

## Moor Street Car Park, Birmingham Bullring



The car park links to Selfridges by bridge



The warehouse was in a decrepit condition



Hennebique designed beam reinforcement



Access platforms were used frequently



Repairs were made with sprayed concrete



The new car park is light and airy

Grade II listed warehouse featuring early Hennebique reinforced concrete design restored and incorporated into modern shopping centre car park.

Client	Birmingham Alliance
Principal Contractor	O'Rourke
Repair Specialist	Balvac
Sub-Contract Value	£ 680,000
Completion	Summer 2003

The modern seven storey, 1200 space Moor Street shopping centre car park sits alongside the futuristic Selfridges building, iconic landmark of the 2004 Birmingham Bullring shopping centre re-development.

The car park is not wholly new however for part of the structure dates back to 1915 and earlier. The former goods depot of nearby Moor Street Station, known locally as the “Banana Warehouse”, is incorporated into the new car park at one end, forming the ground floor entrance / exit area and part of the basement level. Arriving drivers are greeted with an unusual and eye catching view of the old building’s arched beams and high columns as they collect their ticket at the barrier.

Developers, The Birmingham Alliance, went to great lengths to retain and restore the old building. This was because the warehouse is an early example of design by French engineer, François Hennebique – one of the pioneers of reinforced concrete construction. The structure enjoys a Grade II listing as a consequence.

Balvac played a major role in restoring the building, it was in an extremely poor condition after years of neglect and the concrete was suffering from high levels of carbonation penetration. Significant areas of hollow, damaged and spalled concrete were removed by hydrodemolition and replaced with both sprayed concrete and hand applied repair mortars. Surface applied corrosion inhibitors were used to provide additional protection to areas not requiring concrete repair. Finally the entire structure was treated with an anti-carbonation coating to provide a durable and aesthetically pleasing finish.

## Balvac

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