



Clockwise from bottom left: the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool; the London Aquatics Centre; the Library of Birmingham; The Shard in London; the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre at the London School of Economics; Manchester School of Art

RIBA/PA

## Birmingham Library books a place in Stirling shortlist

ROB HASTINGS

With its “Harry Potter rotunda” and “Willy Wonka-style glass lift”, the Library of Birmingham has been named on the shortlist for the Riba Stirling Prize alongside strong contenders from many of England’s biggest cities.

Alongside three representatives from the capital – The Shard, the London Aquatics Centre and the London School of Economics – Liverpool’s Everyman Theatre and the Manchester School of Art have also been recognised in architecture’s top prize.

The judges praised Birmingham’s nominee for its “three stacked boxes adorned with a glittering filigree screen”, saying it has “shaken the traditional perception of a library”, while Riba’s president, Stephen Hodder, said all the buildings were “poetic”.

