

# The Universe in The Centre

## Burnley

‘Engendering ownership and distinctiveness in new public facilities.’



*Light Weave*, Liam Curtin and collaborators; Saint Peter’s Health and Leisure Centre, Burnley Photo: Andy Ford

Commissioned to create an eye-catching piece of artwork for the new LIFT-funded St Peter’s Health and Leisure Centre in Burnley, artist Liam Curtin set up a studio and laboratory in the local squash courts.

Working with collaborator John Gilbert, Liam Curtin - who is responsible for award winning projects such as Blackpool’s *High Tide Organ* and the *Great Promenade Show*, held open-house for the public before producing a piece of public art which consisted of a three-metre diameter woven copper sphere weighing over 60

kilos, suspended in the main atrium of the building, illuminated by a range of light sources sequenced to create changing moonlike crescents and colourful shadows on the inner walls.

‘The concept of a woven sculpture may be seen as an oblique reference to Burnley’s weaving tradition, but far from being a monument to tradition, the work is a curious, unusual and very lyrical form - a geometric totem for good health and fitness that will be relaxing to watch.’

Artist Liam Curtin

Designed by architects Nightingale Associates and created through a collaboration between the local council and Primary Health Care Trust, the St Peter’s Centre provides a new £27 million capital investment into the town centre of Burnley, with the new facilities promoting the regeneration of the eastern side of Burnley town centre.

The new artwork was commissioned by property developers Eric Wright Group in a partnership with Burnley Council and the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Primary Care Trust, in a project that



*Light Weave, Liam Curtin and collaborators*

*Photo: Andy Ford*

aimed to engage residents, staff and potential users of the new centre in its design. The public art element was a planning section 106 condition enhanced by a grant of £40,000 from Arts Council England, North West.

*'The Burnley Patient Group is justly proud to have been involved in the St Peters Centre public art project and is pleased that varied views have been listened to and acted upon. This was an object lesson in consultation.'*

Victor Jull, Burnley Patient Group

Liam's innovative work is a reflection of Burnley Borough Council's bold drive to work closely with developers and the public to breathe new life into the town. Burnley is leading the way in progressive thinking and action to regenerate public spaces and the housing market, with the involvement of local people.

As a result of the successful launch of St Peter's, Burnley Borough Council has been shortlisted for the Partnering with Health Services Achievement of the Year award in the MJ Local Government Achievement Awards 2007.

[www.burnley.gov.uk/stpeters/](http://www.burnley.gov.uk/stpeters/)

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