

# **THE BBC - COMMITTED TO ARCHITECTURE**

## **Introduction**

Digital broadcasting, with multiple channels and increasing globalisation, radically alters the universe within which the BBC works. At this time of change, it is vital for the BBC to reaffirm its reputation as a great cultural institution that not only represents the best of Britain around the world, but also acts as a global brand known for independence, impartiality, excellence and public service.

In the coming decade, the BBC will seek more than ever to fire the world's imagination - above all with its programmes, but also through all its activities, communications and assets, including the buildings from which it operates. Its vision now places buildings at the heart of the BBC's strategy rather than viewing them as a commodity.

To thrive in the future the BBC will need architecture that inspires the public and draws people to its heart. It will need accessible buildings that welcome new and changing technologies, buildings that are flexible, convenient, comfortable, energy-efficient and economical and offer, in every way, excellent and adaptable working environments.

## **Note on the BBC's property strategy**

Many of the key properties the BBC occupies at present fail to meet even the basic criteria of economy, convenience, comfort, flexibility and environmental efficiency. Several are located in inaccessible parts of towns. In addition the BBC is not currently getting best value from its annual spend on property.

Direct access to the BBC will become an increasingly important means of giving licence fee payers a sense of ownership of the corporation in the coming years. As people's relationship with broadcasters becomes less focused with the sheer number of stations available, the BBC must work hard to maintain real contact with its audiences. More accessible homes for its operations will help.

As the BBC plans its property needs for the next generation, it has identified some key steps towards ensuring that it provides the best environments for broadcasting. It recognises that it must now aspire to provide key buildings, nationwide, that are:

- inspiring architectural statements reflecting BBC's position as a leading British cultural institution
- accessible and welcoming to the public
- really attractive to the talent upon which the BBC depends
- in the heart of the community, in locations which make the most of high footfall city centre sites
- internationally perceived as suitable for housing a world leader in 21<sup>st</sup> century broadcasting, suitable for use over the next 30 years
- high-tech, flexible offices, fully adaptable to new digital technology
- energy and space efficient as well as easily cooled (broadcasting technology generates heat)
- environmentally sound (good economy, also benefiting staff, neighbours and wider community)
- designed to bring relevant teams and activities into close proximity in a more rational and creative way (e.g. Radio and TV news are at present dispersed across different buildings in London)
- suitable for teams of varying sizes
- encouraging a more collaborative structure
- highly flexible, allowing different kinds of organisation of space
- more cost-effective, freeing more money for programme-making
- built without burden on licence fee payers (see Property Partnership below)

The BBC currently owns or leases in excess of 520 properties all over the UK, including national headquarters in Glasgow, Cardiff and Belfast, major regional broadcasting centres in cities such as Birmingham and Manchester and sites for each of its 39 local radio stations. The largest proportion of space that the BBC owns outright is in London, where it currently occupies 33 buildings, some of which are very substantial. These include its flagship building, the historic Broadcasting House, as well as White City and Television Centre, the West London homes of BBC Television. Also in London is Bush House, home to the World Service since 1940. Unlike Broadcasting House, Bush House is not owned by the BBC: the lease expires in 2005, although the BBC has obtained an extension until 2008.

Over the next decade, the BBC will reduce the number of buildings it occupies, especially in London, in favour of a clearly defined series of bases, all of which will feature exciting, practical and inviting architecture. Plans include:

- the transformation of Broadcasting House
- Pacific Quay, a flagship development for BBC Scotland in Glasgow
- The Mailbox, the BBC's new base in the heart of Birmingham
- major new buildings at White City
- improvements to Television Centre (later in decade)
- space in Michael Hopkins and Partners Forum building in Norwich
- new developments in Leeds, Leicester, and Hull
- future developments in further major centres

### **Schedule of major developments**

The BBC's aim is to be totally prepared for the shift from analogue to fully digital broadcasting that could take place as soon as 2010. The list below is not exhaustive, but lists the milestones for the BBC's significant projects.

June 2001	Radio Sheffield new building opened
September 2001	White City development began
September 2001	BBC South-East and Radio Kent new building fully operational in Tunbridge Wells
November 2001	Planning application for Broadcasting House submitted
March 2002	Work begins on The Mailbox
May 2002	The Tun, Edinburgh opened
July 2002	Planning approved for Broadcasting House redevelopment
July 2002	Stoke building formally opened
Autumn 2002	Work begins at Broadcasting House
December 2002	Space in the Forum, Norwich to be completed
Spring 2003	Work begins at Pacific Quay
Autumn 2003	The Mailbox ready for full occupation
Autumn 2003	Broadcast Centre, White City ready for occupation
Spring 2004	Radio Leeds and Look North on air from Quarry Hill, Leeds
Spring 2004	Radio Humberside and new TV opt out for East Yorks on air from new building

Summer 2004	Central Office Building, White City, ready for occupation
2004	BBC vacates existing Broadcasting House extensions
2005	Completion of Pacific Quay
2004-2006	New buildings replace existing extensions at Broadcasting House
2006-2008	Broadcasting House in phased use for Radio, News and World Service
2008-	Improvements to Television Centre

### **Property Partnership**

In recent years, partnership and joint venture have become key elements in BBC strategy. Such partnerships - examples include work with Discovery and Flextech - has ensured commercial success and optimum positioning for public service broadcasting in the future.

In planning its future building requirements, the BBC must achieve the best combination of security of tenure and economy, and do so without cost to licence fee payers.

In November 2001 the BBC and Land Securities Trillium (LS Trillium) embarked on a 30-year Property Partnership. LS Trillium is part of Land Securities plc, Britain's largest property company. Under the terms of the agreement, the freehold for the BBC White City site in London transferred to the Partnership. LS Trillium is investing £220m to construct the first phase of the new development, around 550,000 square feet. It also made an upfront cash payment of £35m to the BBC to go into programme-making.

In addition, LS Trillium now provides property development and property management services to the BBC's estates in London and Scotland for a 30 year period. This involved the transfer of around 300 BBC facilities management and construction management staff to LS Trillium and its service partners. These teams manage property services for 65 buildings across London and Scotland. In return, the BBC pays LS Trillium a £35m per annum unitary charge for facilities management and estates strategy. This figure will rise over time as additional accommodation is serviced by LS Trillium.

The Partnership is developing business cases and implementation plans for: re-developing Broadcasting House in London; developing a planned new BBC Scotland HQ at Pacific Quay in Glasgow and further developing the White City site. It is anticipated that over time the Partnership will be extended and will become the vehicle through which the BBC will achieve its property vision.

The aim of the partnership is to use the skills, market clout and financing of Land Securities to take the risk and cost away from the BBC. The BBC retains a 50% stake in the joint venture but the very significant development cost is spread over 30 years.

## **Broadcasting House**

### **History**

Broadcasting House, a Grade II\* listed building, is one of London's most prized historic landmarks. Standing next to the Grade I listed All Soul's Church in Langham Place, it is superbly positioned and visible from a distance as the visitor approaches from Regent Street.

Broadcasting House was the world's first purpose-built broadcasting venue, and when it opened in 1932 was hailed as a superb example of modern art deco architecture, *Architectural Review* calling it "the new Tower of London". It not only embraced the latest technical innovations but also celebrated British art of the period. Today, the Eric Gill figures on the main facade of the building remain some of London's best loved public sculptures. Other important artists of the time, including Gilbert Bayes (also creator of the Queen of Time outside Selfridges) contributed to the interior. Many famous people - from George Orwell to the legendary Director General John Reith - trod the corridors of Broadcasting House during its early decades, while its Concert Hall (now known as the Radio Theatre) attracted musicians such as Sir Malcolm Sargent, Alfred Brendel and Imogen Cooper.

Broadcasting House was a fantastically ambitious project for the time, housing 700 staff and boasting, as the publicity proclaimed, no less than 800 doors. Its history (see Timeline below) includes survival of severe bomb damage during the War - in 1940 seven people died when a 500lb bomb directly hit the building.

In the 1960s, as BBC radio outgrew Broadcasting House, it acquired further sites around Portland Place. The property that they bought, plus the new buildings that they commissioned (all less visible than Broadcasting House), were by no means architecturally distinguished. They were, at the time, expedient: inexpensive to construct, they served to house an expanding workforce. Over time though it has become apparent, that buildings which are inexpensive to construct cost much more

to keep later on.

A further building was added in the early 1990s. In all, four such buildings lie behind or adjacent to Broadcasting House: BHX, BHXX, Egton House and 16 Langham Street. A refurbishment of two floors of BHX was completed in the 1990s, which helped to extend the use of Broadcasting House during that decade. Today a new solution has been chosen.

## **Redevelopment**

Broadcasting House is set to become the largest live broadcasting centre in the world. In the future, it will have a far greater role and significance as the flagship building for the BBC worldwide. It will accommodate all of the BBC's national and international radio networks, and national and international television news. With its strong theme of public access, it will also be far more accessible to local audiences.

In 2000, a selection of leading architectural practices (Alsop and Sturmer, Eric Parry Architects, Fletcher Priest, Stanton Williams and MacCormac Jamieson Prichard) was invited to put forward schemes to create the new global multimedia broadcasting facility around the historic core of Broadcasting House.

A senior BBC team, led by the then Chairman Sir Christopher Bland and supported by Sir Stuart Lipton, and Richard Burdett, Director of Cities Programme, London School of Economics, assessed the resulting proposals, leading to the appointment in October 2000 of the London practice MacCormac Jamieson Prichard.

All the schemes recommended a radical approach - the removal of the ancillary buildings BHX, BHXX, Egton House and 16 Langham Street. An alternative retention scheme was judged against this radical approach, comparing it in terms of practicality, accessibility, short and long term expenditure, and technological and design benefits. Against all criteria, the more radical approach won.

## **The scheme**

MacCormac Jamieson Prichard's proposed scheme demolishes all four ancillary buildings and sets Broadcasting House alongside a cyclorama of new buildings, to the north of All Soul's Church. One of its most dramatic features will be the largest live broadcast newsroom in the world at lower ground floor level, widely visible from other parts of the building. The 4,000 square metres newsroom will be suitable for use by radio, television and World Service operations. Above it will be three wings, separated by two lofty atria. The wings will have high floor to floor dimensions (the cramped vertical dimensions of the 1960s buildings are extremely compromising technically), and will be filled with natural light from the atria. Natural light will also flood through into the newsroom below.

Circulation will be simple and efficient. The scheme will also provide extremely flexible accommodation, adaptable to teams of different sizes and to ever-changing technology. There will be over 140 acoustic boxes, which will be used as studios.

One of the scheme's key benefits is the opening of large areas of Broadcasting House to visitors and to public view. A new piazza between Portland Place and Hallam Street will provide exhibition and performance spaces, seating, a cafe, kiosks and new facilities for audiences thereby giving local workers, residents, visitors and staff an exciting new environment to enjoy. Invited members of the public will be able to observe BBC programme-making in action. There will be increased public use and access to the Radio Theatre and an interactive education area. A new public space will be created in Langham Street, keeping access for vehicles, but providing a much improved environment for the public.

The BBC wants its flagship building to be as much of an inspiration for future generations, as Broadcasting House was to audiences in the 1930s. The MacCormac Jamieson Prichard scheme promises to provide an innovative and dynamic backdrop to the much-loved historic core of the original Broadcasting House.

### **MacCormac Jamieson Prichard**

MacCormac Jamieson Prichard are an international, award-winning design practice based in Spitalfields, London. Alongside masterplans and urban design development briefs, especially in historic and sensitive sites, the practice's work includes the design of educational buildings and museums, private buildings, social housing, furniture and exhibitions. They have frequently collaborated with leading visual artists. Recent achievements include the Ruskin Library at Lancaster University, the Wellcome Wing at the Science Museum in London and Southwark Underground Station, one of the acclaimed new stations on the Jubilee Line extension. Current masterplanning projects include the expansion of Cambridge University into West Cambridge and the Phoenix Initiative, a regeneration project for Coventry. An important City of London development, Building One at Paternoster Square, is currently on site.

The award-winning practice was founded in 1972. It is led by Chairman Sir Richard MacCormac, President of the RIBA 1991-93 and currently Chairman of the Architecture Committee, Royal Academy of Arts.

## **Glasgow - Pacific Quay**

The new headquarters for BBC Scotland are to be located at Pacific Quay, on the south bank of the River Clyde in Glasgow. Situated adjacent to the Scottish Science Centre and Imax Cinema, the landmark building will provide an “anchor” for the whole Pacific Quay site, around which it is hoped other creative industries will grow.

Glasgow is Scotland's media city and the relocation of the BBC Scotland HQ to the Pacific Quay site will provide a clear focus for future development of the digital media sector in the West of Scotland.

In addition to placing the BBC at the heart of an urban digital media community - something unique in Scotland - the new building will bring the organisation closer to the heart of the city and closer to its radio, television and online audiences.

Providing a stimulating environment for staff, contributors, guests and visitors, it will also welcome the small independent producer, the games company, the writer, actor and director. As such, it will offer an unprecedented opportunity to bring together the widest range of creative individuals and organisations.

An architectural competition for this project, run by the BBC in Glasgow, led to the selection of two finalists - the Dutch architects, Mecanoo and the British practice, David Chipperfield Architects. In May 2001, David Chipperfield Architects was appointed.

### **The scheme**

David Chipperfield's proposed scheme incorporates three key elements: digital broadcasting studios, offices and substantial public spaces. To provide a welcoming environment for BBC staff and visitors, the main entrance hall will be open and spacious, with information displays and facilities for members of the public.

A series of stepped open areas will lead from the entrance to the staff restaurant on the top floor of the four storey/five floor building. These areas will provide collaborative space for informal business and social meetings as well as “touchdown” facilities for staff who spend large amounts of time on location or who are visiting from other BBC centres. The innovative design will allow staff and visitors to be able to see much more of the production process as they pass through the building.

The site, which is only 1.5 miles from the city centre, was originally masterplanned as a campus environment. Together with Richard Burdett and the other stakeholders in the site - Glasgow City Council, the Science Centre, Grosvenor Estates, Miller Developments and Scottish Enterprise the BBC has been the catalyst for the creation of a new masterplan by Koetter Kim.

### **David Chipperfield Architects**

David Chipperfield Architects is an international practice whose work ranges from commissions for furniture to large-scale urban schemes in the UK, Europe and around the world. Founded in 1984, it employs 100 people internationally in studios in London, Berlin, Milan and New York.

Amongst commissions around the world for museums, galleries, private houses, prestige retail spaces, restaurants and offices are the award-winning River and Rowing Museum at Henley on Thames, an acclaimed office building in Dusseldorf, and the reconstruction of the Neues Museum on Berlin's Museum Island, a World Heritage site; the practice is, in addition, lead masterplanner for the whole complex.

In Italy, projects include the extension of the San Michele Cemetery (on an island between Venice and Murano), a new Palace of Justice in Salerno, the restoration of the Arsenale area in Verona (including a new Natural History Museum), and a museum complex on the site of the former Ansaldo factory in Milan. In America the practice has designed hotels in New York and Miami, the Museum of Art in Davenport, Iowa and the Public Library in Des Moines, Iowa. Major buildings in Japan include the headquarters of the Matsumoto Corporation in Okayama and Design Centre in Kyoto.

In 2001 David Chipperfield Architects won a competition to design the new headquarters of the British Film Institute in London. More recently it has won competitions to design a large new complex of law courts in Barcelona and the Museum of Modern Literature in Marbach, Germany.

David Chipperfield Architects' work has been exhibited all over Europe and, in 2000, was featured in the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

### **Birmingham - The Mailbox development**

In February 2001, the BBC appointed Building Design Partnership (BDP) as architects and engineers for its new landmark building in Birmingham in the heart of the city near New Street Station. The Mailbox, which replaces Pebble Mill, will provide inspiring headquarters both for BBC Birmingham and for BBC English Regions.

## **The scheme**

A mixed development covering 25 acres, The Mailbox will accommodate 600 BBC staff over 100,000 square feet. Incorporating a new public street, it will be accessible and inviting to audiences and visitors, and provide a really efficient and attractive working environment. At the heart of the re-generation of Britain's second city, the location is part of a development which houses hotels, shops, restaurants and bars in a canal-side setting with a public walkway running through it.

The building's dramatic entrance will be in the form of an arena space. This will provide a visual link to and between the four levels on which the BBC's studios will be located, with open plan offices opposite them. It will also allow some broadcasting activity to be visible by the public, which will be drawn into the building by its open and inviting entrance. Lifts and public stairs will link the entrance space and display areas with a cafe at the top of the building.

Office accommodation at the upper level will be made up of two wings of open plan space defined by floating mezzanine floors or "gondolas".

High priority has been given to ensuring that staff enjoy attractive views, especially towards the canal complex that links The Mailbox to other developments, including Gas Street Basin and Brindley Place. The facade will be dramatically glazed to provide a major "picture window" which, as well as providing an open aspect to the south-west, will bring natural light into the building and indicate the BBC presence in the Mailbox, reinforcing the visual link to the public canal-side space.

As in the case of the Broadcasting House development, The Mailbox building represents sound financial sense when compared with the cost of refurbishing Pebble Mill. It will, in addition, bring annual savings in energy, maintenance and the incorporation of new technology.

## **Building Design Partnership (BDP)**

Building Design Partnership was formed in 1961 as a multi-disciplinary practice of architects, engineers and cost consultants. Today it has six offices in the UK and Ireland, as well as offices in France, Spain and Germany. Its work includes major urban, commercial, industrial, transport, and cultural projects all over the UK and beyond. Amongst its notable buildings are the Scottish Widows Headquarters in Edinburgh, the Siemens Semiconductor Plant on North Tyneside, St Mary's Hospital on the Isle of Wight, the Channel Tunnel Terminal at Folkestone, the Opel Headquarters in Frankfurt, and projects for the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich and for British Telecommunications plc.

In 2001 alone BDP received awards for the Glasgow Science Centre, Seagate Technology in Londonderry, the Westquay Shopping Centre in Southampton and NikeTown in London, as well as for the redesign of No.1 Court at Wimbledon, the South Steps Project at the Royal Albert Hall in London and the refurbishment of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Recent Midlands projects include RAC Rescue Control Centre on the M5/M6 junction, and the Powergen HQ in Coventry.

Amongst its current commissions is a major development for Queen's University in Belfast.

### **White City**

Complementing the development at Broadcasting House, the aim of the White City development is to accommodate BBC Broadcast Ltd, the BBC's centre of excellence in broadcasting and presentation operations. It will also house office and administration staff currently at Broadcasting House or dispersed through different buildings in London, and some music facilities. A further aim is to offer a more welcoming BBC to the White City community, in an area where there is room for more cafes and restaurants, more retail and more attractive public space.

The White City development will introduce a series of new buildings, including a new broadcast centre, a large office building, a music building, and a services building. In addition, there will be several buildings for use by businesses that would benefit from close proximity with the BBC, a commercially operated leisure centre (available both to BBC staff and non-BBC members), a gateway office building and some retail. Several open public spaces will be created.

Six architectural practices were invited to submit schemes. From a shortlist of three, Allies and Morrison was commissioned. Their scheme accents public access and promises to create a lively centre, engaging the local community and adding to the public realm. The proposed buildings will integrate well and sensitively into the surrounding area. They also promise excellent environmental performance.

### **Allies and Morrison**

Allies and Morrison was founded in 1984 following its partners' success in the open competition for the design of a new public square in front of the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh. Today the practice numbers more than one hundred with the two partners, Bob Allies and Graham Morrison, sharing responsibility for overseeing all design. They are supported by five directors and nine associates, most of whom have been with Allies and Morrison from its inception.

Current and recent projects include

- The new British Embassy in Dublin, which won a RIBA award in 1996
- The award-winning Abbey Mills Pumping Station
- A headquarters building for Ericsson
- A new public square at the Liverpool Pierhead
- Restoration of the Royal Festival Hall
- Landscape for Tate Britain, Millbank, London
- Extension of the Horniman Museum, London
- The Hospital, Covent Garden: a new music building with recording studios
- Redesign of the Place Dance Theatre, London
- Sidgwick Site masterplan for the University of Cambridge
- An office development for Paternoster Square in the City of London
- A new development for Newnham College, Cambridge
- Redesign and a new teaching block for the London College of Printing
- Mixed use redevelopment of Arsenal Football Club, London

### **The White City Area**

This year Land Securities and the BBC have been able to acquire the Uniq site immediately south of the Westway, opposite the White City development. Although the partnership was recently unsuccessful in its bid for the Dairy Crest site, working with Wilkinson Eyre, the BBC has been instrumental in putting together a masterplan for the 47-acre site bounded on the north by the northern boundary of the Woodlands site, and in the south by the Chelsfield shopping centre development. It is the partnership's vision that a new piece of city, of up to five million square feet mixed use development, could be created here.

### **Television Centre**

Television Centre is the third of the BBC's key London sites. Scheduled for redevelopment from 2008, following the removal of BBC News to Broadcasting House, Television Centre will return to its originally intended purpose as a TV production house.

In planning terms, Television Centre will be addressed not alone, but as part of the BBC's overall London W12 "village", and every opportunity will be taken to emphasise links between the sites. The BBC's key strategic aim will be to encourage greater access to the site by local residents and one of the most important features of the development will be a series of improvements to the public realm, including significant new local amenities. These measures will create a more pleasant and lively atmosphere around the site, making it more attractive both to visitors and to those who work there.

Although no architect has yet been appointed, the vision is to remove cars from the ground level piazza, thereby allowing the creation of a new public space in front of the building. There will be a new main entrance and greater public access to the interior of the building, with cafes, shops, information desks, visitor facilities and educational resources.

The building will be refurbished, with some possible additional development. Above all, the original circular building will be re-established as the heart of Television Centre, signifying a return to architectural excellence on the site. There will be improved facilities for performers and audiences, and much better, lighter offices, with clear circulation.

## Timeline showing history of BBC's use of buildings, and key technical developments

- 1922 British Broadcasting Company Ltd founded  
Ten shilling broadcasting licence fee introduced  
Daily transmissions from **Marconi House**, The Strand, London begin  
First transmissions from Birmingham and Manchester
- 1923 BBC moves to the **Savoy Hill Studios** at 2 Savoy Hill, around the corner from **Marconi House**
- 1925 Daventry long wave transmitter opened
- 1926 British Broadcasting Company Ltd dissolved
- 1927 BBC established by Royal Charter as the British Broadcasting Corporation, with John Reith as first Director General  
First BBC Prom from the **Queen's Hall**  
First experimental broadcasts to the Empire from Chelmsford short-wave station
- 1928 Residential properties around Langham Place purchased by BBC for around £650,000.  
Architect Lt-Col G. Val Myer commissioned to build **Broadcasting House**, with sculptures inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest* by Eric Gill
- 1930 Regional scheme to offer alternative radio programmes begins
- 1932 **Broadcasting House** officially opened - 700 staff, 800 doors  
**Savoy Hill Studios** close  
First service broadcast from **All Souls, Langham Place**  
First experiment TV broadcast from **Broadcasting House**
- 1934 Droitwich long wave transmitter replaces Daventry
- 1935 BBC leases the eastern part of **Alexandra Palace** in 1936
- 1936 First public television transmissions made by BBC from **Alexandra Palace**
- 1937 Inauguration of BBC television service (world's first regular high definition service)  
George VII's coronation procession televised. First use of TV outside broadcast van
- 1938 First BBC foreign language service (Arabic) begins  
First news bulletin on television (recording of a radio news bulletin)  
Sir John Reith leaves BBC  
European service begins with radio news in French, German and Italian
- 1939 Television closed down for defence reasons  
Home Service replaces National and Regional programmes  
Broadcasts by PM Neville Chamberlain and King George VI on declaration of War
- 1940 Churchill begins broadcasts as Prime Minister  
Bomb explodes in **Broadcasting House** during 9pm news killing seven staff  
BBC World Service (then known as General Overseas Service) relocates to **Bush House** on London's Aldwych (building leased by BBC)
- 1941 **Broadcasting House** badly damaged by landmine  
The **Queen's Hall** destroyed in an air raid
- 1944 **Bush House** damaged by flying bomb
- 1946 Combined television and radio licence introduced  
Television service resumed  
Third Programme launched
- 1948 First Reith Lecture broadcast: *Authority and the Individual* by Bertrand Russell
- 1949 First TV weather forecast
- 1950 **Lime Grove** television studios opened
- 1955 First VHF transmitting station opened at Wrotham  
Independent television (ITV) begins programmes in London area  
Colour television test transmissions begin on 405 lines from **Alexandra Palace**, London.
- 1957 **Alexandra Palace** now used exclusively for news broadcasts  
Schools TV begins

- Radio services reorganised. Network Three begins
- 1958 Experimental TV transmissions on 625 lines start  
AMPEX video-recording equipment used at **Lime Grove Studios** for first time
- 1960 **BBC Television Centre** near Shepherd's Bush in West London opened
- 1961 Broadcasting House Extension (BHX) opens
- 1962 Television pictures first relayed from America via Telstar  
Experimental stereo radio transmissions begin
- 1963 Adult TV education begins
- 1964 First BBC2 programmes on 625 lines UHF transmitted from **Crystal Palace**, London
- 1966 First live television pictures from the moon
- 1967 First live satellite world programme televised (*Our World*)  
Radio 1 launched. Home, Third and Light become Radios 4, 3 and 2  
BBC local radio launched with Radio Leicester
- 1969 Publication of *Broadcasting in the Seventies*, initial plans for the future of radio and non-metropolitan broadcasting  
Neil Armstrong's landing on the moon televised (live)  
Colour television extended to BBC1 and ITV on 625 lines
- 1970 Radio networks reorganised to introduce more generic broadcasting
- 1971 Open University programmes begin on radio and television
- 1972 The Post Office control of broadcasting hours ended
- 1973 First productions made by community groups with the BBC's Community Programme Unit
- 1974 Regular CEEFAX teletext service begins
- 1975 First experimental radio broadcasting of House of Commons proceedings
- 1978 Start of regular radio broadcasts from Parliament  
Major LW/MW frequency changes made in Network Radio, following Geneva conference.  
Allowed increase in number and power of transmitters in Europe. Radio Scotland begins broadcasting. Radio 2 starts to broadcast through night.
- 1979 First CEEFAX teletext subtitled programme
- 1986 All BBC commercial activities brought together in BBC Enterprises Ltd
- 1987 Government proposal for 25% independent programming agreed by BBC and IBA
- 1988 Broadcasting Standards Council set up  
Official launch of RDS (Radio Data System) on FM, bringing automatic tuning, programme identification and travel news to car radios
- 1989 Experimental televising of House of Commons proceedings begins
- 1990 *Funding the Future* report presented  
MPs approve televising of Parliament  
Radio 5 begins  
New **White City** building in West London handed over to BBC  
Broadcasting Act receives Royal Assent
- 1991 World Service Television News Service begins  
**Lime Grove Studios** close  
World Service TV launches Asian Service which later becomes the first ever BBC 24-hour TV channel
- 1992 Director General Sir Michael Checkland announces plans for 24-hour radio news network, a News and Current Affairs complex at **TV Centre** and a new Education Directorate  
UK Gold satellite channel, jointly run by BBC with Thames Television, launched
- 1994 Radio 5 Live, the BBC's 24-hour sport and news network, launched
- 1996 BBC granted its seventh Royal Charter  
BBC sets out its vision for the digital future with *Extending Choice in the Digital Age*  
Radio 3 becomes 24-hour service  
Director General John Birt announces major re-structuring of BBC to separate commissioning from production. Creates BBC Broadcast to commission programmes made by BBC Productions, extending principle of internal market.
- 1997 Consultation document, *The BBC's Digital Service Proposition* invites comments from

- public on the option of a new digital TV service  
 Sale of BBC's home transmission business Castle Transmission Services. Proceeds invested in preparing for transition to digital.  
 BBC Worldwide signs joint venture agreement with Flextech plc to launch UKTV family of channels. New global partnership also with Discovery to develop new channels and services.  
 BBC News 24 launched on analogue cable  
 BBC Online launched
- 1998 BBC Choice (digital channel) launched. First new general BBC channel since launch of BBC2 in 1964  
 BBC Parliament, new channel, launched  
 Digital terrestrial TV launched in UK  
*The BBC Beyond 2000* published, explaining BBC's vision for digital age
- 1999 With the launch of Digital CEEFAX and BBC Knowledge, BBC now has a range of public service non-subscription channels on air with digital TV available via cable, satellite and through an aerial. These are funded by the licence fee and also include News 24, BBC Choice, and BBC Parliament. Further subscription channels provided through BBC's commercial division BBC Worldwide in partnership with Discovery and Flextech  
 Greg Dyke joins BBC as Director-General  
 BBC News to supply news to Vodafone mobile phones via WAP technology
- 2000 Culture Secretary Chris Smith Announces government's decisions on future funding of BBC following Davies Committee Report.  
 BBC Technology Ltd launched as wholly-owned subsidiary  
 BBC unveils new structures to create "One BBC" culture  
 Greg Dyke reveals digital blueprint in the MacTaggart Lecture in Edinburgh: seven BBC television services across five channels  
 BBC announces initial plans to transform **Broadcasting House**, and the appointment of MacCormac Jamieson Prichard as architects. The aim is to move all BBC radio, news and the World Service back to **Broadcasting House** by 2008.
- 2001 Property Partnership with Land Securities Trillium signed.

[For building developments since 2001 see earlier schedule]