

Glasgow's Historic Fish Market



The top of the Merchants Steeple with The Briggait on Clyde Street in the foreground



The 1873 Hall in use as a fish market

The Briggait celebrates its 150th birthday in 2023. The complex operated as the city's fish market for over 100 years. At its height, 60,000 boxes of fish passed through its halls per year.

The building was designed by architects Clarke & Bell, adopting the French Renaissance style, inspired by the famous Les Halles in Paris.

After the fish market moved to Blochairn in 1977, The Briggait was saved from demolition by the Bridgegate Trust (now the Glasgow Buildings Preservation Trust). The Briggait's 1873 Hall was then a short-lived boutique shopping centre in the 1980s before Wasps took over the building in 2009, redeveloping it into a creative hub for the city.

The Briggait is Scotland's oldest and most historically significant surviving market hall. The main hall was completed in 1873 and additional halls opened in 1899 and 1904. These are located at the back of the building, facing Clyde Street.

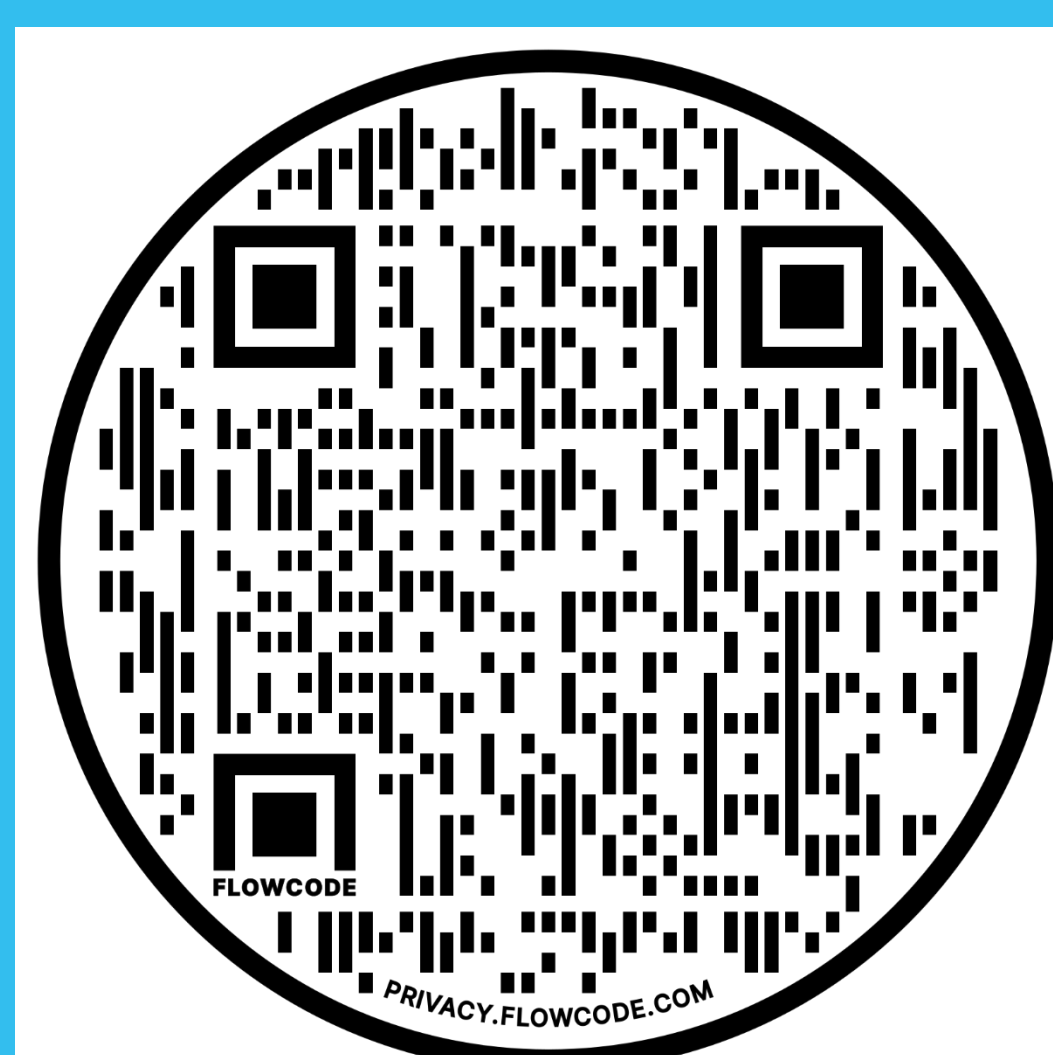
The Briggait was considered a state-of-the-art fish market when it first opened. The white tile-lined walls kept the halls cool, in turn keeping the fish fresher and the market more hygienic.

This area is one of the most historic parts of Glasgow. The clock tower The Briggait was built around is a remnant of Medieval Glasgow. Completed in 1655 and originally part of the Merchants House, later demolished with the Merchants House relocating to George Square. Merchants would use the steeple as a look-out for approaching ships on the River Clyde.



The Briggait as viewed from Clyde Street

To discover The Briggait's past, scan the QR code or visit waspsstudios.org.uk/briggait.



What's Happening at The Briggait Today?



The Briggait as viewed from Bridgegate

Around 150 artists and creative people are working at The Briggait today. In 2009, Wasps became custodian of The Briggait and redeveloped half of the complex to create studio, office and exhibition space for Glasgow's creative community.

Today, The Briggait hosts a range of community, cultural and social events and activities throughout the year, including markets and exhibitions.



The Briggait's 1873 Hall hosting a Wasps Market



The Briggait artist Moe Rocksmoore in her studio

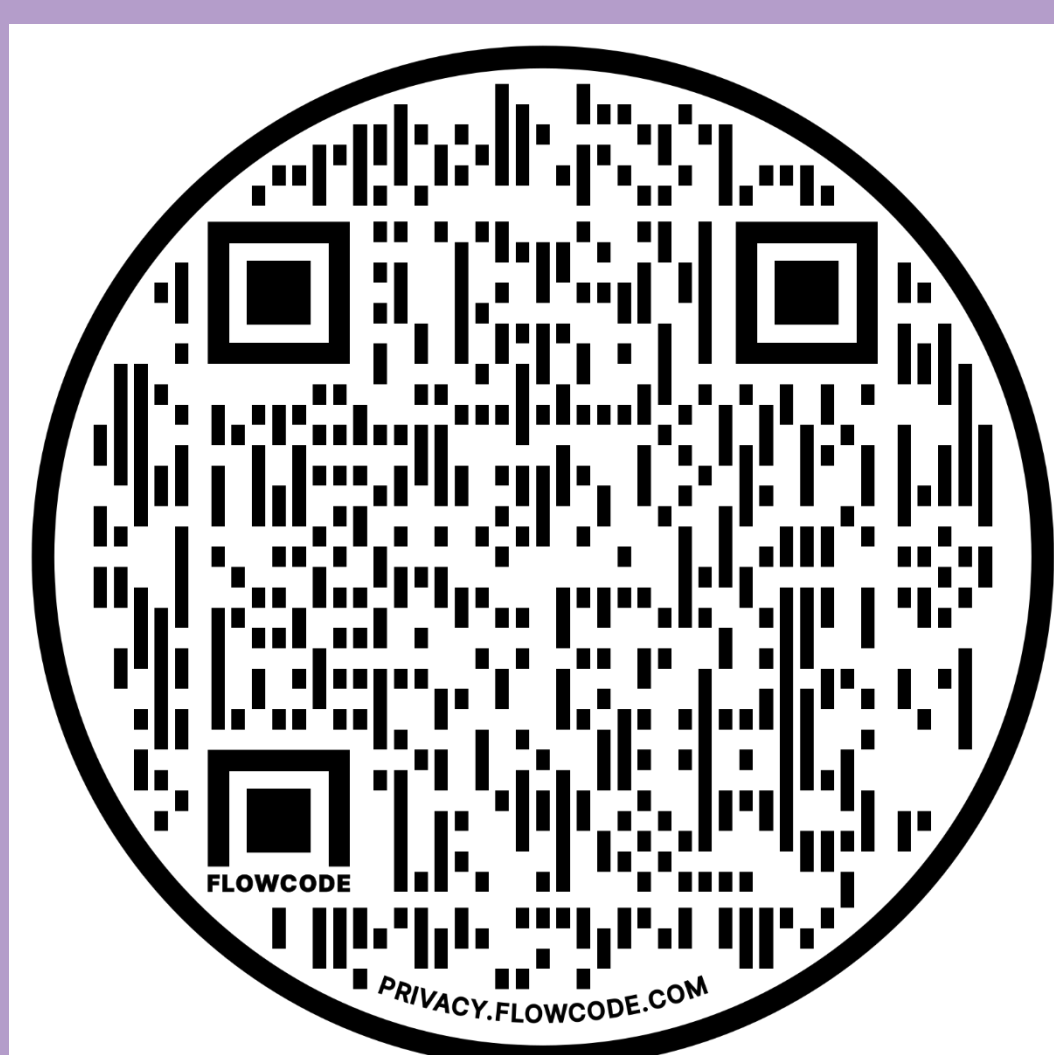
Wasps provides an inspirational home for creative practice, enabling Scotland's artists to realise and share their talent and skills with the communities in which they work and across the world.

Wasps is Scotland's largest provider of studio spaces. The Briggait is at the heart of Wasps' Scotland-wide studio network and an important part of Glasgow's industrial and cultural heritage.

Operating as a charity, Wasps has a history of supporting the arts community. Founded in 1977 it has grown to become home to 1000 visual artists and arts organisations over 20 buildings across Scotland.

There are two additional halls located adjacent to Clyde Street - the 1899 Hall and 1904 Hall, half of which were converted to studios and offices in 2009. Wasps will transform the remaining vacant spaces with this project, expanding the cultural offering of Clydeside. With this project Wasps is driving the historic building's revival for the benefit of its tenants and the community.

For more on The Briggait's present, scan the QR code or visit waspsstudios.org.uk/briggait.



Securing The Briggait's Future

In July 2023 Wasps began its Clydeside Market Halls Project, renovating 1200sqm of undeveloped halls and bringing the ornate Clydeside Entrance back into use. The halls will be transformed into a welcoming mixed-use space for food & drink, markets, events and creative industry use. With The Briggait's historic connection to the Clyde restored it will provide a valuable asset to the community and the city's visitors.

The redevelopment of The Briggait will involve four main sites:

1. Clyde Street Gap Site

The Gap Site between the 1873 façade and the 1904 corner block was once the site of a tenement building. By the end of Phase Two, this will become a new entrance courtyard for the Clydeside Market Halls.

2. Corner of Clyde Street and Merchant Lane

The 1904 Corner Block was once the administrative hub for the fishmarket. The Category-A listed building is currently on the Buildings At Risk Register. By the end of Phase One it will be completely renovated and safeguarded for future generations.

3. 1904 Hall

The 1904 Hall – along with its neighbour the 1889 Hall – will be transformed into a flexible event and market space, with improved insulation, ventilation and underfloor heating by the end of Phase Two. The Category A listed building will be returned to its former glory.

4. Hinge Space and 1889 Hall

The hinge space which connects the 1873 Hall to the Clydeside Market Halls will open up and extend behind the 1889 Hall to connect the external courtyard facing onto Clyde Street to The Briggait.



The Briggait Clydeside Market Halls project is generously supported by:



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Scottish Landfill
Communities Fund



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To learn about our plans for The Briggait, scan the QR code or visit waspsstudios.org.uk/briggait.



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The Wasps Trust is a charity registered in Scotland (SC022115).