



MANCHESTER TOWN HALL



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It took two years to decide on a site for Manchester Town Hall.

The site chosen was a controversial triangular plot which had a profound effect on the design of the new Town Hall.

Architects were invited to send in their designs and 136 designs were submitted. These were narrowed down to ten favoured designs by eight architects.

The chosen architects were asked to compete again and revise their existing drawings, which were judged on St Valentine's Day, 1868.

The winner was Alfred Waterhouse. Although the design was not unanimously liked as the best looking, it was the most practical and superior in terms of lighting, ventilation, access and other practical considerations.

The formal opening ceremony took place on 13 September 1877.

It has been deemed a monument to the civic pride of the city fathers, reaching 286 feet above Albert Square.

The exterior of the Town Hall is now a Grade 1 listed building.

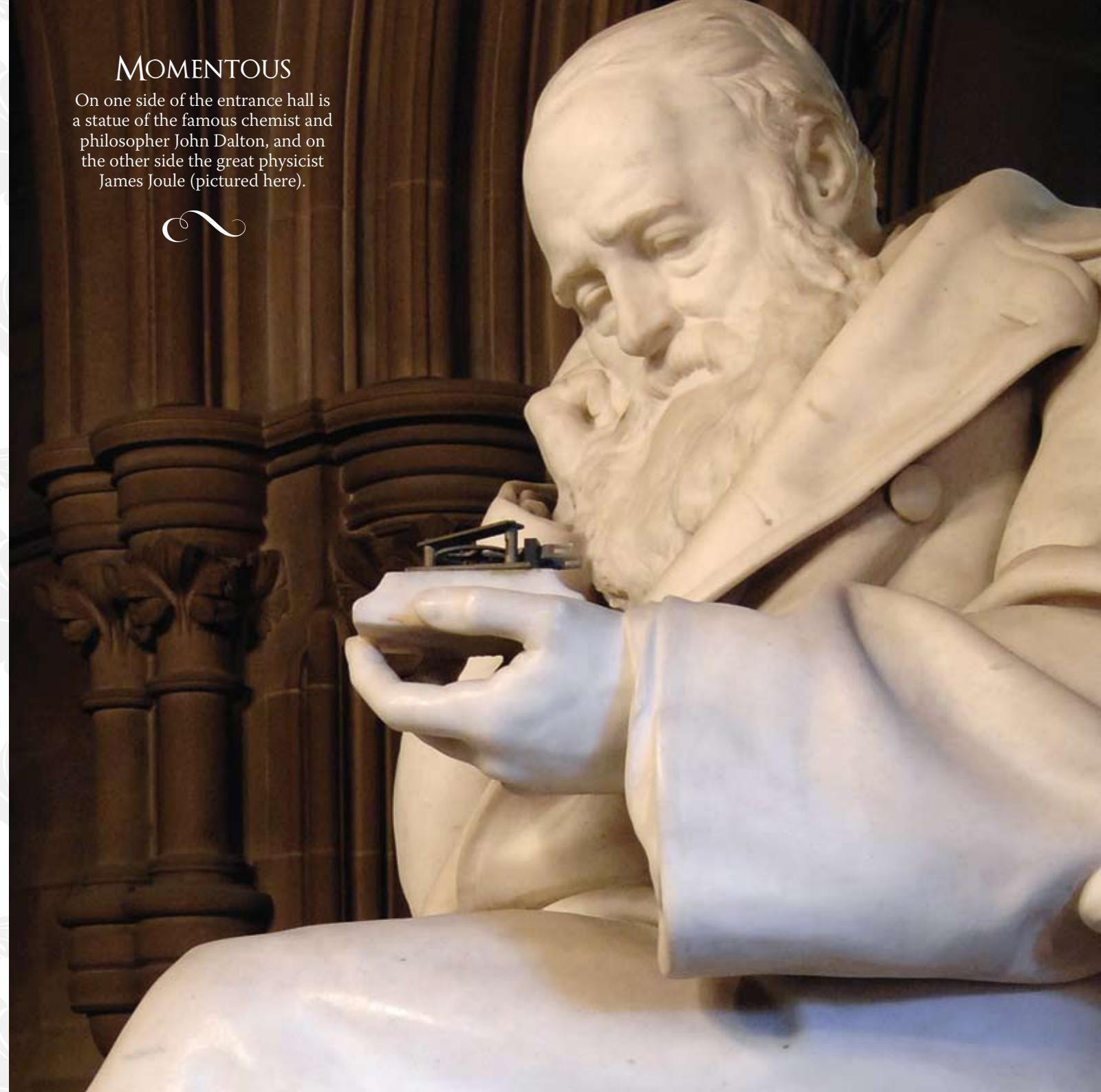
MONUMENTAL

The main entrance features a statue of Roman Governor Agricola, founder of Mamucium in 79 AD, with Henry III and Elizabeth I above him and St George at the apex of the main door's gable. Soaring above them all is the clock tower, 286 feet high and housing 24 bells, including the 8-ton Great Hour Bell.



MOMENTOUS

On one side of the entrance hall is a statue of the famous chemist and philosopher John Dalton, and on the other side the great physicist James Joule (pictured here).



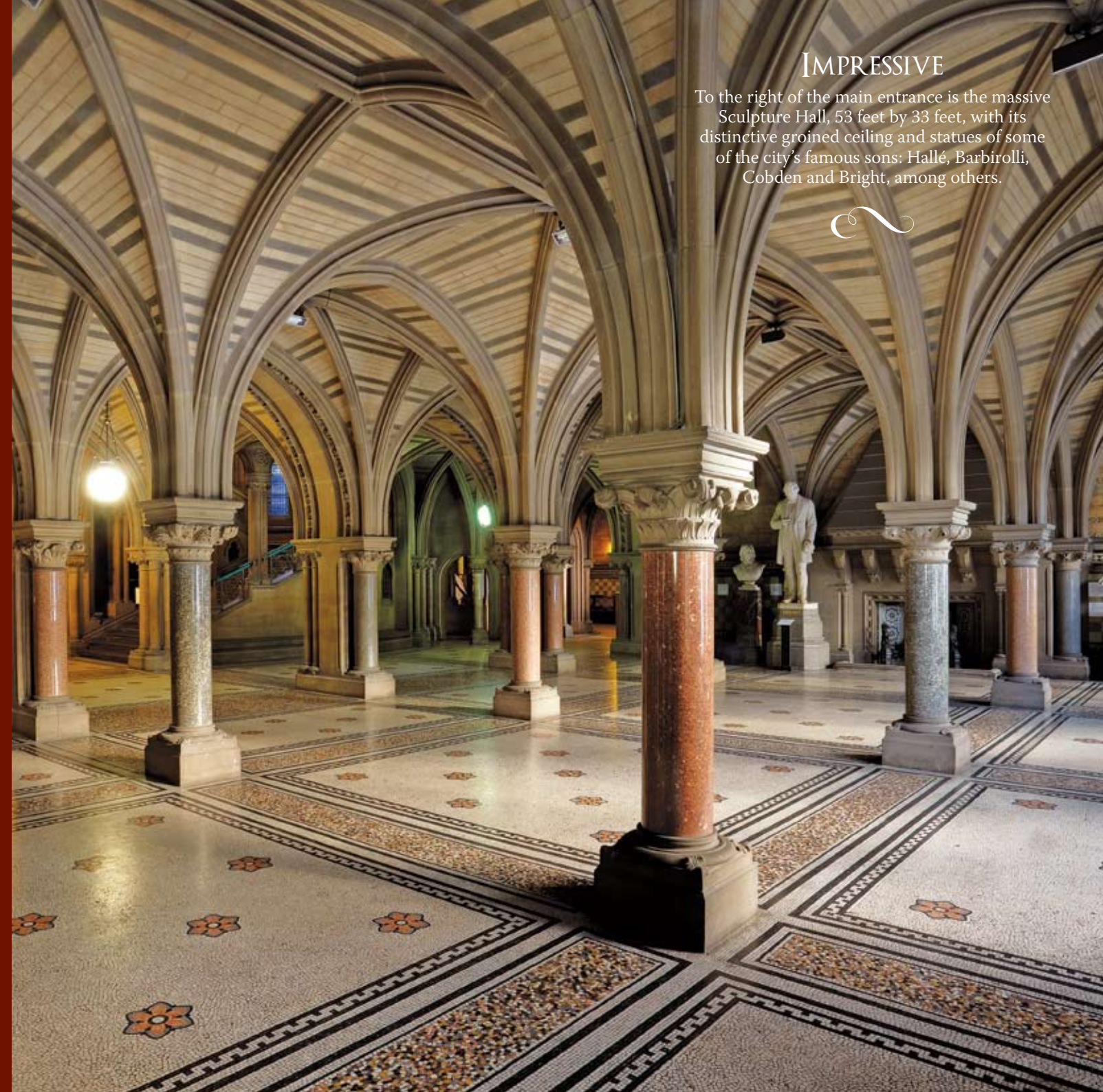
HISTORIC

The grandeur and opulence of its vaulted ceilings, sweeping staircases and stunning mosaics are palatial; its vast spaces have afforded the same warm Northern welcome to heads of state, captains of industry and celebrities alike.



IMPRESSIVE

To the right of the main entrance is the massive Sculpture Hall, 53 feet by 33 feet, with its distinctive groined ceiling and statues of some of the city's famous sons: Hallé, Barbirolli, Cobden and Bright, among others.



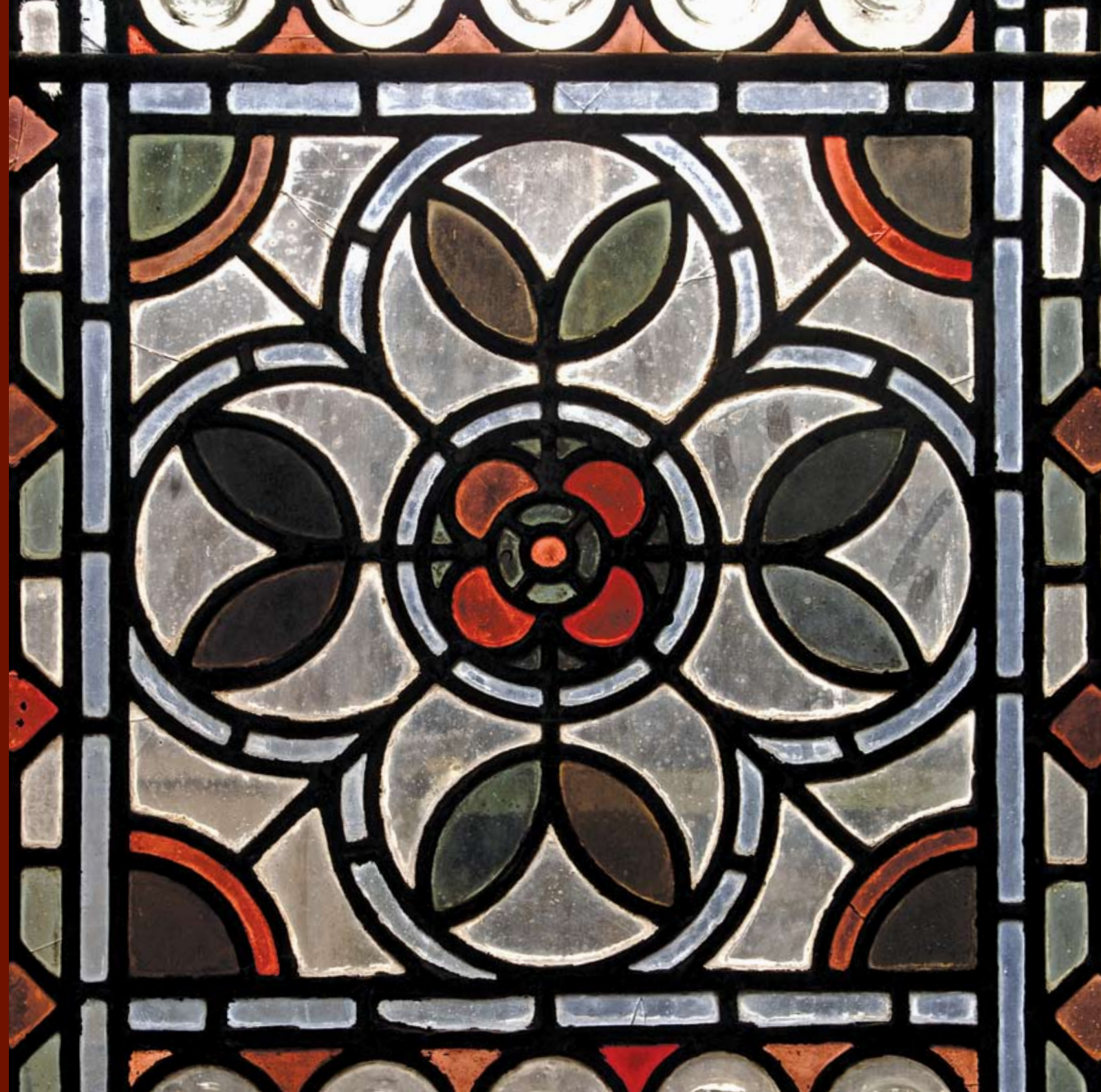
GRANDEUR

There are several staircases leading to the first floor, the most impressive of which are the two grand staircases leading from the Sculpture Hall. The three spiral staircases are known as the Irish, English and Scottish, as each country provided the granite for them.



TRADITIONAL

The bee is a recurring theme, from the mosaic floor of the landing (traditionally known as 'The Bees') to the state rooms and beyond. They symbolise Manchester's industry, and are also featured on the city's coat of arms.



A wide-angle, low-perspective shot of the interior of the Birmingham Town Hall. The image captures the soaring height of the Gothic Revival architecture, featuring a complex network of dark wood trusses and arches. The ceiling is painted to resemble a sky with clouds and includes several large, colorful murals of figures and scenes. Large, ornate chandeliers with many small light bulbs hang from the ceiling. Tall, narrow windows with intricate tracery allow natural light to enter. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

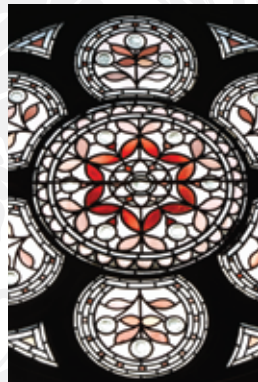
REMARKABLE

The Town Hall cost £1million to construct and covers almost two acres. Its structure contains 14million bricks encased in Spinkwell stone, as well as 4,500 square yards of marble flooring laid by Venetian craftsmen.



SPECTACULAR

The Great Hall echoes a typical Flemish weaving hall in spectacular fashion, with its ornate ceiling depicting the principal countries and towns with which Manchester traded. The magnificent organ has over 5,000 pipes up to 16 feet tall, and the keyboard is designed so the player faces the audience.



PRESTIGIOUS

Originally the Council Chamber, the Conference Hall features a graceful oak screen, canopy and gallery. The walls above the gallery house the arms of Manchester and surrounding local towns.



STATELY

The Lord Mayor's Parlour, which boasts a 5-foot high polished oak dado, contains portraits of public figures and paintings previously presented to the Council.



GRACEFUL

The Reception Room's fabulous alabaster fireplace bears the figures of truth and justice, while the backcloth in the recess behind the pillars features the traditional bees with the Lancashire Rose dominating the rest of the décor.



ELEGANT

The Banqueting Hall is a striking setting for any event. The ornate ceiling is panelled in squares of oak with faces of the sun emblazoned in gold at the corners. The room's two impressive fireplaces – one in Hopton Wood Stone and one in oak – are equally grand, with a minstrel's gallery above the latter.





MAJESTIC

SUMPTUOUS

Our catering team has built a reputation for excellence and flair, bringing to the table an array of mouth watering options and imaginative ideas to create the perfect menu to make any event even more memorable.



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