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Centenary Square - Geometrics

Maybe it started with the Wades building, next to the old Bull Ring Shopping Centre, which was clad with rectangular concrete panels. Or maybe it was the Selfridges building in the new Bull Ring Shopping Centre, with its famous aluminium discs. Whenever the geometric trend actually started, Centenary Square has now become the home of geometric facades within the City.

First there was the Alpha Tower, with its uniformly square aluminium windows. Next came the Rep Theatre, with its distinctive facade of curved oblongs.

Forty years on, and the Cube appeared with an aluminium facade consisting of squares and crosses. Soon after, came the Library of Birmingham, with its famous interlocking circles.

More recently, we have been treated to the basket weave stone on the side of 1 Centenary Square (the HSBC building). There is also 3 Arena Central, with its 1,521 hexagonal panels of aluminium and glass. The honeycombed building is now home to the DWP and HMRC. Behind that is the aluminium, pixelated facade of the Holiday Inn Express hotel, which resembles a black and white game of tetris.

More geometrics are planned. When 5 Centenary Square is built, it will have an alternating glass and opaque panel facade, creating a tessellated, chequerboard effect.
