

Behind the 175 'splash' logo

The buildings were chosen because of a number of factors to conform to the demands of the design of the celebratory 'splash'.

Firstly, they have to be simple finger-like silhouettes - many extraordinary buildings, such as the Guggenheim in Bilbao by Frank Gehry, are squat with few distinguishing features when robbed of their three-dimensionality, and would not work within the design constraints.

They had to be instantly recognisable - Lord Foster's 'Gherkin' is far easier to recognise than a hundred thousand other box-like skyscrapers.

They have to be demonstrably significant and enduring pieces of architecture, typical of certain architectural schools or typologies. Most of these buildings have become icons of their own style, and cities, and even countries.

The designers tried to make a selection that spanned history (the earliest pagodas were built 2,000 years ago, the 'Gherkin' was completed in 2004), that covered a range of human activities (from living to working to crossing rivers), and represented a number of architectural approaches (from honouring history like the neo-medieval Scottish church to the unique invention of Utzon's opera house).

Like any game of lists, no list can ever be complete or perfect; everyone who loves architecture would make their own unique selection. Hopefully, people can use this selection as a starting point to construct a mental version of their own celebratory 'splash'.

The buildings with their architects and locations are annotated below.

