

# Cathedral Square: Peterborough falls back in love

Peterborough Cathedral is one of the most important intact 12th-century buildings in England. However for many years, the Square over which it stands was underwhelming and under-performing. The 1970s Norwich Union Building blighted the setting of the medieval St John the Baptist Church, whilst low-quality public space deadened the space between the Guildhall and the Cathedral, deterring inward investment and the growth of a spirited evening economy.

LDA Design was appointed by urban regeneration company, Opportunity Peterborough, to lead a revamp which would make the Square the focus of the city centre once more, changing perceptions, increasing footfall and giving people reasons to be there.

Working closely with local retailers and the Diocese, we developed a scheme that supported the 'stone axis' identified by architect Gordon Cullen many years before. Significant challenges included the demolition of the Norwich Union carbuncle.

The transformed and popular Square with its playful central water feature is now an elegant setting for the historic buildings that surround it. The transformation has boosted the local food and beverage offer with many more people now enjoy spending time here.



**Client**  
Opportunity Peterborough

**Location**  
Peterborough

**Partners**  
Sutton Vane Associates, Cgms,  
Centre for Accessible Environments

**Services Used**  
Landscape Architecture

**Area**  
0.7 ha

**Schedule**  
2009 - 2011

<sup>1</sup> The central fountain is a fun new attraction

<sup>2</sup> A wall-to-wall mat of stone connects the historic Cathedral and Guildhall

<sup>3</sup> The layout picks up a key desire line to the Queensgate Centre



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<sup>1</sup> Cathedral Square is now a year-round attraction for families

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