

The Willis Building

Identification

EBN	226307
Name	The Willis Building
Alternative Name	Willis Faber and Dumas Headquarters
Construction Type	low-rise building
Current Status	existing [completed]

Location

Continent Name	Europe	City Name	Ipswich
Country Name	United Kingdom	Postcode	IP1 1TD
State Name	England	Address (as text)	15 Friars Street

Description

Facade System	curtain wall	Architectural style	modernism
Facade Material	glass	Main Usage	commercial office

Spatial dimensions

Height (structural)	70.53 ft	Floors (overground)	3
Height (tip)	70.53 ft		

Years and costs

Year (construction start)	1973	Year (construction end)	1975
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Features & Amenities

- One of the city's famous buildings
- National landmark

- Green roof is present

Facts

- The building is designed to encourage social contact.
- Access to the three floors is serviced via escalators.
- The glass curtain wall is tinted to counter solar gain and is suspended from a continuous clamping strip.
- Willis Faber received an RIBA award 1977.
- In 1990 the building was awarded an RIBA Architecture Awards Trust, Trustees Medal and was described as the finest building in the world designed by a British architect in the last 25 years.
- On 25th April 1991, Willis Faber was given Grade I Listing (Britain's youngest-ever building to be given statutory heritage listing), meaning that it can never be altered.
- The building is regarded as a landmark in the design history of Foster + Partners.
- Willis Faber incorporated the early use of raised floors.
- The building features a landscaped roof garden and a 25 metre (82 feet) swimming pool on the ground floor which has since closed and been covered over to increase office space.
- Foster + Partners designed The Willis Building, headquarters of the Willis Group, formerly Willis Faber and Dumas.
- The influence of Willis Faber can be seen in Foster + Partners later 30 St. Mary Axe.
- The building's design exhibits a pioneering use of low-energy consumption.
- One of earliest examples of a building with an all-glass facade. It became a landmark in the development of the 'high-tech' architectural style of the late 1970s and early 1980s. For example: Buizerdlaan 12.

Awards

Name	Category	Rank	Year
RIBA National Awards			1977

Involved companies

Architect.....

Foster Associates

London
United Kingdom

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Additional company data available for this building

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