

STOCKPORT GOES CONTEMPORARY PROVAN & MAKIN STYLE



Above: 2-4 Lower Hilgate – set against the bustling historic street scene



Above: Stockport life at the top – View from the top floor balconies (left) The sunny internal courtyard with deck access to the apartments (right) - Below: The interior of one of the apartments.



One of the first buildings to provide contemporary living accommodation right in the heart of Stockport's historic town centre is PROVAN & MAKIN designed 2-4 Lower Hilgate.

A rich mix of architectural styles ranging from late Georgian to early, mid and late Victorian surround the Hilgate site. Developers Peakmount Properties knew any new building had to be sympathetic to the area, so urban architects Provan & Makin were chosen to design the mixed-use apartment and commercial development.

"The site was in a terrible run down state. The task was extremely challenging, but incredibly interesting," said Provan & Makin director Ashley Hunt "It's not every day you are asked to convert and old World War II air raid shelter, let alone design a mixed use building on a tight site bordered by shear sandstone rock. We wanted to design a contemporary building using modern materials that echo the history of the area."

Provan & Makin's design demonstrates their meticulous attention to detail, handmade bricks were sourced especially to blend with the local sandstone and space is maximised with a sunny elevated first floor courtyard giving access to the apartments via steel and timber decking. At street level an airy commercial space is the perfect setting for a bar or restaurant. It has one unique feature - the old World War II air raid shelter, dug into the sandstone cliff face in the 1940's has been renovated and is now a great atmospheric space within the main unit. The resulting building is a great success, generating new life where there was neglect whilst adding a certain contemporary elegance to the streets of Stockport's historic town centre