

the HARRIS

21 September -
24 November 2019

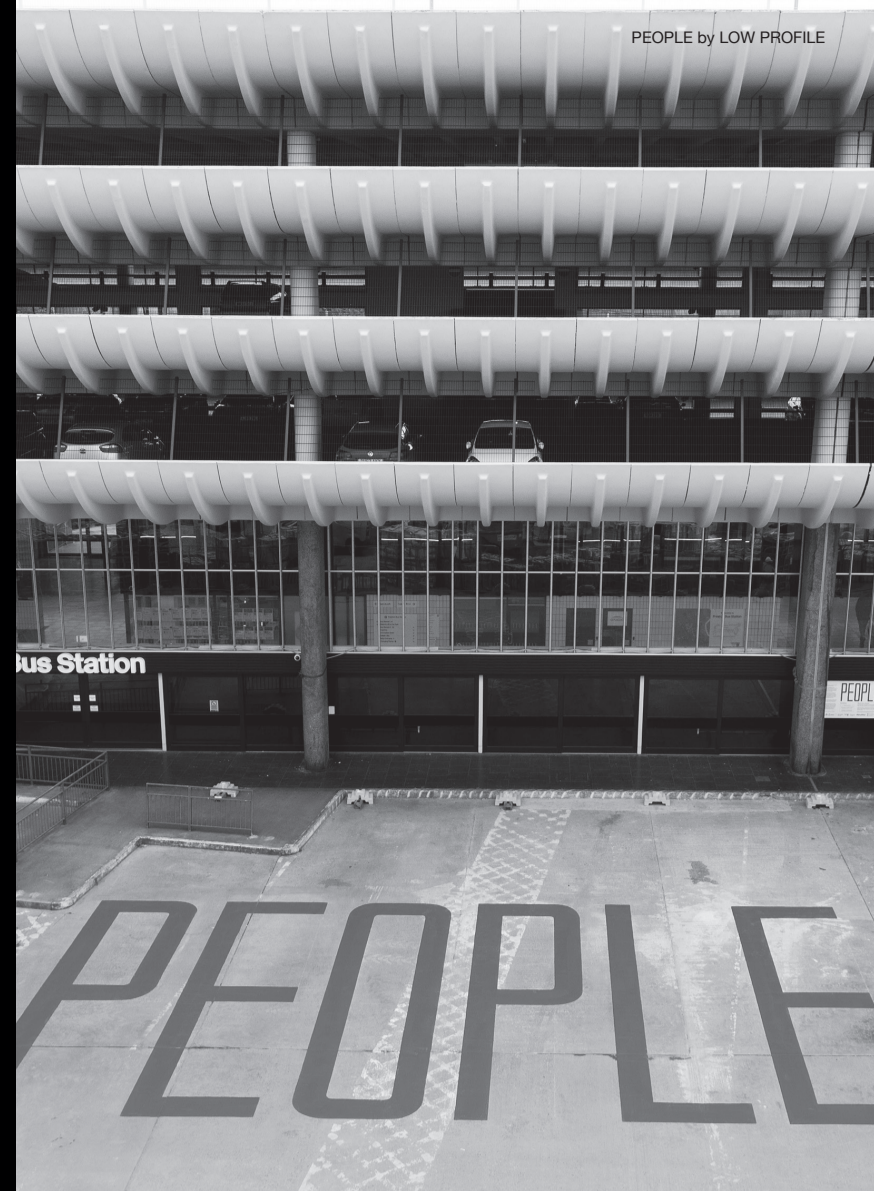
Beautiful and Brutal

50 years in the life of
Preston Bus Station

Preston Bus Station was saved from demolition by the people of Preston and is now Grade II listed. It has been revitalised through an extensive restoration programme by building owners, Lancashire County Council and John Puttick Associates architects, which will be completed later this year. Its beautiful and brutal form has regained its former glory – loved by many and loathed by some.

The exhibition is embedded into the whole of the Harris. A Victorian building has become the vessel through which to present an iconic piece of modern architecture.

The exhibition brings together archival material – including previously unseen designs from the archives of BDP – with films and literature, juxtaposed against objects associated with Preston Bus Station and the people who use it. Contemporary art commissions interact with the building and with photography and artwork in the Harris.



Preston Bus Station is an internationally important piece of architecture that was built for everyday use by the people of Preston. Now in its 50th year, the Harris and In Certain Places are celebrating this iconic building – and what it means to people – through an exhibition and events programme.

Designed by local architects, Building Design Partnership in 1969, Preston Bus Station set in concrete an ambitious vision of Preston's future as the major transport hub for Lancashire. It was the largest bus station in Europe, a space-age structure built in the same year as the moon landing, with 80 bus bays and space for 1000 cars. Architects Keith Ingham, Charles Wilson and engineers Ove Arup were involved in every aspect of its design, from the delicate concrete curves to shelter passengers that create its distinctive form, to its unique Pirelli rubber floor and Helvetica signage.

Cover image courtesy of BDP ©Roger Park

Conductor by Keith Harrison - Image: Ashley Hardman



PEOPLE by LOW PROFILE

LOW PROFILE commissioned Laserline Road Marking Ltd to paint the word 'PEOPLE' on the forecourt of Preston Bus Station – creating a temporary artwork for visitors and passers-by to engage with. The artists were interested in using this format to mimic the way that road markings normally direct our attention and behaviour, shaping how we navigate through public spaces. The creation of the text makes a statement about this part of the bus station's future use as a new public space. The text disappeared as the forecourt underwent further development in Autumn 2019.

A film creates a portrait of two workers installing the text – drawing attention to both the changing nature of the space, and the skill, labour and teamwork involved in creating changes in the built environment that may otherwise be overlooked.

LOW PROFILE wanted to mark the moment of the bus station's 50th anniversary by again placing value on, and celebrating, the people of Preston – highlighting the role that people play in shaping and making place.

Portraits of a Bus Station by Anna Raczynski, stills from film



Conductor, 8 Movements by Keith Harrison with accompanying soundtrack by Preston Field Audio

Conductor was a live choreographed 60 minute interruption to the life of Preston Bus Station. On a Sunday morning 32 double-decker buses and drivers from Preston Bus and Stagecoach, steered their buses in slow and sequenced movements from the bays and across the forecourt, triggered by volunteer performers in the passenger concourse. Preston Field Audio's sound track of recordings and electronic loops was played through the bus station tannoy, responding to Keith Harrison's schematic drawings. The whole haunting piece uniquely appropriated all the resources of the station to create a dramatic new work that celebrated the interaction between the people, vehicles and the architecture of the Europe's biggest bus station.

The performance was recorded by filmmaker, Jared Schiller, and is represented in the exhibition across a number of screens, with a live recording of the soundtrack by Preston Field Audio.

Portraits of a Bus Station by Anna Raczynski

Anna Raczynski has created video portraits of twenty-two individuals, capturing their particular memories and impressions of Preston Bus Station. The participants come from across the city and further afield. Each interview has been carefully edited to capture the essence of their encounter with the building. The people range from bus drivers and architects to students and writers, representing different genders and cultures, ages and status. The portraits reveal the personality of each person, allowing them to share their encounters and measured, insightful observations. The final collection of voices maps the social architecture, and both critical and supportive comments combine to reveal the importance of the building to the city.

Beautiful and Brutal

50 years in the life of Preston Bus Station

KEY



Preston Bus Station Arrows – these are from the car park area of the bus station.



Video Portraits of Preston Bus Station – 22 portraits by Anna Raczynski of people sharing their thoughts and memories.



Glasdon Kiosk – this kiosk is the product of 50 years of design evolution from the first information and ticket kiosks Glasdon made for Preston Bus Station in 1969.



Bus Destination Blinds – these local place names were displayed on the front of Preston buses to show their final destination.



Cases of Artefacts – there are 15 cases to be found throughout the Harris containing objects associated with Preston Bus Station.



Photographic Competition – these photographs were taken by local artists and photographers who have been inspired by Preston Bus Station.



Contemporary Artworks – These new works have been commissioned for this exhibition and are presented alongside existing contemporary art.



Bus Station Café Tables and Seats – these are from Preston Bus Station's original Café.



Plan Chest – A selection of plans and drawings associated with the building



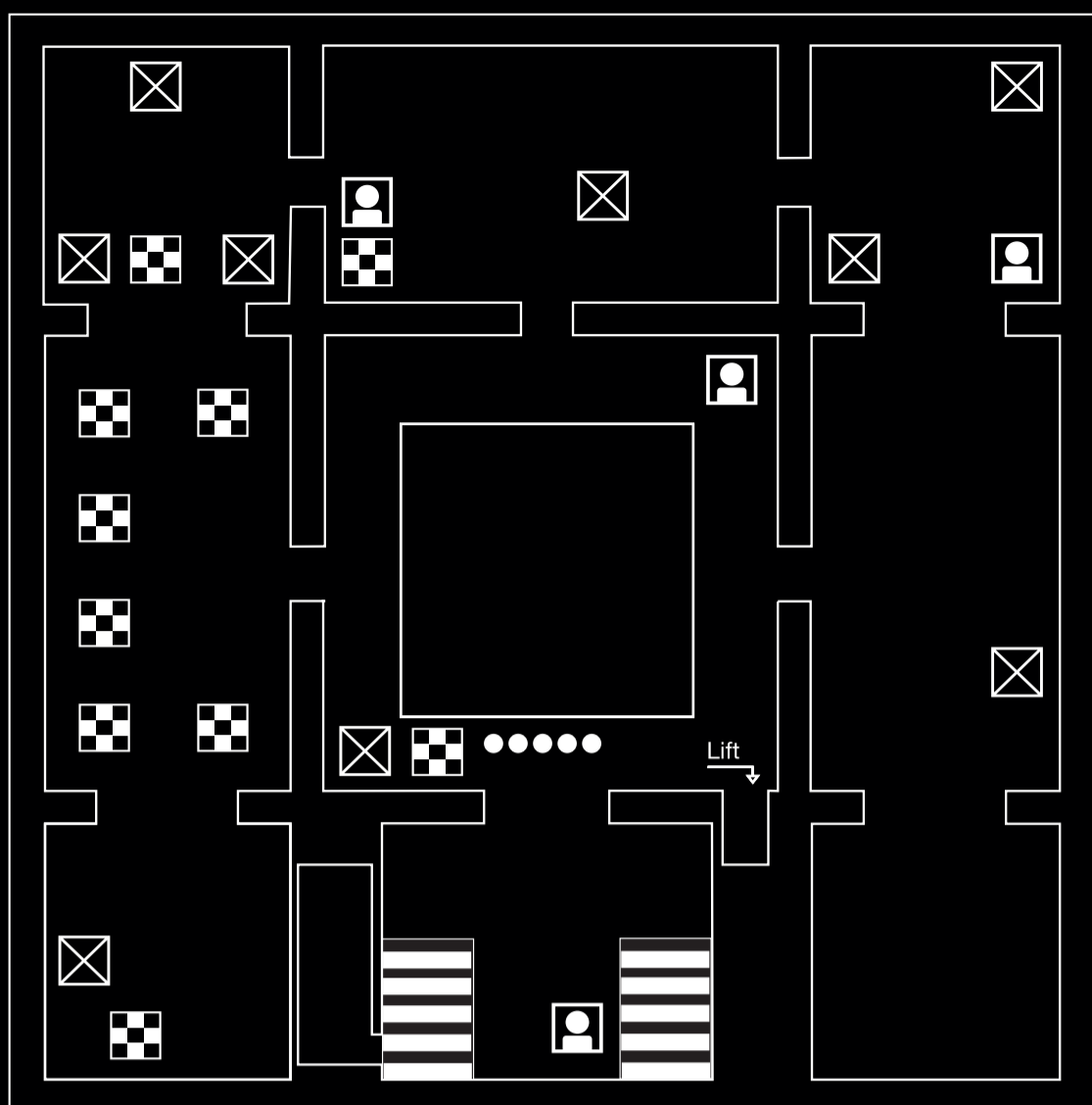
Film Screen – showing short films made by Preston artists and filmmakers.



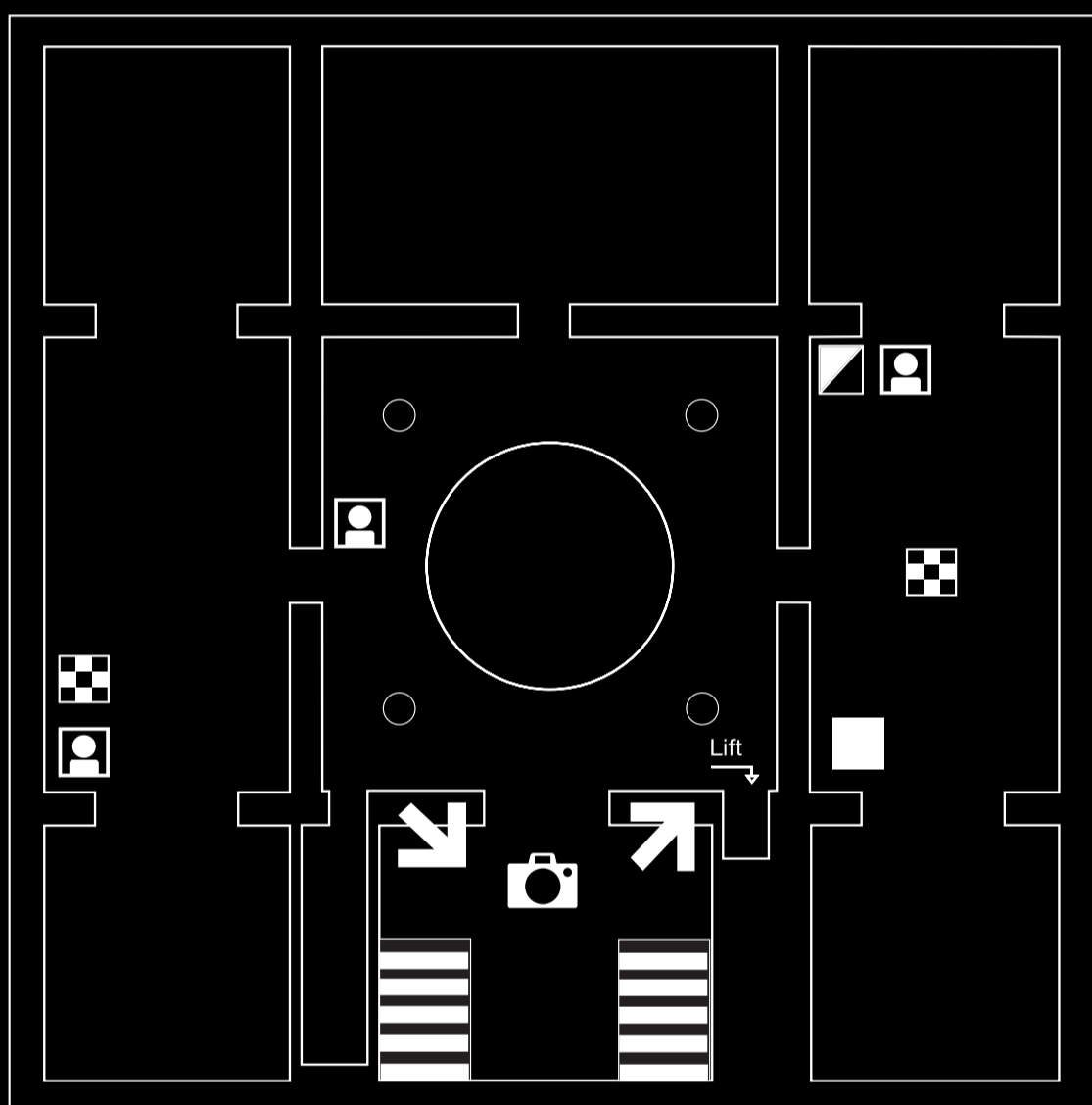
PEOPLE Jigsaw – produced by LOW PROFILE for people to create a unique view of the artwork.



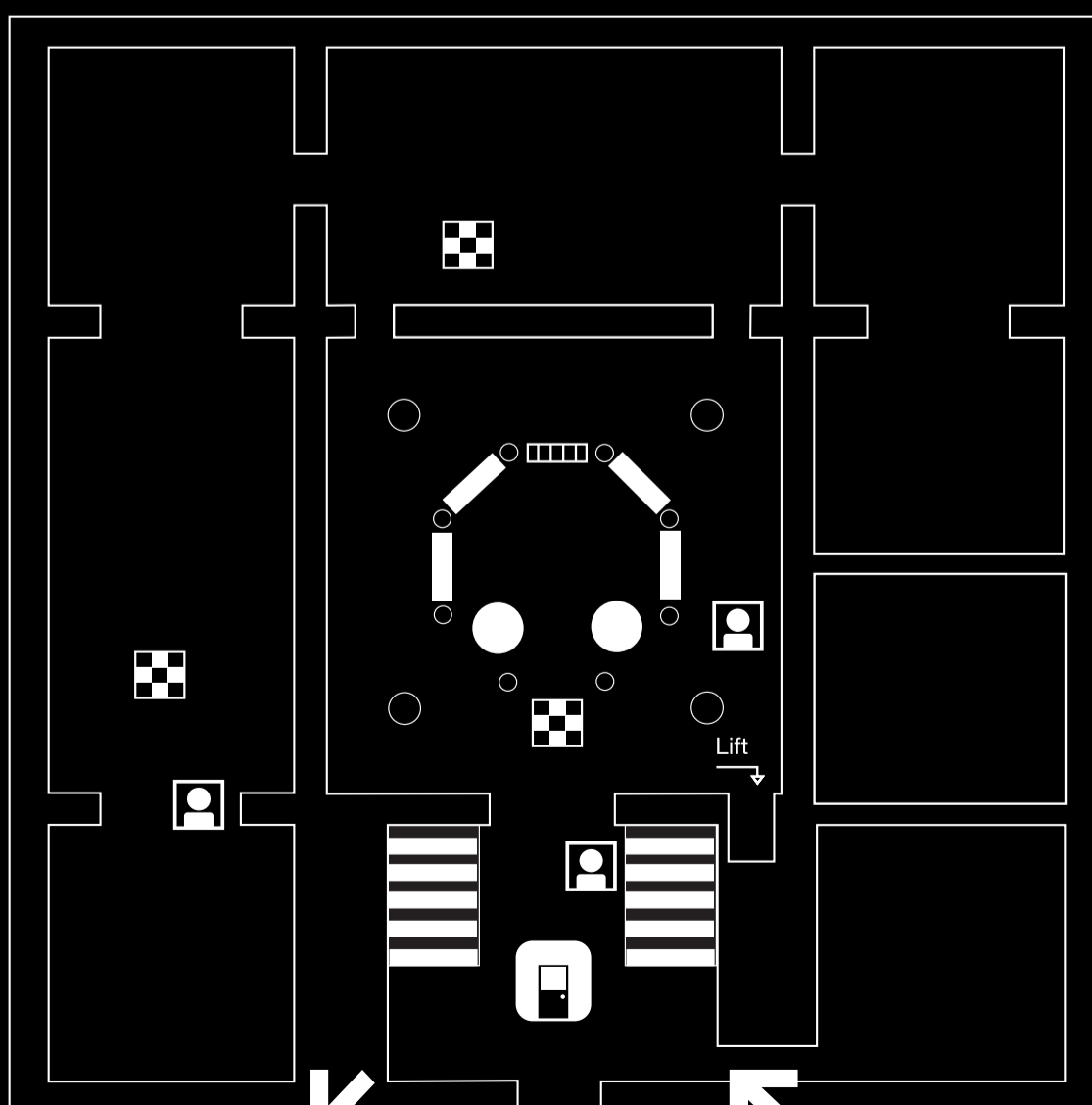
Save Preston Bus Station Banner – used in the procession to celebrate its Grade II listing.



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Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library
Market Square, Preston PR1 2PP

theharris.org.uk

In
Certain
Places



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