30 St. Mary Axe - Swiss Re

30 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BF

The Gherkin, by Foster and Partners, replaced the bomb-damaged Grade II* listed Baltic Exchange, in preference to a scheme to rebuild the hall and connect it to a new ground-scraper. The consultancy helped to assess the condition of the listed fabric and provided guidance on the urban form and height of the proposals. To the consultancy is owed the concept of a concentric building in a square piazza, in opposition to those who wanted to see the historic street lines expressed by the imposition of a podium.



CLIENT

- Swiss Re Group

ARCHITECT

- Foster + Partners

SECTOR

- Commercial / Insurance

LOCAL AUTHORITY

- City of London

STATUS

- Built

SERVICES PROVIDED

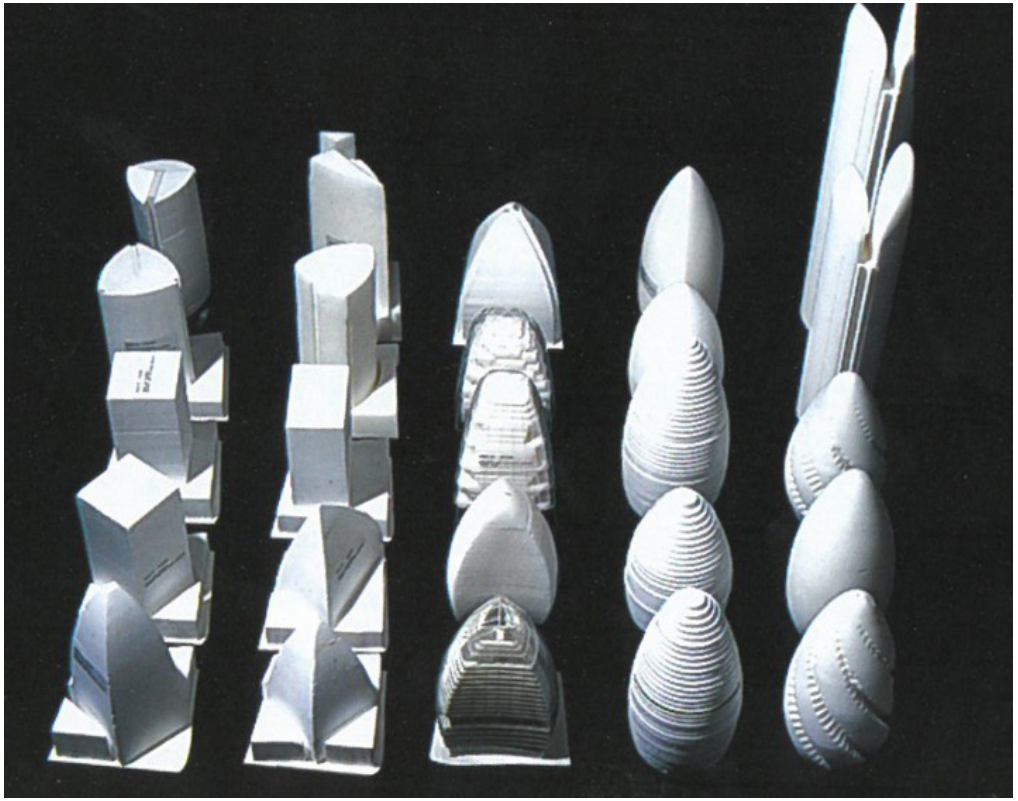
- Townscape and Visual Assessment
- Tall buildings
- Environmental Statement

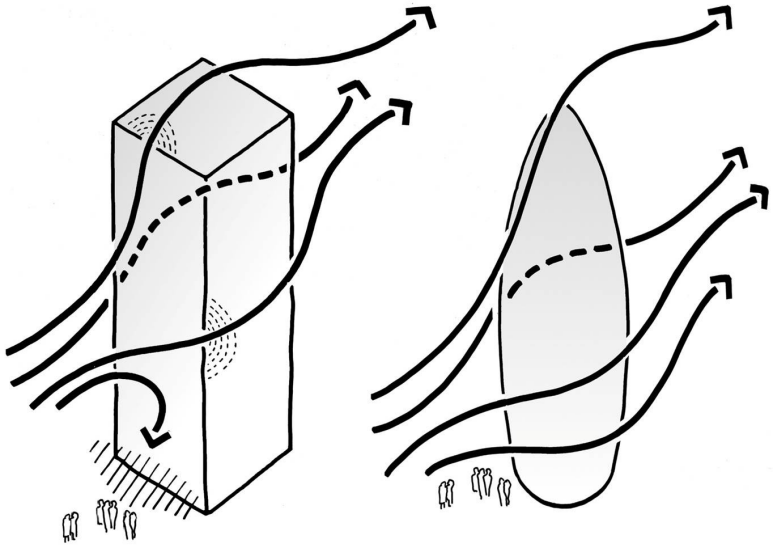
KEY CONTACT



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Norman Foster and Ken Shuttleworth conceived the diagrid pinecone form in discussion with Citydesigner and Robin Partington returned from Hong Kong to develop it as a building under their supervision.

The consultancy was influential in maintaining the integrity of the diagrid during value engineering. It also produced the townscape assessment chapter of the Environmental Statement, the first of its kind for a high building in the UK. Historic England (then English Heritage) agreed, in this case, that excellence in contemporary architecture can justify the loss of incomplete and damaged heritage assets and in so doing complement the City's historic fabric.

