

Panorama



↑ Everything flows: For the design of the Aquatics Centre, Zaha Hadid was inspired by the riverscape of the Olympic Park.

Flowing gesture

Aquatics Centre, London, Great Britain

Among the first buildings on the grounds of the 2012 Olympic Games in London to be completed is the Aquatics Centre designed by Zaha Hadid Architects. The complex is situated at the southeast end of the Olympic grounds bordering the Stratford section of London and is separated from the other Olympic sites by a canal of the Thames River. Several bridges link the building to the Olympic Park on the opposite shore. In her architectural concept, Zaha Hadid was inspired by the flowing movement of the water, borrowing from the riverscape of the Olympic Park.

The curved, parabola-shaped roof line of the Aquatics Centre extends the public space to the southeast and turns cross-wise toward the pedestrian bridge. The

building contains three pools that form a large podium under the roof and bridge. Inside the building, the ceiling, walls and windows also undulate. Even the curvature of the diving platforms follows the building's flowing gestures. For the Olympic Games, a compromise had to be found for the grandstands in order to increase the seating capacity to 17,500. After the Games, the extension structures required for the increased capacity will be removed and the number of seats will be reduced to 2,000. Curving glass facades will later replace the extensions, which will make the pools and interior of the stadium largely visible from the exterior. ←

→ www.london2012.com

Aquatics Centre, London (UK)

Building owner: International Olympic Committee, Geneva (CH)

Architect: Zaha Hadid Architects, London (UK)

Completed: spring, 2011

Plumber: Pipetech, Hants (UK)

Geberit know-how

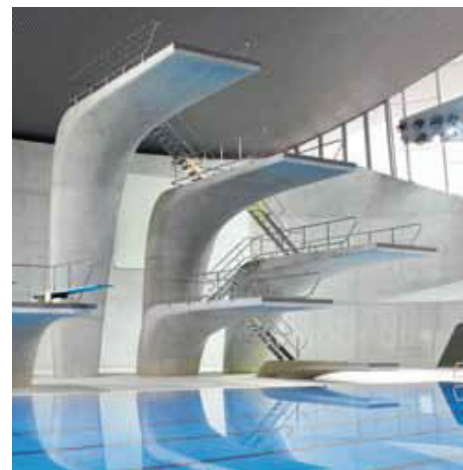
Duofix installation system

PE piping system

Mapress carbon steel piping system

Mapress copper piping system

Mapress copper gas piping system



↑ Even the diving platforms have a flowing curvature.

Chris Pain, plumber, Pipetech

“The most difficult bit was the curved top of the building so for the heating pipes we used Geberit Mapress which enabled us to customize the bends in order to adapt to its shape. An impressive 130 customized bends had to be fitted.”