

6 PANCRAS SQUARE

● Part of the transformation of London's King 's Cross, 6 Pancras Square is the new UK headquarters for BNP Paribas. A steel frame has allowed long, clear office spans and rapid construction



King's Cross, once London's ugly duckling, is rapidly being transformed into a beautiful swan. The former down-at-heel industrial zone north of King's Cross Station now boasts public squares, canal-side eateries and vibrant street life alongside building developments that are homes to Central Saint Martins art college and University of the Arts London, with Google also set to move in. The regeneration scheme, complete with brand new postcode, London N1C, will include 50 buildings, 2,000 homes, 20 streets and 10 public squares spread over 67 acres.

Pancras Square is the focal point for a new office community south of Regent's Canal. Flanked on one side by King's Cross station and on the other by St Pancras International, the scheme consists of seven buildings situated around a central public square. A new underground entrance is also here, so it's no surprise to find big name companies moving in and 6 Pancras Square, due for completion in November, will be the UK headquarters for Paris-based BNP Paribas.

An 11-storey steel-framed structure, it will create 39,500m² of office space, with some ground floor retail, based around a large central atrium. "BNP had already appointed architect Jean-Michel Willmotte when we came on board and they had an idea of what the building would look like, with the atrium and double cores," explains Steve Toon, design director at structural engineer AKT II. "We very much drove a steel frame