

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **St Joseph's pupils dream up shop designs for Union Square**

Pupils from St Joseph's primary school in Aberdeen fulfilled their dreams of being architects for the day as they visited Hammerson's Union Square development to show case the shop designs they have been working on for the last few weeks.

Hammerson project manager Nick Fay has given the 29 pupils a few lessons in scale and construction and the scheme architects, BDP, provided each pupil with a scale drawing of the Arcadia unit within Union Square.

Armed with these tools and challenged with designing the shop interior, the primary five students put the theory and their own creativity into practice. Their designs were showcased to a selection panel during their visit last week and the winning design was chosen.

Sitting on the shop design judging panel was Nick Fay, Hammerson Union Square project manager, Penny Godfrey, Hammerson Union Square marketing manager, Heather Sharkey, tenant liaison and community manager of main contractor Miller Construction and Danny Gentles, technical director of Union Square's structural engineers WA Fairhurst.

After listening to the children's 'show and tell' presentation of their designs, the judging panel selected Christopher as the overall winner. Christopher's lego themed design included all the essential elements – a till point, entrance and exit doors, a storage area – with a creative 'try before you buy area'. As well as a book on Super Structures and HMV vouchers Christopher will also get his design turned into a Computer Generated Image, courtesy of Union Square architects, BPD.

Nick Fay, Union Square's project manager said:

"The pupils clearly put a lot of thought into their designs. As they will have learnt, it is sometimes difficult to be both creative and practical but they managed this very well.

We hope this exercise gave some insight into the varied jobs available in this industry, it would be great to have inspired some future engineers, architects or project managers. Who knows, in a few years time they could be doing my job!"

Heather Sharkey, Miller Construction's tenant liaison and community manager said: "We're delighted that St Joseph's could help us design one of the retail units. The designs were very imaginative and I think they may have given the architects a run for their money!"

ENDS

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

Union Square is a £250 million mixed use, regeneration scheme creating a new retail and leisure quarter for Aberdeen. Developed by Hammerson, the scheme includes 56 retail units, comprising a range of national and international brands, up to 12 restaurants and cafés, a 203 bed hotel and 10 screen multiplex, set to be Aberdeen's largest cinema. The scheme will also provide visitors with a new civic square. Union Square will be Aberdeen's most accessible retail and leisure offer with 1,700 car parking spaces, easily reached from all major routes and integrated with the city's bus and rail stations - providing a gateway to the region and encouraging sustainable travel to the city.

[www.unionsquareaberdeen.com](http://www.unionsquareaberdeen.com)

#### **Hammerson plc**

Hammerson plc is a FTSE-100 Real Estate Investment Trust which operates principally in the retail sector in the UK and France. Its £6.5 billion portfolio, which provides 1.4 million m<sup>2</sup> of retail space and 255,000 m<sup>2</sup> of offices, includes 15 major shopping centres and 19 retail parks.

Hammerson has a track record of successfully delivering major city centre regeneration projects. Award-winning developments include Bishops Square in London and Bullring in Birmingham. In September 2008 the Company opened three major retail-led developments: Highcross, Leicester; Cabot Circus, Bristol and an

extension to Parinor, an existing centre in Paris. This autumn, Hammerson will open its latest retail-led regeneration scheme, Union Square in Aberdeen.

The Company is currently working with several councils across the UK to deliver retail-led mixed-use projects in cities including Leeds, Southampton and Sheffield.

For more information, visit [www.hammerson.com](http://www.hammerson.com).