



THE BARBICAN ESTATE

BRUTALISM INC  
DARKCRETE

## THE BARBICAN ESTATE

The Barbican Estate is a residential estate built during the 1960s and the 1970s in the City of London, in an area once devastated by World War II bombings and today densely populated by financial institutions. It contains, or is adjacent to, the Barbican Arts Centre, the Museum of London, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Barbican public library, the City of London School for Girls and a YMCA (now closed [1], forming the Barbican Complex). The complex is a prominent example of British brutalist architecture and is Grade II listed as a whole [2] with the exception of the late Milton Court. Milton Court once contained a fire station, medical facilities and some flats and was demolished to allow the construction of a new apartment complex which also contains additional facilities for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

YMCA (now closed [1], forming the Barbican Complex). The complex is a prominent example of British brutalist architecture and is Grade II listed as a whole [2] with the exception of the late Milton Court. Milton Court once contained a fire station, medical facilities and some flats and was demolished to allow the construction of a new.

Barbican Estate  
Central London,  
Barbican Underground



## POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT

The estate was built between 1965 and 1976, on a 35-acre (14 ha) site that had been bombed in World War II. The complex was designed by architects Chamberlin, Powell and Bon, whose first work was the ground-breaking Golden Lane Estate immediately north of the Barbican. The estate of 40 acres (16 ha) was officially opened in 1969 and is now home to around 4,000 people living in 2,014 flats. [The flats reflect the widespread use in Britain in the 1960s and 1970s of concrete as the visible face of the building.

The estate has been estimated to stand for a further 130 years.



SHAKESPEARE TOWER

WEST SIDE VIEW OF THE SHAKESPEAR TOWER  
ANGLE BESIDE BARBICAN GALLERY  
TAKEN BY AHAD SHEIKH

# RESIDENTS

The residential estate consists of 13 terrace blocks, grouped around a lake and green squares. The main buildings rise up to seven floors above a podium level, which links all the facilities in the Barbican, providing a pedestrian route above street level. Some maisonettes are built into the podium structure. There is no vehicular access within the estate, but there are some car parks at the periphery of the estate. Public car parks are located within the Barbican Centre. The estate was built between 1965 and 1976, on a 35-acre (14 ha) site that had been bombed in World War II. The complex was designed by architects Chamberlin, Powell and Bon, whose first work was the ground-breaking Golden Lane Estate immediately north of the Barbican. The estate of 40 acres (16 ha) was officially opened in 1969 and is now home to around 4,000 people living in 2,014 flats. [The flats reflect the widespread use in Britain in the 1960s and 1970s of concrete as the visible face of the building.

There are currently 2000 residents in Barbican.

DR ARNE LECTOR  
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH  
RESIDENTIAL SHIFT

DR PETER GELDOFF  
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK  
STATE MOVEMENT





view from the south-side of the Barbican

The residential estate consists of 13 terrace blocks, grouped around a lake and green squares. The main buildings rise up to seven floors above a podium level, which links all the facilities in the Barbican, providing a pedestrian



view from the south-side of the Barbican

The residential estate consists of 13 terrace blocks, grouped around a lake and green squares. The main buildings rise up to seven floors above a podium level, which links all the facilities in the Barbican, providing a pedestrian

## THE BARBICAN BUILDS

Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Barbican public library, the City of London School for Girls and a YMCA (now closed [1, forming the Barbican Complex. The complex is a prominent example of British brutalist architecture and is Grade II listed as a whole[] with the exception of the late Milton Court. Milton Court once contained a fire station, medical facilities and some flats and was demolished to allow the construction of a new apartment complex which also contains additional facilities for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

YMCA (now closed [1, forming the Barbican Complex. The complex is a prominent example of British brutalist architecture and is Grade II listed as a whole[] with the exception of the late Milton Court. Milton Court once contained a fire station,

Barbican Estate  
Central London,  
Barbican Underground



## GEOMETRY / GEOLOGY

The Barbican Estate is a residential estate built during the 1960s and the 1970s in the City of London, in an area once devastated by World War II bombings and today densely populated by financial institutions. It contains, or is adjacent to, the Barbican Arts Centre, the Museum of London, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Barbican public library, the City of London School for Girls and a YMCA (now closed [1], forming the Barbican Complex). The complex is a prominent example of British brutalist architecture and is Grade II listed as a whole [1] with the exception of the late Milton Court. Milton Court once contained a fire

YMCA (now closed [1], forming the Barbican Complex). The complex is a prominent example of British brutalist architecture and is Grade II listed as a whole [1] with the exception of the late Milton Court. Milton Court once contained

Barbican Estate  
Central London,  
Barbican Underground



SHAKESPEARE TOWER, BARBICAN



COW ROCK, IILKELY

