



Making places
 MacCormac
 Jamieson Prichard's
 Phoenix Initiative is
 helping to revive the
 centre of Coventry.

Winner of the RTPI Planning Award for City Regeneration 2003, the Phoenix Initiative has sought to revitalise the historic centre of Coventry. Designed and masterplanned for Coventry city council by MacCormac Jamieson Prichard and landscape architects Rummy Design Associates, the £50m project involved the establishment of new gardens and civic squares in the city centre, linked by a pedestrian route connecting the cathedral precinct to the Transport Museum.

Following public consultation, there has

been a particular emphasis on creating safe and well-lit pedestrian spaces within the four hectare site covered by the project. There has also been a strong emphasis on public art, culminating in the artworks incorporated into the main public space, Millennium Place.

As well as allowing pedestrians to stroll from the cathedral to the museum, the new public spaces have attracted bars and restaurants as well as new private housing. To keep the public spaces at the required standard, the city council has allocated £500,000 per year for

Above The Time Zone Clock is the focus of Millennium Place, the largest public space in the Phoenix Initiative.
Below The edge of Millennium Place is defined by a series of Geo Park lights from Woodhouse, who also supplied seats and benches and the unusual glazed bus shelters.





maintenance and engaged a not-for-profit private sector management company to maintain the area.

The focal point of Millennium Place is the Time Zone Clock, created by artist Françoise Schein with Michael Popper Associates. Lines some 500 metres long representing international time zones are formed from a 250mm wide aluminium casting with a central blue LED strip. The strip within each of the 24 lines is divided into 24 sections, giving a total of 576 elements, each of which can be separately controlled and dimmed.

Straddling the square are the Whittle Arches, an open steel structure comprising a series of oval steel plates separated by steel structural rods. In addition a 120 metre long steel bridge, the Spiral Bridge, takes pedestrians out of the square through a 350 degree spiral linking the Transport Museum and the Garden of International Friendship.

