre Trust, the architecture advisor for the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew and the Chairman of the School of Architecture Advisory Board at Cambridge University. In 1997 in Queen's Birthday Honours he was made a CBE and also was elected as a Royal Academician in December 2008. (Cambridge University, Biography).

Through the designs of the projects the practice has had till now, you can tell that a parallel example of modernity and traditional can be harmonized in architecture is shown by Norman Foster and his team. Norman Foster insists that the way he uses the modern technology and the facilities is no different to what innovating architects have been using throughout the architecture history. Foster's oft repeated and explicit references to historical examples shows that he is as ready to adapt and learn the past projects as he is to build for the future.

(Architecture and Identity, 2000).