

# LIVERPOOL – THE GREAT CITY

**NEW, REVISED AND UPDATED EDITION**

Paul McMullin and Mike McNamee

In this fully revised and updated edition, with more than 90 per cent of the images being wholly new, *Liverpool The Great City* showcases the resurgence of the port as a tourist, leisure, shopping and educational place. Visitors to the city arrive curious about the birthplace of the Mersey Sound, the home of the Beatles, the old staging post to the New World, the arrival port for wartime Atlantic convoys, to see the city that boasts two important cathedrals or two top-flight soccer teams – a wide variety of reasons. They invariably depart surprised by the breadth and beauty of the city architecture, the magnificent waterfront skyline and, more recently, the quality of the shopping. *Liverpool The Great City* provides a preview of the city, a treasured keepsake, a wonderful present for a family member or perhaps those who no longer live in the area and are curious to see how it is changing.

The images are up-to-date, some deliberately taken just days before the book went to press, including the unique sight of the three Cunard Queens together on the Mersey. All are presented in a large format hardback that does justice to both the quality and importance of the photographs and of the city itself.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

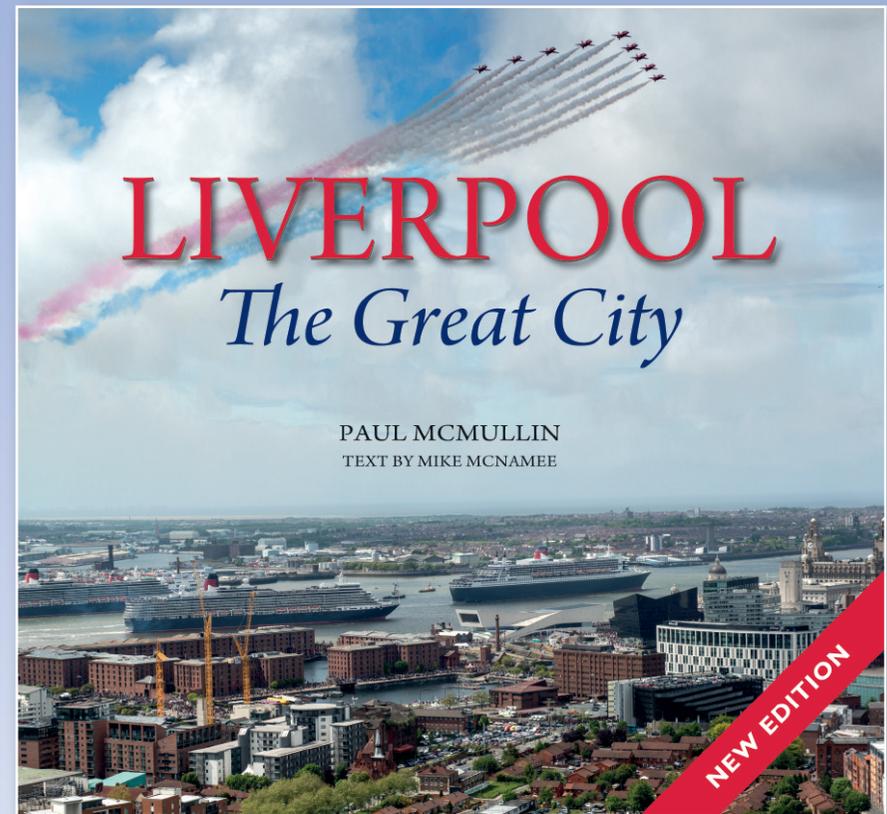
**Paul McMullin** is an architectural photographer. He works throughout the world on assignments for clients. His photography career started in Liverpool in 1977 with Photoflex Studios. His work is regularly featured in architectural awards and books and he is a keen advocate of both digital and traditional forms of photography. He continues to document the ever changing face of Liverpool as an ongoing project and for the love of the city.

**Mike McNamee** is the editor of the international photography magazine, *Professional Imagemaker* and began collaborating with Paul McMullin on features concerned with architectural and panoramic images. He lives and works on the Wirral, in New Brighton, and so has the best view of the Liverpool Waterfront on a daily basis. As a young apprentice he used the Mersey Ferries daily to get to work, today the same boats ply their trade tendering visitors ashore from the great Cunard liners that have recently returned.

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“...Sir Peter is more widely known as the creator of the Beatles’ sleeve for Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band...”

In 2015 Sir Peter Blake was commissioned by Liverpool Biennial to design *Everybody Razzle Dazzle* which covers the Mersey Ferry Snowdrop with a distinctive pattern in monochrome and colour, transforming the vessel into a moving artwork as it continues its service. This is the third in the series of Dazzle Ship commissions and the first to be a working vessel. It is planned to keep this livery for two years.

Unlike other forms of camouflage, dazzle camouflage works not by concealing but by baffling the eye, making it difficult to estimate a target’s range, speed and direction. Realised in monochrome and colour, each ship’s dazzle pattern was unique in order to avoid making classes of ships instantly recognisable to enemy U-boats and aircraft.

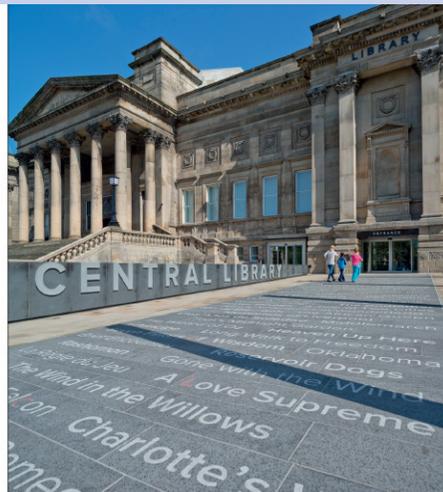
Sir Peter is more widely known as the creator of the Beatles’ sleeve for *Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

The Echo Arena and BT Convention Centre joined with the Exhibition Centre Liverpool (newly opened September 2015) and they occupy the site on the King’s Dock adjacent to the Albert Dock and overlooked by the Anglican Cathedral. It was designed by two-times winner of the RIBA Stirling Prize for architecture, Wilkinson Eyre.

Some examples of double-page spreads.



Michelangelo (above) was sculpted by John Warrington Wood in 1976 as 1877. He sits at the entrance to the Walker Art Gallery opposite another statue by Warrington, this time of Raphael.



## CHAPTER 1 THE WATERFRONT

Liverpool’s development has been dominated by its designer over centuries. Sir Peter Blake, it was not always so and in earlier centuries the main part of the area was built on the River Gae, Liverpool above took the prominent position as the sea-ward end and ships became large. To a local the Waterfront is regarded as the area around the Three Graces – the Royal Liver Building, the Cunard Building and the Port of Liverpool Building. The skyline takes into view other buildings behind the docks and is bounded to the north by Alexander’s Tower and to the south by the Anglican Cathedral. The Waterfront is somewhat disconnected from the city by the Strand, a busy eight lane road. The name echoes its past as the original promenade, before the massive dock walls were built to harness the tides.

As a view, the Waterfront is best enjoyed from the famous Mersey Ferries, either from abroad or after you have landed at the Merseyside or Wallasey Ferries. From there you can take in the whole expanse, created on the Three Graces, but extending as far as the eye can see in either direction. The skyline has changed dramatically over the past two decades. Those of us who live on the Waterfront enjoy much the best view of the Waterfront with an unobstructed view all the way from New Brighton down to Woodside.

The importance of the skyline is possibly greater for the sailor who has made their way into the port over the centuries. The six fire towers they are home, the familiarity of the skyline before their safe arrival. This has particular resonance for the shipbuilding number who sailed into the port, followed and headed by the North Atlantic. Canyons of World War II. How their brothers, lost at sea, would answer at the famous light where they sail to land it today.

