

GALLERY GUIDE

MUSEUM OF MAKING

DERBY SILK MILL





WELCOME TO THE MUSEUM OF MAKING



Derby Silk Mill is widely regarded as the world's first modern factory, part of the Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here Derby's rich history of making is celebrated in a new museum created to inspire the makers and creators of the future.

This is the Museum of Making.

A collection of 30,000 objects that charts the progress of Derby's manufacturing history, and the people involved, is available to explore. We invite you to create your own journey through more than 300 years of making.

Entry to the main galleries of the Museum of Making is free, but as a charity, we need your donations to continue our work to look after Derby's important heritage, and to inspire future generations of makers.

Approaching the Museum of Making

As you approach the building you will see the restored iron gates, made by Robert Bakewell in 1721, and sited in their original position on the bridge that crossed the water to the island on which the original mill buildings were built. The entrance to the Civic Hall spans the old waterway. The paving outside the building indicates the bridge and mill flem.

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GROUND FLOOR

THE CIVIC HALL AND RIVER KITCHEN 1



The Civic Hall is a beautiful space that welcomes you into the building. The dark outline on the brick wall shows where Derby Silk Mill's original waterwheel would have been. Can you imagine water rushing alongside the mill where you now stand, powering the machines inside?

We made this museum with over 1000 people from across Derbyshire. Together, we decided to group our Collections of Making by material: wood, metal, ceramic, organic, glass, stone, textile, and synthetic. Here you can find a wall of objects including buttons, bobbins and bricks. On the stairs you can find out how to **Adopt an Object** and help to support Derby Museums.

Don't miss the **Toyota Corolla Hybrid** and **Rolls-Royce Trent 1000** aero engine, suspended above your head!

The River Kitchen serves delicious, locally-sourced food and drinks, a wonderful place to meet friends and have a drink in cups handmade especially for the museum.

@derbymuseumsdine



THE OLD SHOP 3

Historically known as the Old Shop, this is now home to a flexible gallery housing both framed and digital images from our collections, including **three photographic tableaux created in 2020 by artist Red Saunders.**

These images form part of Red's *Hidden* series, which recreates decisive times in Britain's struggle for equality, democracy and social justice. Red has re-imagined three moments in Derby's social history in these images created with volunteers from across the region.



Red Saunders, Hidden Derby – 'The Orrery' and 'Sikh RAF volunteers' @redsaundersartist, photographic tableaux, 2020




THE WORKSHOP 4

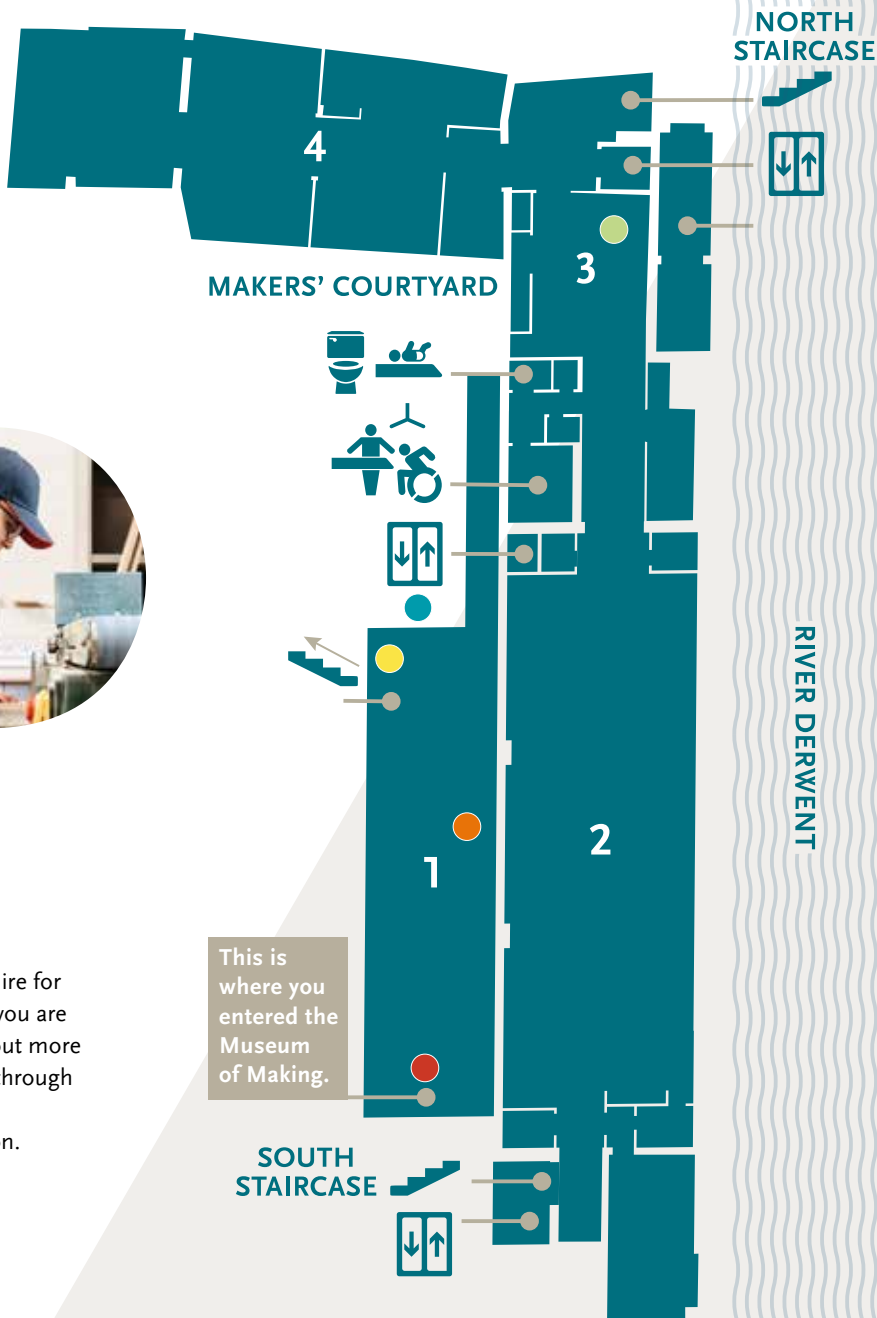
The Workshop and Makers' Courtyard are the 'engine' of the Museum of Making. Much of the furniture, shelving and fixtures in the museum were made onsite in these workshops, with our wonderful volunteers. See our website derbymuseums.org or a member of the team about the programme of making activities taking place here. Machinery and equipment is available for Museum of Making Members to hire.



ITALIAN MILL 2

The Italian Mill is a beautiful and flexible space to hire for your special event. If it is not booked for an event, you are free to explore this calming environment and find out more about the development of the Museum of Making through the films projected here. To hire this space, visit: derbymuseums.org/venue-hire for more information.

@derbymuseumsvenue 



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FIRST FLOOR

THE SHOP FLOOR 1

This is where you can purchase design-led gifts, gadgets and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) inspired toys and games.

You can also compare the Trent 1000 with the **Eagle aero engine**, on loan from the Science Museum Group, one of two that powered the first trans-Atlantic flight in 1919.

THE GATEWAY 2

Here we introduce the story of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site, added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2001 as being the birthplace of the modern factory system.

The Lombe brothers set up a silk mill on this site in the early 1720s, and waterpower was successfully used for the first time on a factory scale. Almost 50 years later, Richard Arkwright opened his cotton spinning mill in Cromford. The interactive map shows the mills built along the valley that revolutionised manufacturing, with dramatic consequences for the British economy, and the British Empire and beyond.



Don't miss the **Prospect of Derby**, a painting from the mid-1700s that gives a sense of how Derby looked in the early years of the silk mill. Also find **hand-written records** documenting silk mill management, and a book by William Hutton, who endured working as a child at this site.



THROWING ROOM 3



This is our main gallery and has ten circular displays, giving a sense of the large, noisy silk throwing machines that existed in this part of the mill. **Working replicas are shown in the video display.** The gallery explores the themes of making through the ages in Derby, Derbyshire

and beyond. Displays range from a **palaeolithic hand axe** connecting us to makers over 300,000 years ago, to a contemporary **textile sculpture by Toni Buckby** (pictured).

Take a look at **Burdett's Map**, too! Cartographer Peter Perez Burdett's map of 1767 was the first one inch to one mile scale map of Derbyshire surveyed using mathematical methods. Burdett was living in Full Street, Derby when he made this map, winning £100 from the Society of Art's for his work, recognised for its accuracy and drawn using trigonometric methods.


Images: © Derby Museums/Speller Metcalfe
Painting: A Prospect of Derby, by an unknown artist, c.1725, oil on canvas
(Derby Museums Collection) © Derby Museums

Don't miss the **tiny miniature engine exhibited at the 1936 Chicago World's Fair** ● that is run by a single human hair, the **microscope that belonged to Erasmus Darwin**, ● our first Astronomer Royal **John Flamsteed's Atlas Coelestis (star atlas)** ● published in 1729 by his wife, Margaret.

Look out for making activities, both self-led and facilitated and suitable for all, often taking place in the gallery.

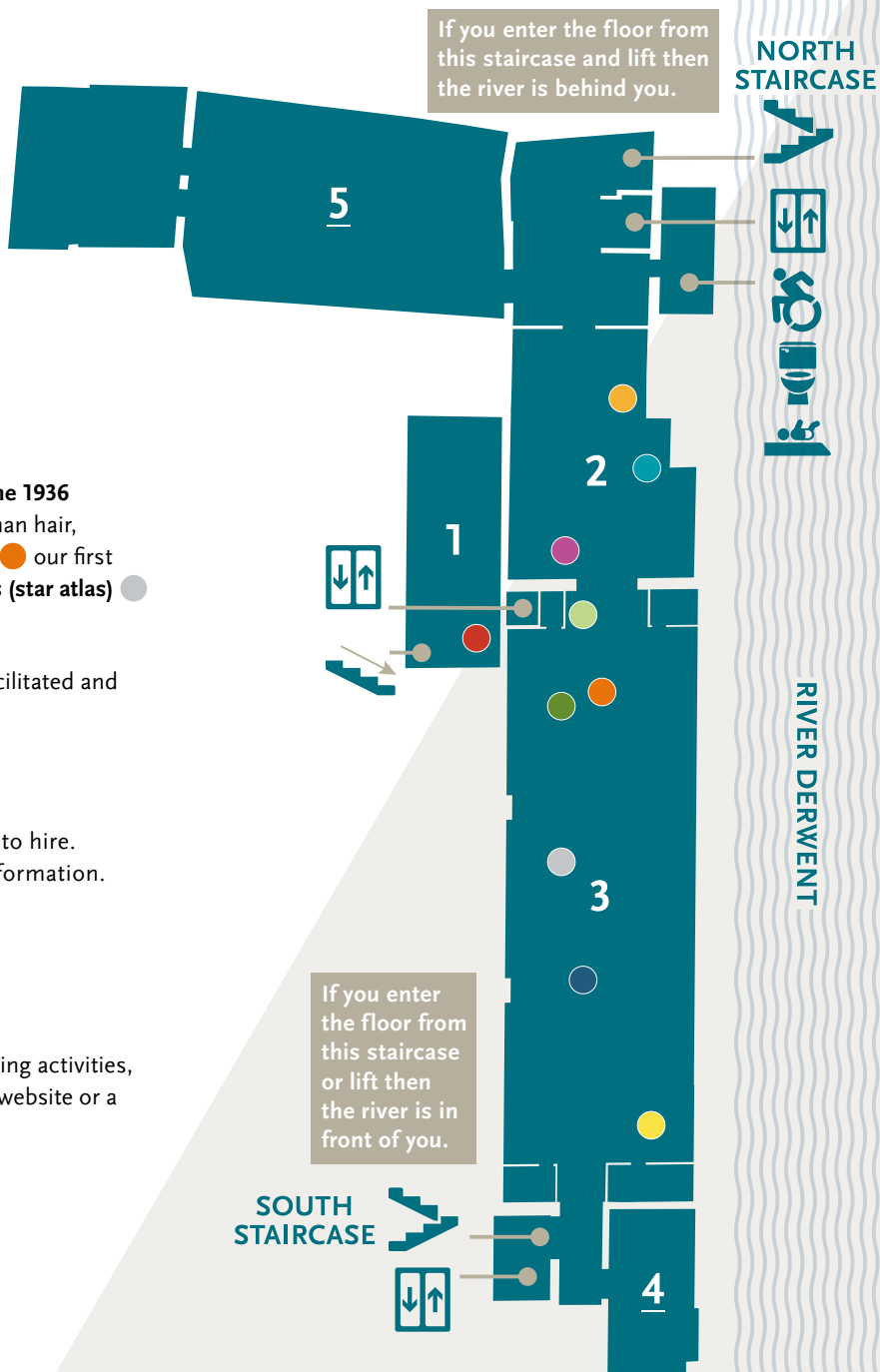
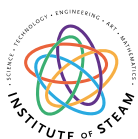
RIVER ROOM 4

This is a fully equipped meeting space, available to hire. Visit: derbymuseums.org/venue-hire for more information.

@derbymuseumsvenue 

THE STUDIOS 5

The Studios are a space for our programme of making activities, suitable for all ages and available to book. See our website or a member of the team for more information.



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SECOND FLOOR

ASSEMBLAGE 1

The Assemblage is not your average museum display. Similar to a museum store, it's a space where you can explore the Collections of Making. Objects are arranged by material and laid out in a grid by number, letter and then colour. Just like a store, you won't find individual object labels, however we encourage you to wander and wonder. Unlike a museum store, many of the objects can be handled and closely studied.

Trailmaker is our collections digital platform and is constantly being updated as we discover new information about our objects. You can access Trailmaker at one of the workstations on gallery, or via your mobile device at derbymuseumstrailmaker.com. Explore the objects' individual records and make a trail, using the numbers and letters to locate items. Don't forget to open the drawers and pull out the hanging displays!



Don't miss the model of a Charles Burrell and Sons general purpose traction engine, built by Walter Smith in 1965 and named 'Kitty' ● (C22, Red) and the **telephone switchboard**, ● formerly used at the East Midlands Gas offices, Friargate, Derby (E6).



Some of our other favourites include the **knitted sandcastle**, ● made by a member of the Mickleover Women's Institute (E31, Green) and the **tram door** ● and windows, belonging to Derby Tram No.53 (E1) which were once used as part of a garden shed!

In addition to the vast collection of Derby Museum objects, many of the items you will find here in the Assemblage are part of the Roy F Burrows collection.

Roy's father was a Midland Railway porter at Swadlincote in his early years and he later gave his young son a small collection of timetables that he had kept. From this small gesture grew an unrivalled collection of tens of thousands of items built around the history of the Midland Railway.

All the paperwork from Roy's collection is available to view within our Study Centre, which can be found in the Railways Revealed Gallery. Our partners at The Midland Railway Society will be happy to provide access by pre-booked appointment. Please contact enquiries@midlandrailwaystudycentre.org.uk.

FLIGHT DECK 3

Here we tell the story of Rolls-Royce and their historic relationship with the city, providing propulsion and power around the world. This is the best vantage point to view the Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 aero engine, suspended in the Civic Hall. Use the interactive panel to explore how a jet engine is made.

RAILWAYS REVEALED 4



Here we tell the story of Derby's impact locally, nationally and internationally through the railways. See our much-loved **model railway**, ● first displayed at Derby Museum in 1951, and still being built in-situ by volunteers. Ask one of our team for the times when the trains will run.

Don't miss the **chamber pot**, ● made by Royal Worcester, for the Midland Grand Hotel in London.

This gallery is also home to the


RAILWAY STUDY CENTRE 5

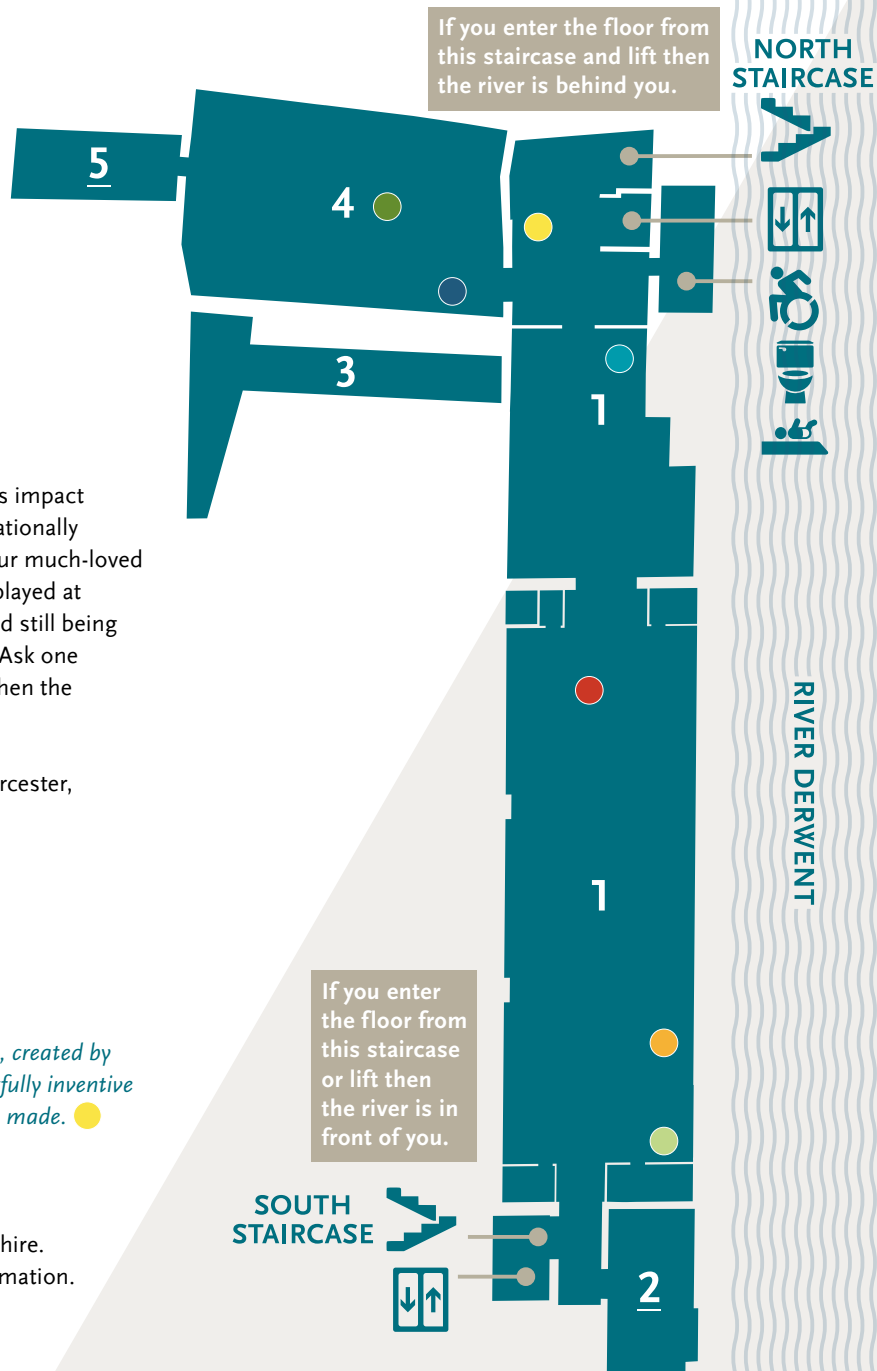
where you can explore Midland Railway Society and Derby Museums archives by appointment.

On the landing outside the gallery is a non-linear film, created by artist Andrew Martyn-Sugars, that provides a wonderfully inventive way to explore the story of how the museum has been made. ●

LOOM ROOM 2

This is a fully equipped meeting space, available to hire. Visit: derbymuseums.org/venue-hire for more information.

@derbymuseumsvenue 



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THIRD FLOOR

THE HUB **1**

Our makers' shop, celebrating some of the region's talented artists and designers.

THE WAREHOUSE **2**

Our temporary exhibition space with exhibitions and displays changing twice a year. You can purchase a ticket on our website or on site in our shops. All your purchases help to continue our work to look after Derby's important heritage, and to inspire future generations of makers.

THE COCOON **3**

The Cocoon is the studio for artists and makers in our residency programmes.

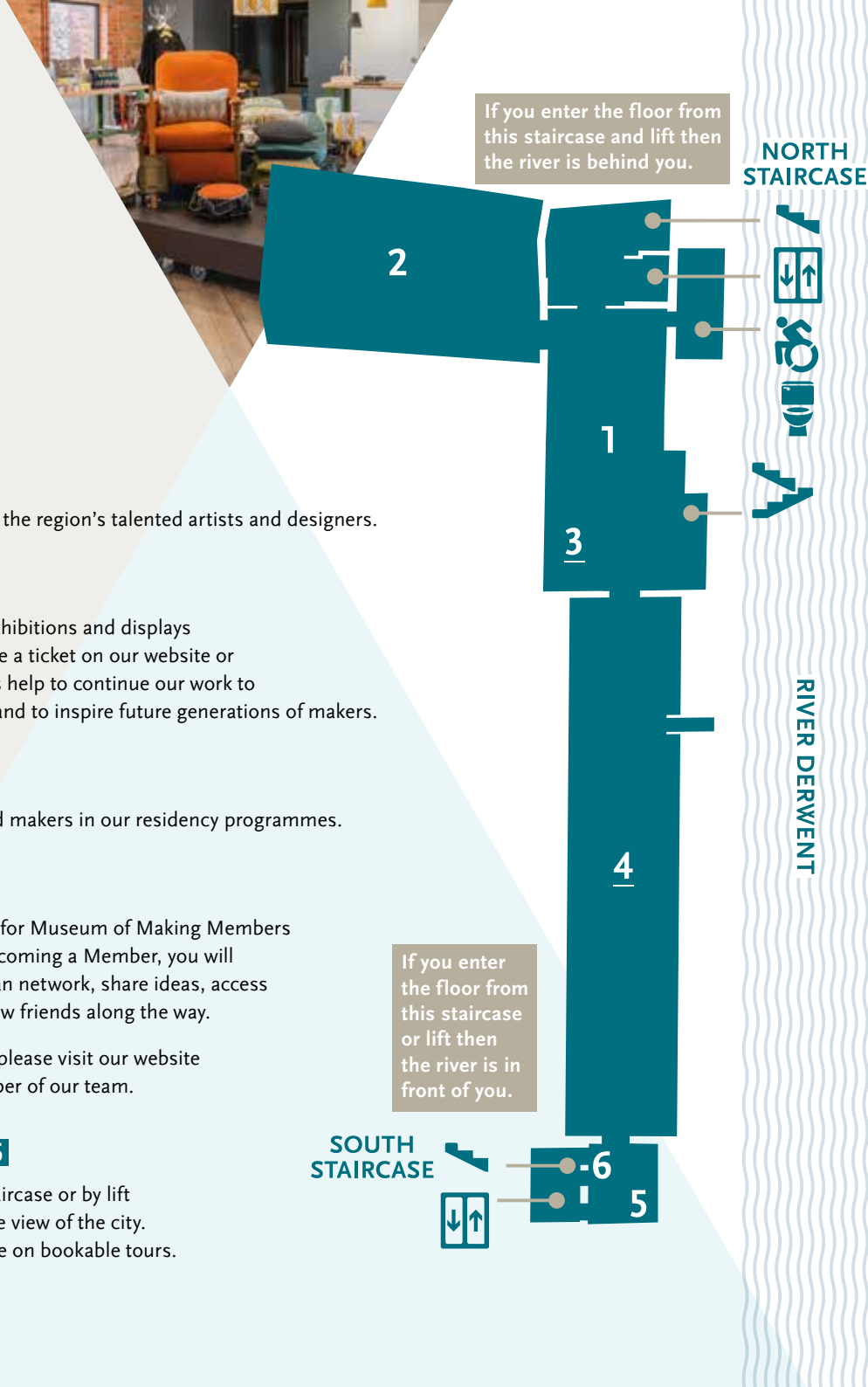
THE PROSPECT **4**

Our co-working desk space is available for Museum of Making Members to hire along with our Workshop. By becoming a Member, you will join a creative community where you can network, share ideas, access peer support, learn, teach and make new friends along the way.

For more information on Membership please visit our website derbymuseums.org or speak to a member of our team.

THE VIEW & TOWER **5 & 6**

The View is accessible via our south staircase or by lift and is where you can take in a bird's eye view of the city. Stairway access to the Tower is available on bookable tours. Ask one of our team for details.



FIVE THINGS TO DO FOR FAMILIES

Try the interactives in the Gateway – power the silk mill and explore how the Derwent Valley Mills developed.

Look out for activities taking place in the Throwing Room for makers of all ages.

Enjoy the interactive pods in the Throwing Room – watch a Make Works film or have a go at coding Toni Buckby's installation.

Explore the Assemblage through Trailmaker, find an object you don't recognise, follow one of our curated trails, or create your own.

Stop by Railways Revealed to take a trip on the model railway by watching the film of the 'train's eye view'.





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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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Derby Museums is a registered charity, number 1149710.