

PRIDE OF THE NORTH

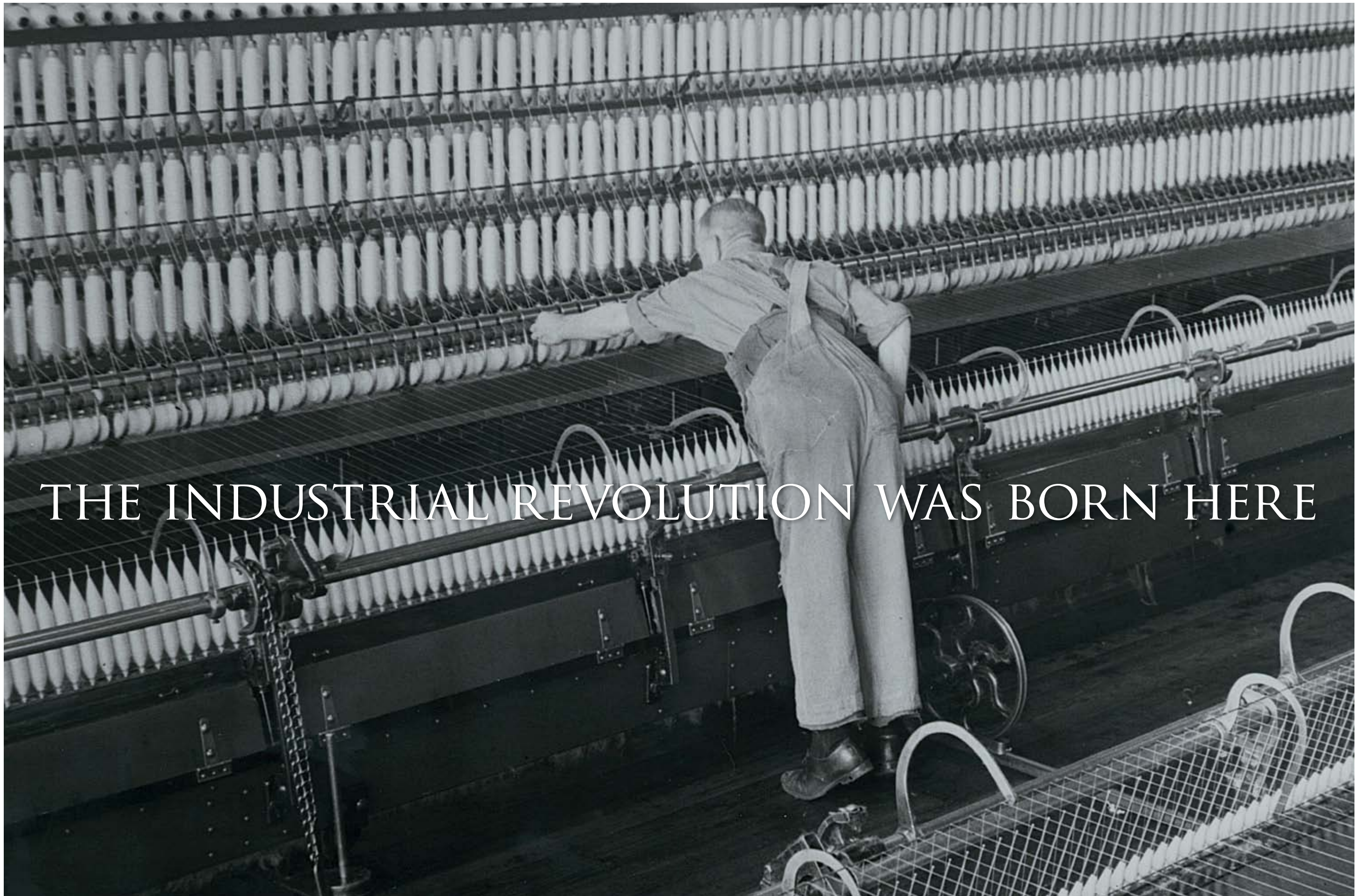
MANCHESTER IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT CITIES. RICH IN HERITAGE, WITH A PROUD RECORD OF INDUSTRY AND CREATIVITY, IT IS ONE OF THE UK'S LEADING TOURIST AND CONFERENCE DESTINATIONS, AS WELL AS A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ACADEMIC HUB.



BRITAIN'S FIRST PUBLIC LENDING LIBRARY WAS BORN HERE

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Manchester is truly a city of firsts. When the Manchester Free Public Library opened in 1852, it was the first authority to establish a public lending and reference library under the Free Libraries Act of 1850. When Central Library officially opened in 1934, the iconic building was the country's largest library provided by a local authority. The image above shows the Library's Great Hall Reading Room c.1934.



THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION WAS BORN HERE

© Cotton Board: Ref GB124.MR002855

Widely viewed as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, Manchester is now the economic powerhouse of the North of England. A world-class city with great places to live, work and visit, and a fantastic environment for business, Manchester has the largest student population in Europe and is ranked as Europe's top city for business competitiveness.



THE ATOM WAS FIRST SPLIT HERE

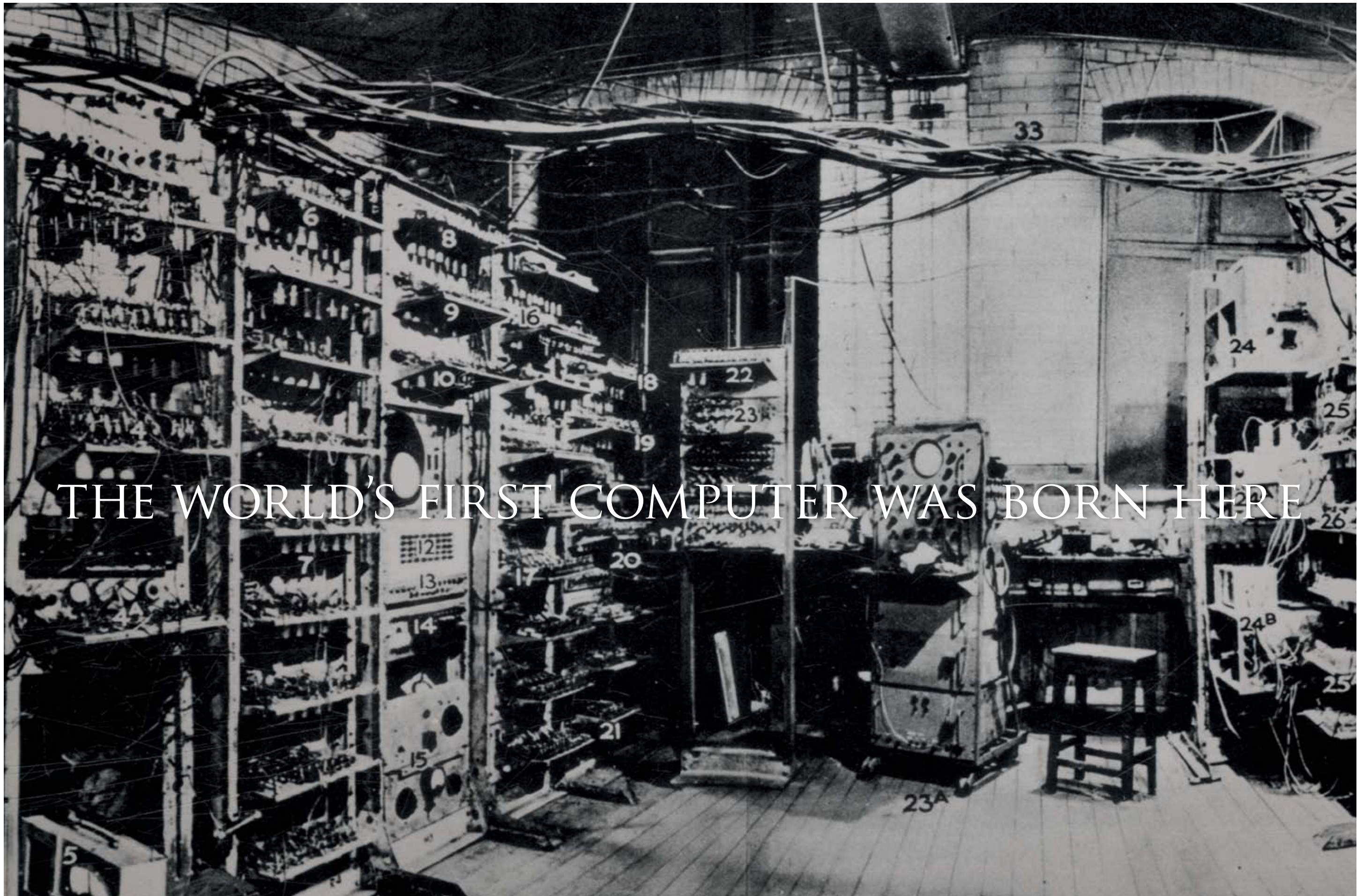
Ernest Rutherford and Hans Geiger, physics laboratory, Manchester University, England. Marsden, Lady Joyce: Assorted photographs and negatives from the papers of Sir Ernest Marsden. Ref: PAColl-0091-1-011. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://beta.natlib.govt.nz/records/22608563>

Through a series of experiments conducted at his laboratory just off Manchester's Oxford Road and aided by one of the finest teams of scientists ever assembled, Ernest Rutherford not only created a new scientific discipline – that of nuclear physics – but also changed the world forever through splitting the atom. Prior to that, the atom had been presumed to be the smallest particle in the universe. The image above includes Ernest Rutherford (right) and Hans Geiger in a Manchester University physics laboratory c.1913.



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Manchester's history includes a hotbed of radical and liberal thinking. The city was a natural place for the Suffragette Movement to begin and the first public meeting was held in the Free Trade Hall (now the Radisson Hotel) in 1868. In the same year the first Trades Union Congress was held in Manchester. The formation of new Trades Union Committees up and down the country swiftly followed. The image above includes prominent suffragettes Annie Briggs, Lillian Forrester and Evelyn Manestra in 1913.



THE WORLD'S FIRST COMPUTER WAS BORN HERE

© Alec Robinson, 1948: Ref GB127, Local Images Collection/m61505

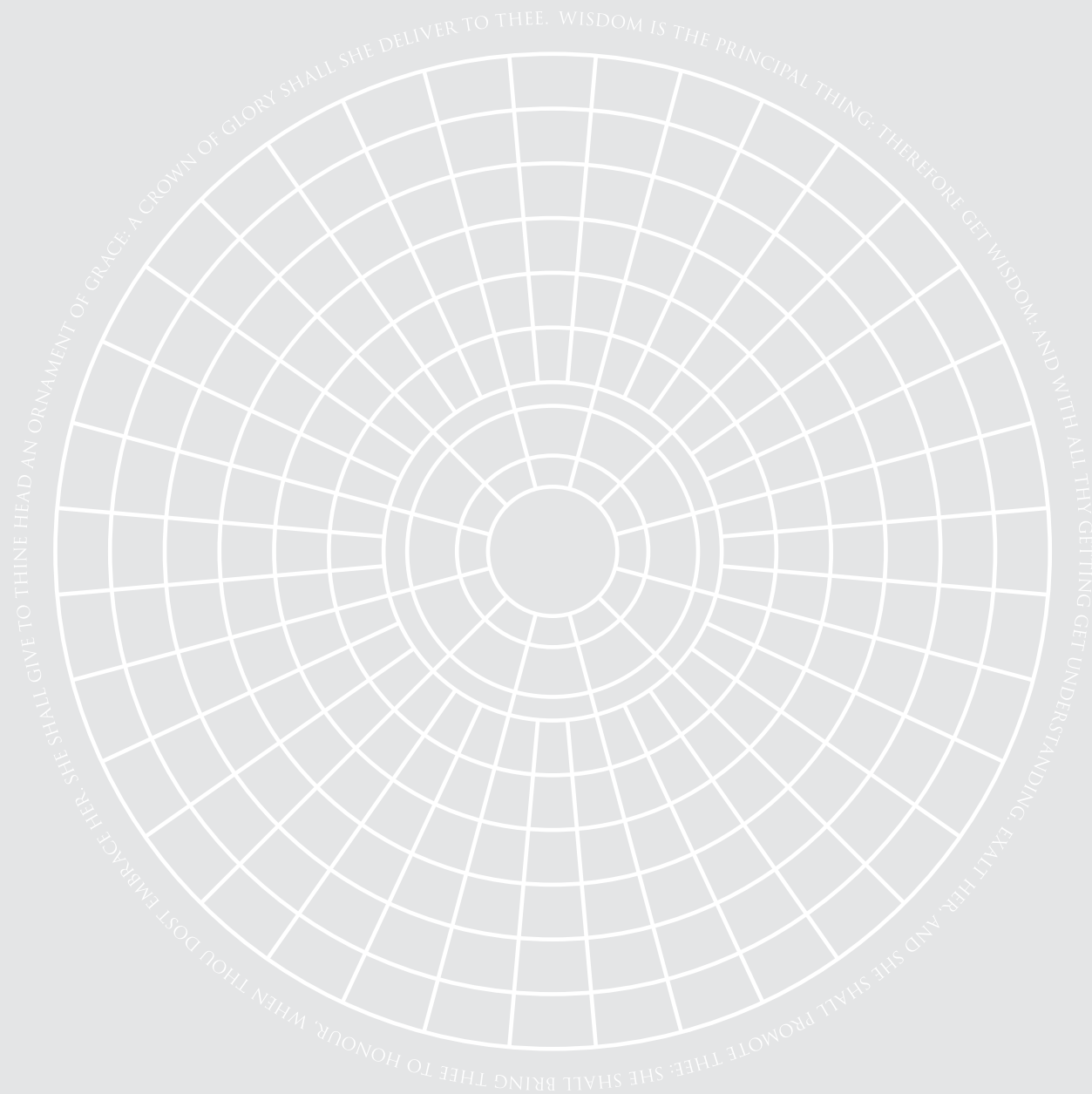
The world's first computer with a stored programme and memory was developed at The University of Manchester in 1948 with Alan Turing's involvement. All computers stem from the original Small-Scale Experimental Machine (SSEM), nicknamed 'Baby'.

MANCHESTER HAS A PROUD TRADITION
OF CREATIVITY, INNOVATION AND
ACHIEVEMENT. A MODEST MARKET TOWN
GREW TO BECOME A GREAT CENTRE
OF INDEPENDENT THOUGHT, SOCIAL
EMANCIPATION, EDUCATION, MUSIC, SPORT,
LITERATURE AND THE ARTS.

THIS RADICAL AND PROGRESSIVE SPIRIT
IS REBORN IN THE CITY'S AMBITIOUS PLANS
FOR THE REFURBISHMENT, RESTORATION
AND REINVENTION OF THE ICONIC CENTRAL
LIBRARY. OPENED BY KING GEORGE V IN 1934,
IT HAS BEEN LOVED BY GENERATIONS
EVER SINCE.

BE PART OF ITS REBIRTH...

REBORN



MMXIV

CENTRAL LIBRARY, MANCHESTER

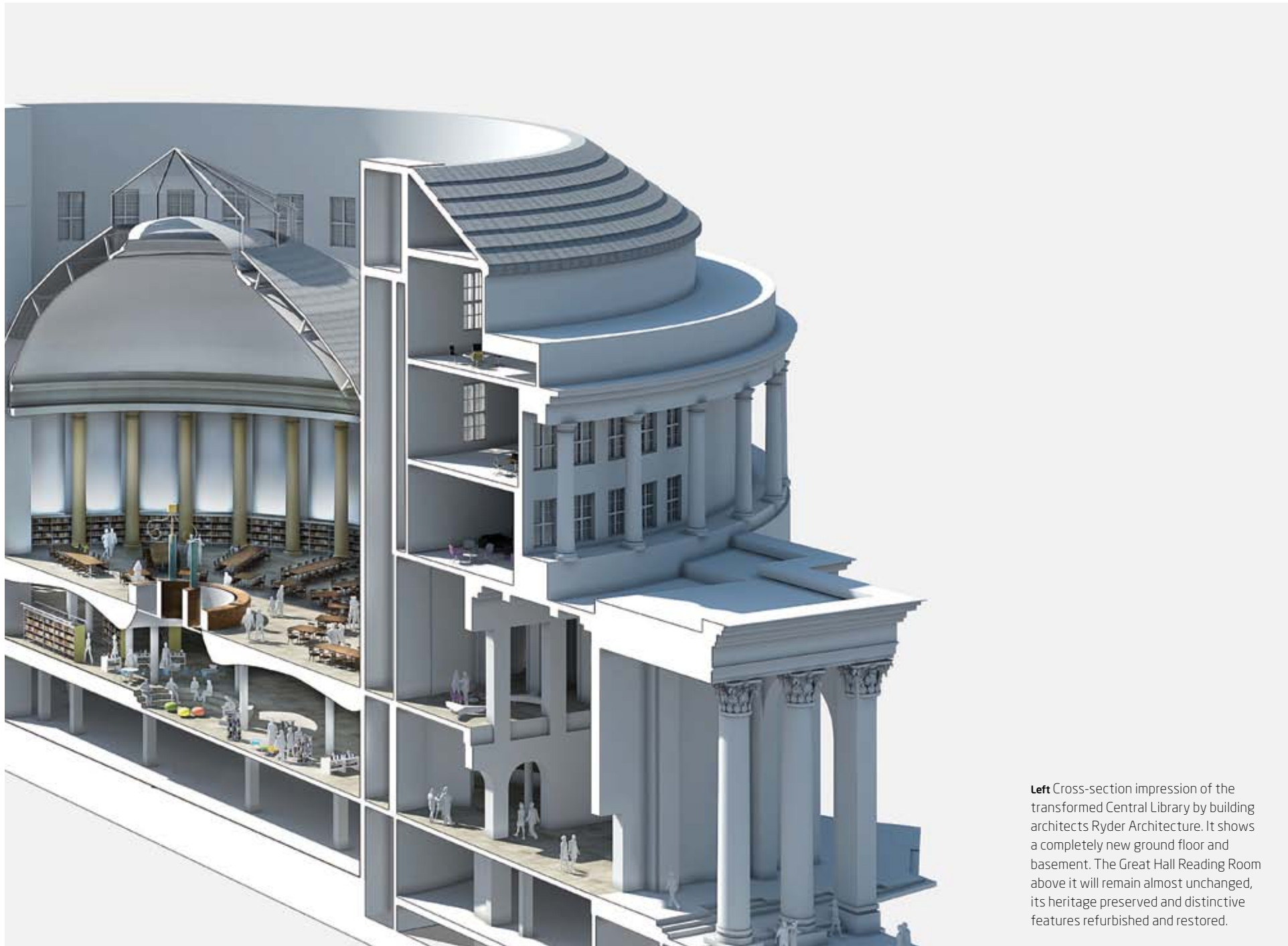
VOLUME II

A LANDMARK OPPORTUNITY

The current refurbishment and restoration of the Grade II listed Central Library has presented an unrivalled opportunity to reshape the way library, information and archive services are delivered. Through this radical transformation, the Library will expand its vision, reflecting on its original principles and building on the new opportunities available today, to reflect the needs and aspirations of customers in the 21st century.

Serving a city region of 2.7million people and many more national and international visitors, Central Library is one of the busiest and the second largest public library in the UK. It attracts more visitors than the British Library and is widely regarded as one of the finest libraries in Europe.

When relaunched it will engage and empower visitors with world-class information resources, captivating them with collections and new media in attractive and comfortable surroundings. Digital technology will make the collections more accessible than ever, opening the city's treasure chest to residents and visitors – both real and virtual – across the world.



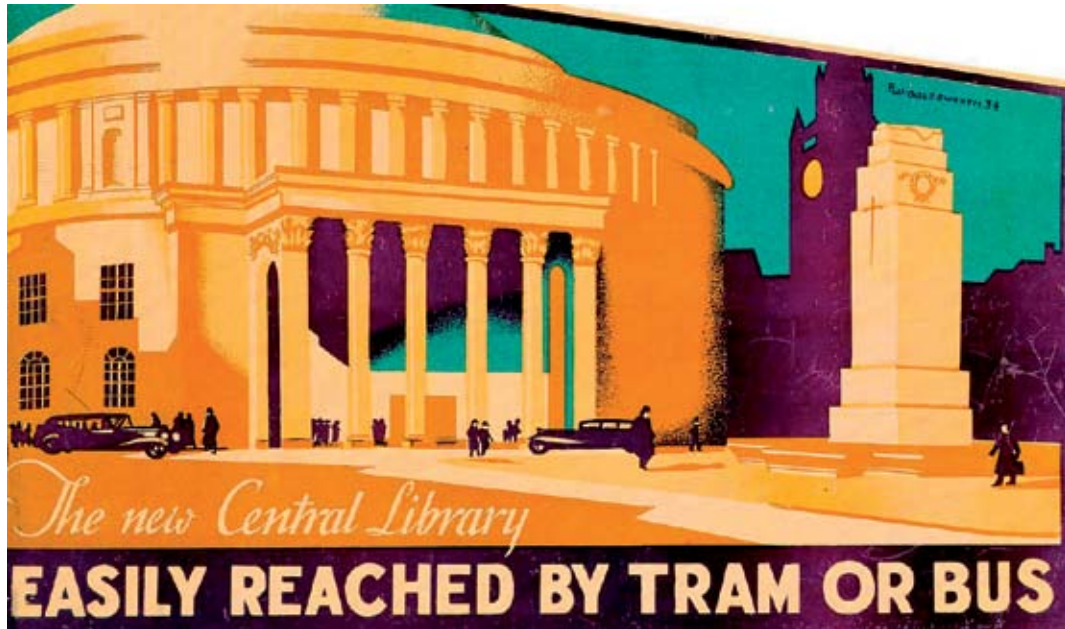
Left Cross-section impression of the transformed Central Library by building architects Ryder Architecture. It shows a completely new ground floor and basement. The Great Hall Reading Room above it will remain almost unchanged, its heritage preserved and distinctive features refurbished and restored.

THE HEART OF THE CITY

Central Library sits at the top of Oxford Road, Manchester's 'Knowledge Corridor', which is home to the largest academic campus in the UK and the largest clinical academic campus in Europe. It lies at the heart of the city's civic centre facing St Peter's Square, which will be redesigned to become a world-class public space and a major transport interchange.

The Library will become Manchester's 'living room' and will play a vital role in delivering accessible and expertly managed information resources to residents, students and visitors from all over the world. It will have a very high level of connectivity to the fibre infrastructure, presenting a major opportunity to link to the development of the digital economy.

We confidently expect two million visitors a year.



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AN INSPIRING LOCATION

Central Library's transformation will not only protect and preserve an important part of the city's heritage, it will inspire people to achieve great things. It will raise the aspirations of children and young people, create new opportunities, improve employment prospects, and help to decrease worklessness in the city.

It will become a 'third space': not work or home, but a place for people to get together, share knowledge and learning – a space in which to co-create and be empowered. It will provide an arena that encourages and nurtures the talent of the future. The benefits and positive impacts on a wide range of people and communities will be immense.

The Library will play a vital role delivering information and business services. It will offer conference and meeting facilities and up-to-the-minute market information and intelligence, supporting competitiveness and strengthening the regional economy. It will also offer a fantastic array of commercial opportunities.

Right When Central Library was officially opened by King George V on 17 July 1934, he told the crowd of thousands:

"In the splendid building which I am about to open, the largest library in this country provided by a local authority, the Corporation have ensured for the inhabitants of the city magnificent opportunities for further education and for the pleasant use of leisure."



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WE CONFIDENTLY
EXPECT TWO MILLION
VISITORS A YEAR





A SENSE OF PLACE

Previously, 70% of Central Library's interior was only accessible to library staff. Our plans will change that so that 70% becomes accessible to everyone. A major intervention is removing the old core of the building, previously occupied by book stacks. These cramped spaces previously housed most of the book stock in unsuitable conditions for its long-term preservation. All rare, valuable, historic and local items will be housed in specialist storage units, which will ensure the preservation of important collections. A redesigned interior, including new public areas and a new circulation core, will allow for more storage and more space. Most of the popular books will be on display, creating better access and making room available for activities in new exhibition and interpretation areas. New scenic lifts and stairs will improve public access, putting more things within reach.

A prominent feature of the new Central Library will be Archives+, a collaboration of archive partners to showcase the city's local, family, industrial and political history all under one roof. Paper-based, film, digital and other resources will be expertly managed and stored there. Exhibitions, film booths, learning areas and digital interactivities will provide thought-provoking ways to tell the story of this most fascinating of cities. Archives+ will make it easier than ever before for people to connect with their ancestors, their heritage and shared histories. But it's not just about looking back: Archives+ will be the repository for Manchester's present and future for generations to come. Archives+ is supported by a £1.6million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Left Ryder Architecture's impression showing new scenic lifts and stairs extending from the basement to the top floor and replacing the previous small single public lift. They are a clearly contemporary addition within the historic interior of the building and will allow visitors to appreciate the scale of the building, leading them up through the levels to experience the wide array of new services on offer.



A SOCIAL NETWORK

The transformation project will ensure that Central Library fulfils its role in supporting the creative life of the region by adding to the vibrancy and attractiveness of the city as a place to live and visit. A socially inclusive range of services will be established, removing barriers to participation and fully reflecting the cultural and social diversity of Manchester and the north west.

For the very first time, Central Library will be physically connected to new Library areas and services in the neighbouring Town Hall Extension, linking the entire complex together. This extended part of the Library, designed by Ian Simpson Architects, will welcome visitors of all ages for meetings, learning opportunities and performances, or simply a coffee and a paperback before catching the tram.

The bulk of our lending collections will be there, along with language collections, health information, fiction and non-fiction. Colourful, lively spaces will inspire even the youngest of children to read and learn. The Library will be a channel for digital discovery too. Our new Media Lounge will enable visitors to create, inspire, collaborate, play games and learn new skills, providing a test bed for new ideas, new software and new ways of thinking. It will be yet another way in which Manchester connects with the world.

Left This cutaway impression shows the new Library extending to the neighbouring Town Hall Extension building, which is being redesigned by Ian Simpson Architects. The ground and lower ground floors of the extended Library will include a Media Lounge, children's library and new lending library.

FACING THE FUTURE

Manchester City Council is the principal funder of this landmark transformation programme. In addition, an independent charity and trading subsidiary is being established to enhance elements of the capital project and help develop new income streams to support future Library activity.

Manchester Central Library Development Trust will promote learning, archives, advice, information and other related services and facilities provided by Central Library. It will promote reading as an essential life skill; raise the awareness and profile of Central Library as an educational and cultural venue; promote lifelong learning opportunities, particularly for marginalised and socially excluded groups; promote and celebrate the cultural diversity of Manchester; and support the development of facilities that help to tackle digital and social exclusion. It will:

- / **Develop and deliver new and innovative ways of making Central Library services, resources and facilities available and accessible to all**
- / **Develop new display and interpretation areas for use by a range of communities to celebrate and promote Manchester's cultural diversity**
- / **Preserve, conserve and develop the Library's rare books and special collections**
- / **Promote Archives+, the Library's new centre of excellence for regional archives**
- / **Invest in Central Library capital projects, enhance the building, and provide equipment to deliver and present work**

A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE

Opportunities to be involved in the transformation of a much-loved and respected venue like Central Library, a flagship attraction at the civic heart of Manchester, don't come around often.

We are seeking funding, sponsorship and new partnerships to enhance this exciting new offer. Working with sponsors and donors we can create an even more vibrant and exciting space, a memorable and engaging visitor attraction, and a cultural destination that will provide a fitting home for the city's internationally significant treasures in the most beautiful and prestigious of settings.

We are very interested in exploring these opportunities with individuals, companies and grant-giving trusts, and discussing appropriate ways of acknowledging support.

TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE CONTACT

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Ryder

IAN
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This brochure was produced with the generous support of Manchester Central Library transformation architects Ryder Architecture, and Manchester Town Hall Extension transformation architects Ian Simpson Architects.

