

INTERNATIONAL PLACE

Boston, Massachusetts

PHILIP JOHNSON • ALAN RITCHIE
A R C H I T E C T S



International Place is a large project even by modern standards. It has two million square feet of office and retail space with over 500,000 square feet of below grade garage and ancillary space. The site plan for the complex has a carefully imposed geometry that assures efficiency for tenant use. The mass of the buildings has been broken down into simple circles, rectangles, and squares. Arranged in an irregular manner the buildings appear as an urban village. With pink granite facades providing visual unity for the two towers, there is nonetheless a distinct form for each tower. The design follows the irregular streets that surround the perimeter of the site. The spaces at the interior of the block are used as a covered pedestrian court that provides access to the office lobbies and the retail space.

A notable design element at International Place is the decoration of the façades. The fenestration is based on "Palladian" windows, an arch flanked by two smaller rectangular forms. The Palladian window is a classic design detail, but was rare for a modern commercial project. Johnson not only used it, he multiplied it so that the form would seem, "like a wallpaper pattern". The replication is extremely modern, although the original form is classic. International Place is considered a postmodern landmark on the Boston skyline.



Client: Chiofaro Company
Completion Date: 987 (first phase), 1992
(second phase)
Area: 1,977,500 sq. ft.