



**Market value**  
*Gustafson Porter's  
 redevelopment of  
 Nottingham's Old  
 Market Square.*

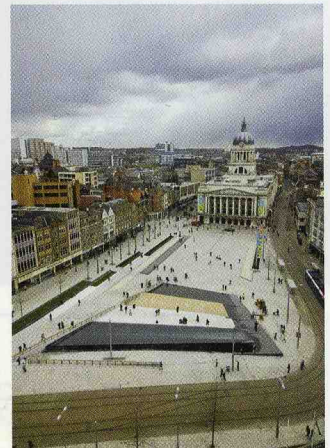
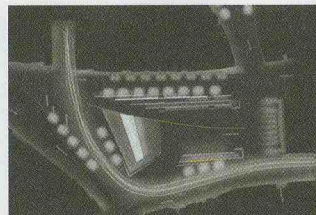
Old Market Square in the centre of Nottingham is the country's second largest civic space, after Trafalgar Square, and one of the oldest; the market started trading in 1155 and moved out in the 1920s. The square still forms an important nexus in the city, but a 2003 study by Space Syntax showed that 78 per cent of citizens avoided it where possible because it was difficult to negotiate.

Gustafson Porter redesigned the square following an invited competition in 2004, responding both to the topography of the medieval square and the formal geometry of later civic architecture; the square's curved 'axis' is now aligned with the adjacent Council House. New routes through follow 'desire lines' from corner to corner, which it is hoped will animate the centre of the space.

The most distinctive element of the £7 million project is a 4,400 square metre water feature consisting of four tiered layers of reflecting pools,

waterfalls, rills and jets up to five metres high. The fountains can be switched off and the terraces used as a stage or seating area for events. Water enters the terraces from a black granite reflecting pool which overflows and enters two stepped rills on its long sides and creates a waterfall on its short side facing Angel Row to the west. Sitting on the top terrace, the visitor is surrounded by water; from this level a second tier of water jets emerges from a slot between the white and beige granite, before cascading onto a final water scrim surface of black granite at market level.

Planters lined with box hedge and filled with purple, silver, white and orange flowering bulbs, perennials and shrubs create a layer of separation from the activity of a tram stop on Long Row. A formal line of ginkgo biloba trees runs along Long Row. On South Parade leading into Angel Row is an avenue of pin oaks.







**Above** The 11,500 square metre Old Market Square, looking east towards Council House (1929) by Nottingham-born TC Howitt (ph: Gustafson Porter). The project was funded by the European Regional Development Fund, Greater Nottingham Partnership, East Midlands Development Agency, central government and private developers

**Below** Left-right: to the north, Long Row is lit by refurbished 1930s lanterns (ph: GP). Four lighting masts on South Drive illuminate the square; plan and water feature detail (ph: GP); aerial view of the square and Council House, whose relation to the curved 'axis' of the square is evident (ph: Dom Henry); Seating and water terraces in white, beige and black granites to reflect the stones in surrounding facades. The main paving stone is crystal azul, a light grey, speckled granite, chosen to complement the Portland stone of Council House and for its durability and anti-slip finish.

#### Project team

Landscape architects: Gustafson Porter; engineer: Arup; contractor: Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering; main square lighting: Speirs & Major Associates; water terrace lighting: Group C; water feature specialist: Ocmis; pedestrian study: Space Syntax; conservation consultant: Jules Renfrew Associates; qs: Davis Langdon.

#### Selected subcontractors and suppliers

Architectural metalwork: WD Close & Sons; natural stone paving and cladding: BDN Construction; lighting works: J McCann & Co; historic architectural metalwork: Chris Topp & Co; soft landscaping: Ashlea; natural stone: Marshalls, Charcon; trees: Van den Berk Nurseries; litter bins: Broxap; bicycle stands: Townscape Products; tree grilles and corsets: Machan Engineering; stone sealant: Finalit; specialist paint finishes: TOR Coatings; drainage: ACO, Elkington Gatic; lighting controls: Mode Lighting; light fittings: Abacus Lighting, Landmark Products, Meyer, Phillips Lighting, WE-EF, LEC Lyon, Siteco, Sill, Louis Poulsen, Urbis, NJO.

