

# REGENERATION PROJECT CONTINUES

## HOUSING PROVIDER ALUMNO IS WORKING WITH BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY TO TRANSFORM DERELICT LAND IN EASTSIDE INTO A MAJOR NEW STUDENT ACCOMMODATION DEVELOPMENT.

Designed by Birmingham architects Glenn Howells, the development will provide accommodation for 659 students as part of the city's Eastside Regeneration project.

Alumno Managing Director, David Campbell, said: "Creating a vibrant new public realm through the opening up of the canal-side, Birmingham Council's Eastside Locks masterplan focuses on generating investment in the city. Contributing to Birmingham's academic stature, our proposal is to turn No 1 City

Locks into a modern, high-quality student accommodation scheme, sensitively designed to complement and enhance the Digbeth Branch Canal.

"Following the shape of the canal-side, the three buildings have been designed to form a crescent with three distinctive wings facing out onto the canal. The proposed materials of aluminium, glass and brick are reflective of the canal-side heritage. The new development will provide on-campus student living close to BCU's new City Centre Campus project."

Since its beginnings in 2006, Alumno Developments has continually worked with universities, colleges and other key stakeholders to provide homes for around 2,000 students in cities such as London, Birmingham and Bristol, despite the challenging economic times and complex legislative environment.

Alumno appointed DBK to support the Birmingham City University and two other new high-profile projects across the UK. The project manager and cost consultant will deliver cost

consultancy and CDM services for the developments in London, Birmingham and Durham, which combined will create almost 1500 individual units in three modern student complexes.

Alumno was granted planning permission for the latest of the three schemes in July of last year.

In April 2014 planning consent was granted for Eastside Locks in Birmingham City Centre, a 625-bed student accommodation scheme at the heart of the Eastside Regeneration scheme.

Alumno's development

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is designed to reflect the aspirational plans and historical canal context of the area and include student accommodation, business start-up premises to provide affordable office/studio space for post-graduates and retail floor space

Eastside Locks will deliver student accommodation as an 'on campus' offer with the new BCU campus, and more than

15,000 students, only around 3 minutes' walk away from the site. Construction of three buildings, ranging in height from nine storeys to 13 storeys and incorporating 625 student bedrooms will start later this year.

Meanwhile Sheraton Park, a 418-bed scheme in North-East city Durham, was designed by Howarth Litchfield Architects with Fairhurst advising on

planning. It is hoped completion is due in the summer of 2016.

Planning consent for this scheme followed the approval in February 2014 of Alumno's proposed redevelopment of Three Mills West in Stratford High Street, East London, described as an 'exemplar of student accommodation' by the Planning Department of the London Legacy Development Corporation.

performing sectors during the global economic downturn and growing demand for this type of purpose built accommodation shows no sign of slowing down.

"Alumno's approach is one of collaboration with all those involved with the accommodation from contractors and consultants through to students themselves. This very much reflects the ethos of how DBK works and we



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**"CREATING A VIBRANT NEW PUBLIC REALM THROUGH THE OPENING UP OF THE CANAL-SIDE, BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL'S EASTSIDE LOCKS MASTERPLAN FOCUSES ON GENERATING INVESTMENT IN THE CITY. CONTRIBUTING TO BIRMINGHAM'S ACADEMIC STATURE, OUR PROPOSAL IS TO TURN NO 1 CITY LOCKS INTO A MODERN, HIGH-QUALITY STUDENT ACCOMMODATION SCHEME, SENSITIVELY DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT AND ENHANCE THE DIGBETH BRANCH CANAL."**

DAVID CAMPBELL, MANAGING DIRECTOR

The 431-bed student accommodation-led tower will involve Alumno transforming a derelict Esso Petrol station into a high-quality housing complex. With several existing and proposed local colleges and university campuses in close proximity and with excellent transport links, the site is an ideal location for a modern student development.

Steve Kelly, Managing Partner at DBK, said: "Student housing was one of the best

are delighted to be part of the team.

David Campbell added: "DBK's latest appointments with Alumno complement its ongoing support for our other student accommodation projects that will provide in excess of 3,000 units across the UK.

"Its appointment to our recent projects is testament to the value that we place on the team's expertise and understanding of our aspirations. They are a true asset."