

**Grand Canal Square
Dublin Docklands**

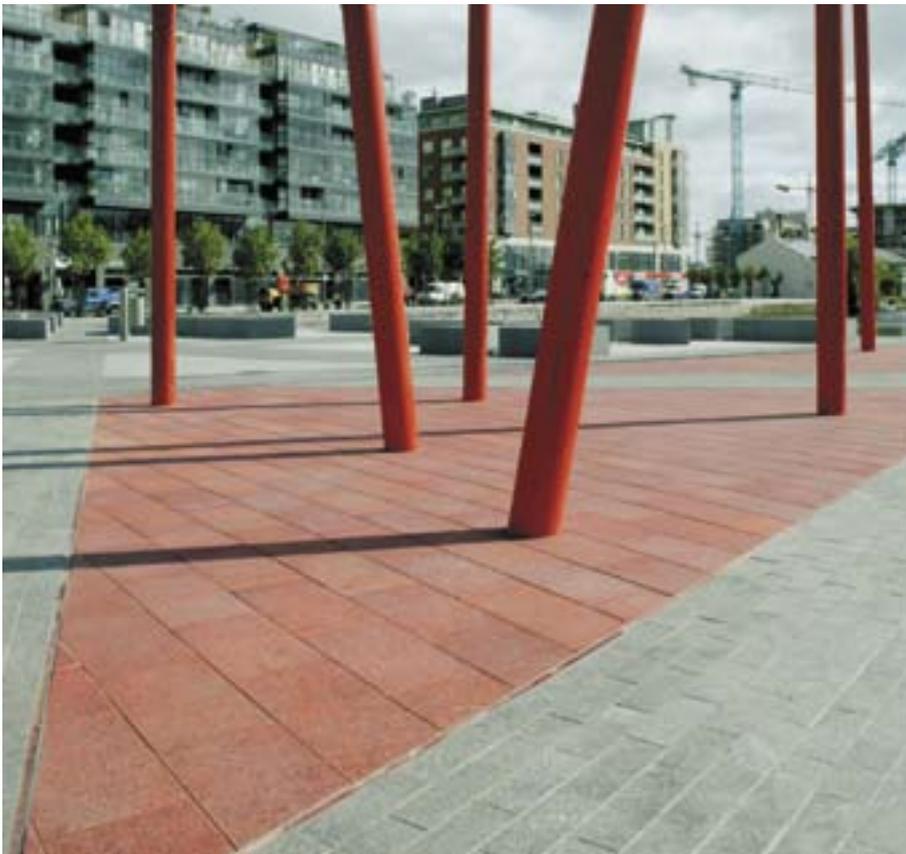
Architect
Martha Schwartz Partners

Client
Dublin Docklands
Development Authority

Grand Canal Square, on the site of a former gasworks in Dublin Docklands, is a dramatic, confident combination of architecture and landscape design. The site lies east of the city centre along the Liffey and its regeneration includes offices, shops, apartments and entertainment venues.

The remit for the landscape areas was for something dramatic, bright and creative. With this in mind the DDA turned to Martha Schwartz Partners in Cambridge Massachusetts who selected a concept known as 'Cracked Glass'. Craftstone was approached about manufacturing Crystalpave, a resin bonded coloured glass product that sparkles in the sunlight. After producing a number of samples, the client settled on a combination of red and green paving slabs.

Two swaths of red and green intersect across the site but the real drama comes from the red carpet which leads from a pontoon in the dock up to the projected entrance of the new theatre. Where the red carpet floats above the water, recessed floodlights beneath the floating dock extension create a glowing red halo to the surface of the water, thus reinforcing the floating concept. The end result is space that is bold in design, aesthetically pleasing and a desirable place to inhabit.



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