

The Briggait is a beautiful Grade A listed building in Glasgow's medieval quarter, the Merchant City. Originally built in 1873, the Briggait was the city's fish market for over 100 years. It is now a stunning home to over 80 visual artists and cultural organisations working in dance, theatre, circus, street arts, visual arts and design.

A brief history

One of Glasgow's most enduring and endearing landmarks, The Briggait has been a part of the River Clyde skyline since the Nineteenth Century.

A city funded public building; the fish market was designed by architects Clarke and Bell and opened in 1873. The term Briggait can be loosely translated as "Bridgegate" or gate towards the Clyde. One of the oldest areas of town, the roots of the Bridgegate road from the River Clyde to the Cathedral can be dated back to the 14th Century.

Virtually nothing above ground remains of the medieval town in the area, except the line of the Bridgegate and its relationship to the Saltmarket, Stockwell Street, Glasgow Green and the bridge. The Bridgegate itself is therefore an extremely valuable historic record of the medieval pattern of this part of Glasgow.



The Buildings

The Briggait's main hall or 'courtyard' was a purpose-built fish market offering a spacious and hygienic solution to the problems of external markets in Victorian Britain. Additional buildings were added in 1889, 1903 and 1914 respectively as growth demanded.

The Briggait complex also incorporates the 1650s Merchants Hall "Merchants' Steeple", notable for being one of the few remaining parts of Medieval Glasgow.

Bearing an attractive similarity to the famous Les Halles markets in Paris (completed 1854) the courtyard is of considerable

historical interest, as it has remained largely unchanged since its inception. Being a design of form and usability, this simple and classical hall has been able to undergo several rebirths, from fish market, to boutique shopping centre in the 1980s, to its latest incarnation as a new cultural space for the city.

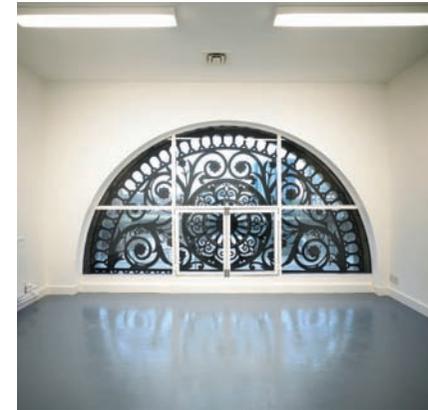


The facilities

The Briggait was redeveloped by Wasps Studios in 2009 and provides:

- 1900 sq.m. of affordable workspaces for the cultural community
- 24 offices for cultural organisations
- 45 studios for visual artists
- 5 shop front units
- Two street-front project / exhibition spaces
- A new public space within the historic Courtyard
- An internal gallery surrounding the 17th Century Steeple

The redevelopment was designed by award-winning architects, Nicoll Russell Studios, at a total cost of £6.5 million.

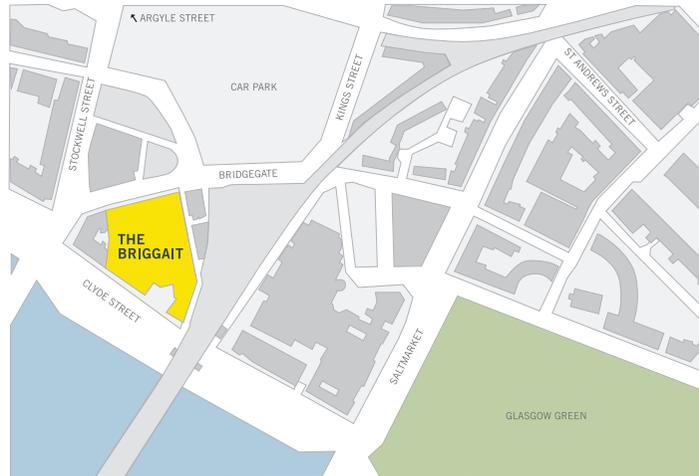


Angharad McLaren in her studio



The Developers

The Briggait has been developed by Scottish charities, The Wasps Trust and Wasps Studios. Together they have raised millions to invest in improving facilities for artists and arts organisations in Scotland. Wasps now provides affordable workspace to support the careers of some 750 visual artists at a network of 18 buildings across Scotland. For more information please visit www.waspsstudios.org.uk.



The Briggait

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