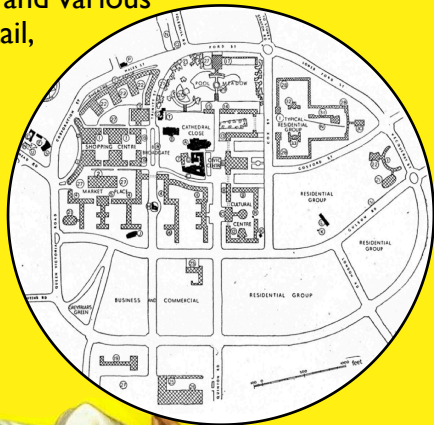




Coventry Blitz

The Blitz, especially the air raid of 14th -15th November 1940, destroyed a large part of Coventry City Centre leaving only small islands of existing buildings around the City. Coventry's rebuilding plans had started before the War, Labour had gained control of the City Council in 1937 and this led to the subsequent appointment of Donald Gibson as City Architect, leading a multi-disciplinary team. The first scheme for the City Centre was exhibited as early as 1939 - 1940. An 'Ultimate Plan' for the City was drawn up quickly in 1941 by the City Architect's Department and this shows the early concept of a ring road and various 'zones' for retail, civic, religion, education and recreation.



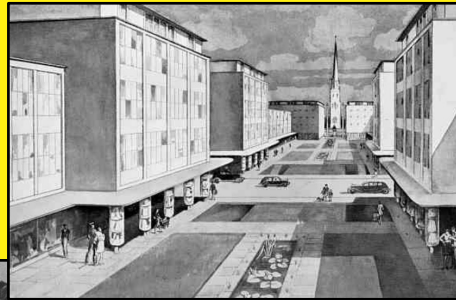
'Ultimate Plan' 1941, buildings in black retained, cross-hatched are new buildings



Broadgate Gibson's Artist impression

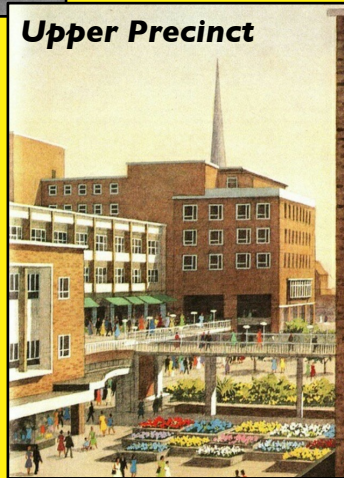
In Sir Donald Gibson's master plan the basic elements of Broadgate and the precinct layout were established in his early plan of 1941. Clever use was made of the sloping site down into the precincts to provide multi level shopping.

Artist impression of the Precinct and a early model.



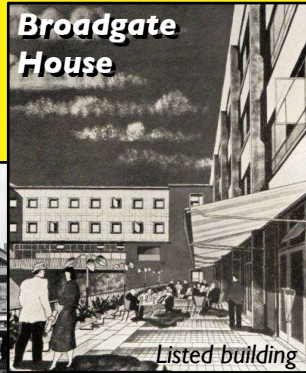
The precinct design provided generous, low rise shopping squares on two levels with gardens and seating areas.

Servicing for the shops was provided, together with car parking, in the rear courtyards. This large scale pedestrian precinct was the first to be designed in the UK (1941); however it was not started until 1948 and completed in sections between 1951 - 56.



Upper Precinct

The spirit of the 'Festival of Britain' of 1951 was the style that Coventry fully embraced.



Broadgate House



Round Cafe



Swimming Baths

The glass, steel and clean lines were the new style.



Railway Station



Listed building

Listed building

The first civic theatre to be built in the country after the War was the Belgrade Theatre, and a new hotel and the circular market, all added to its civic pride.



Belgrade Theatre

Listed building

Originally Hotel Leofric



Listed building

Coventry has been very inventive with its shapes and styles, making it unique in post war architecture.



Car Park on top of the round Market

Listed building