



Milsom Place is a masterclass in mixing the old with the new

Work is nearing completion on Milsom Place – the much anticipated new shopping area that looks set to become the fashionable heart of North Bath.

Milsom Place will sit across three levels in a series of pavements, shops and courtyards which will lead from Milsom Street through to Broad Street in the centre of the city.

But it's not just practicality that Milsom Place has to offer; perhaps the most eagerly anticipated opening – and one that the *Bath Life* team are sure to be arguing over who gets to attend [no, there'll be no argument over this one - Ed] – will be Jamie's Italian; Jamie Oliver's flagship restaurant in his new chain of affordable eateries, due to open at the end of September.

Jamie's Italian will be one of four restaurants in Milsom Place, along with the well-loved Moon & Sixpence, set to double in size when it re-opens with a new look this summer. We're told that all of the restaurants will offer varied all-day dining, and open courtyards for eating al fresco – injecting that Mediterranean pavement-café feel that Bath aspires to in its more optimistic moments.

Milsom Place will combine the best of the old and new architecture in much the same way as the Thermae Bath Spa; it works with the Bath stone rather than against it. The beauty of the original

Milsom Place



As Bath's most hotly anticipated shopping area prepares to open, **Kate Authers** asks: what can we expect from Milsom Place?



There will be plenty of opportunity for Parisien-style pavement dining

“There is nothing artificial about this environment”



buildings are the focal point, as in the case of the Grade-I Octagon Chapel, set to become a retail space with a vaults restaurant – a stark contrast to the plate glass and contemporary finishes.

“Anchoring the development, the Chapel will provide a distinctively different retail space which is both elegant and unique,” says Ken Elliot, director of the L&R Group, the site developers.

“There is nothing artificial about this environment; we have created a place with integrity, with character and style. This is what Bath does best. We are taking time to let the space to ensure we get the balance right. We are looking for a combination of strong independents and well-known names.”

From independents AH Moda, Image and Quadri to flagships of big-name brands Hobbs, Cath Kidston and Phase Eight, Milsom Place is set to become the one-stop-destination in Bath. Our hard-hat tour of the site left us with the impression of a far lighter, brighter, more inviting space than the old Shire's Yard. We just can't wait. 🍷

www.milsomplace.co.uk



Milsom Place promises to be sympathetically attuned to the architecture with its series of minimal walkways and use of glass