

TOP AWARD LOOMS FOR **MANCHESTER'S FAMOUS ROYAL MILLS**

The spectacular conversion of four of Manchester's most important cotton mills is to receive a highly-respected award for the quality of its restoration.

Royal Mills – an outstanding £85 million project to regenerate some of the UK's most historically significant mills dating back to the 18th Century – has clinched the coveted 'Built In Quality' Award from Manchester City Council.

Award-winning international property company ING Real Estate Development UK is behind the flagship project to turn Royal Mills into 312 one, two and three-bedroom apartments, penthouses and duplexes, together with 80,000 sq. ft. of commercial units, offices, meeting rooms, shops, bars and cafes.

Situated in historic Ancoats on the eastern edge of the city centre, the four-year project has created a magnificent 21st Century canalside community in an area that was once the heart of Manchester's proud cotton industry and forms an integral piece in the wider renaissance of New East Manchester.

A judging panel agreed that the regeneration scheme displayed outstanding practice for criteria including site safety, consistency of construction standards and compliance with Building Regulations.

Presentation of the award will take place at a gala dinner at Manchester Town Hall on Friday, 2 February, with key speeches from a number of leading figures in the building and design world.

Siep Hoeksma, Joint Managing Director of ING Real Estate Development UK, said: "We are delighted to receive this award for the regeneration of Royal Mills. To win such a prestigious accolade from Manchester City Council is testament to the many highly skilled and dedicated staff working on the scheme, led by our development manager Alexandra Dod.

“These surviving buildings are the last remaining examples of their kind and, therefore, it is essential that the restoration process has been undertaken sensitively and emphasis placed upon maintaining the original and unique features.

“We are pleased that this award recognises the quality of the conversion, which has given Royal Mills a completely new lease of life for the next century.

“The creation of the glass atrium, as the spectacular centrepiece of the scheme, as well as balconies and rooftop patios have brought the outside in – creating a perfect environment for people to live, work, relax and enjoy the setting.”

Royal Mills is widely acknowledged as being the first commercially-led conversion scheme in Ancoats and a major catalyst in driving confidence and further regeneration, which is now transforming the whole surrounding area.

Tony Hough, Chief Building Surveyor at Manchester City Council, explained: “The award winners were hand-picked from a large number of construction projects across the city. Royal Mills clearly demonstrates the outstanding quality standards and regulation compliance, which embody the renaissance of central Manchester.

“The transformation of Royal Mills has triggered a wave of development within Ancoats, extending the traditional boundaries of the city centre.”

At the heart of the Royal Mills development is a huge, curved £1 million glass atrium, covering a four-storey business and retail centre, flooding the whole area and surrounding apartments with natural light.

Many original features have been carefully restored throughout the development, with guidance from heritage experts and industrial historians,

including stone staircases, exposed brickwork, vaulted ceilings, cast iron columns and pillar supports.

The restoration has been assisted by an £8.8 million grant from North West Regional Development Agency, with additional funding and support from the European Union, New East Manchester and Manchester City Council.

One, two and three bedroom apartments are available at Royal Mills. Prices start at around £170,000. Contact Knight Frank in the sales suite on 0161 237 9435 or visit www.royalmills.co.uk.