



Photo by: David Levene

The Gherkin, London ['g3:kin]

Location in the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 St Mary Axe, London (on the damaged by an IRA bomb site of the Baltic Exchange and the Chamber of Shipping) • In the City of London
History of Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started: 2001, ended: 2003, opened: 28/04/2004 • Designed: Norman Foster and Arup Group • Cost: £138 mln (+ land cost: £90.6 mln) adjusted for inflation: £224 mln (+ land cost: £157 mln) • 2007: Britain's most expensive office building, bought for £630 mln; 2014: Brazilian billionaire paid £700 mln for it
Peculiarities of Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Style: Neo-futuristic landmark of London, the most widely recognized iconic example of contemporary architecture • The Gherkin nickname (1999) refers to highly unorthodox layout and appearance • Floor area: 47,950 square meters, 41 storeys, 180 metres tall • Energy-saving consumption: the low lighting costs, natural ventilation system with the air sandwiched between 2 layers of glazing, insulating the office space inside • Triangulated perimeter structure with only one piece of curved glass on the building at the apex • 40th floor: London Panoramic View Bar for tenants, 39th: a restaurant, 38th: private dining rooms. The main lift reaches 34th floor. A marble staircase and a lift for disabled lead the visitors up to the bar in the dome. • Visible over long distances.
Cultural Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awards for architecture: 2004 - Stirling Prize; 2006 <i>BD World Architecture 200</i> - the most admired building • filmed in <i>Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince</i>, <i>A Good Year</i>, <i>Basic Instinct 2</i>, and <i>Match Point</i> and described in Keith Mansfield's 2008 novel <i>Johnny Mackintosh and the Spirit of London</i>.