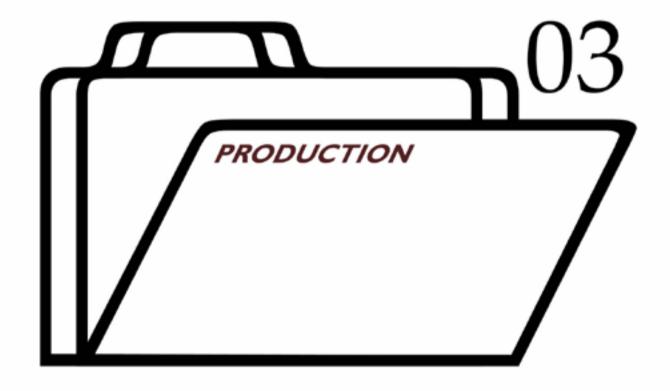
# glaspaper

critical writings on architecture and space



Two 03 glaspaper

Each word, image, mark, and fold of this edition of glaspaper has been produced by human labour. The content, design, manufacture and distribution overtly reflect the co-operative and collaborative manner in which it has been made.

Most commentary on the built environment focuses on the ambitions of the client, the creative energy of the architect, and financial power of the developer. This conventional portrait omits to mention the role of the building labourer, the site security guard, the cleaning contractor — in short the myriad of individuals who contribute to the production and use of every built object.

glaspaper 03 examines how these individuals and groups linked together and to the past by distinct social relationships produce our cities, ideologies and memories. Such analytical methods directly inform the work and working practices of GLAS. We believe they are also of great value to anyone striving to understand the capitalist (or any other) mode of production within which they find themselves submerged.

The stories of those disrupted and displaced by developments are also usually conspicuous by their absence. The etchings reproduced on pages 4 and 5 by Glasgow artist Stuart Murray provide a timely documentary of such stories. If you would like to know more about his work, or have any comments on this edition get in touch with GLAS using the contact details below.

As ever, glaspaper comes without the intrusive and editorially restrictive presence of commercial adverts. Of course this means that we rely heavily on the support of our readers to keep production going. If you would like to receive glaspaper 04 and subsequent issues use the coupon below.



Glasgow Letters on Architecture and Space, May 2002

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Illas paper is produced quarterly and will be sent via 1st class post to you. The next issue will be published in summer 2002 with a main focus on Education, Architecture and Learning.

G.L.A.S. relies on the support of friends and sympathetic organisations around the world as we wish to continue distributing the majority of copies to community groups for free.

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G.L.A.S. is a workers co-operative of architects, designers, teachers and activists. Its objectives are to construct a theoretical and practical critique of the capitalist production and use of the built environment and through design activity, graphic works, and writings to question and suggest alternatives to the dominant manner in which our built environments are put together under capitalist conditions. In short building and urban design is already a political event, the point is to change it's politics.

As a way of doing this G.L.A.S consciously draws not just on the history of building but on the history of communes, avant gardes and practical experiments in liberated labour and space, in brief the history of praxis. This includes the classical revolutions of European history, but also looks to learn from the historic struggles of architects, construction workers and tenants to develop a socialised building economy. This inclusive agenda also embraces the concept of the "heterotopia", the "temporary autonomous zone", the "independent collective", the smaller but politically profound attempts to carve in the interstices of capitalism embryonic forms of a new social space, whether it be a sit-in, a protest march, or a shabeen.

Some of these ideas were first explored by the founder members of the co-operative as post graduate students at the Department of Architecture, University of Strathclyde. Over a period of five years a number of attempts were made to develop a practice that sought to develop strategies for interventions and critical frameworks for thinking about them. The effect that a small organisation like G.L.A.S can have on some of the profound socio-spatial contradictions thrown up by the consequences of neo-libertarian economic regimes and the growing legitimation crisis of western democracies is of course strictly limited. Besides which there is a strong argument to suggest that as long as the production of the built environment is controlled by private capital, there is little chance that the uneven development of the built environment and the continued massive discrepancies in the resources that are deepening social and spatial divisions locally and globally will be arrested.

This makes it all the more important to find ways of making a critique in what appears to be a dearth of imaginative political thinking in the popular press and media about how we might make better use of existing buildings and cities and of developing improved ways of making them. G.L.A.S' newspaper is hopefully a contribution to that struggle. Below is a declaration of principles, a modest statement of intent. As in all manifestos there is a mixture of romantic idealism and overinflated aspirations. Slogans are in many ways empty vessels, they say everything and nothing, it is after all the practice that counts.

This said, it seems important at an historical moment when there continues to be a strong ideological putsch to identify capitalist social relations as the natural form of human organisation to remember a different ideological agenda. In the same manner that the Ant-Capitalist Movement is taking on the institutional power of global finance capital, the idea that the construction of a giant specifically capitalist complex commodity is the only legitimate way of organising the built environment needs to be challenged.

**GLAS** is a co-operative of architects, teachers, writers and urban activists

**GLAS** is committed to fighting all manifestations of socio-spatial inequality, exploitation and deprivation

**GLAS** produces multi-media critical works and design ideas that promote a radical social and political rethinking of how we make and experience buildings and cities

**GLAS** is engaged in a critique of the capitalist production and use of the built environment

**GLAS** is committed to the dissemination of it's ideas to as wide an audience as possible, exploring a broad range of communication techniques

GLAS aims to offer free advice and assistance to individuals and social groups engaged in struggles to transform their environment

**GLAS** is organised around the political principles of temporary existence and of collective self management and ownership of assets and ideas

> G.L.A.S. are Rosalie Adams, Allan Atlee, Judith Barber, Jason Bell, Gary Boyd, Jonathan Charley, Alistair Clements, Tony Dunworth, Florian Kossak, Carole Latham, Alan Pert, Tatjana Schneider, Adrian Stewart.

**GLAS** investigates the social and political consequences of the historical production of uneven development page 4/5,14/15,17

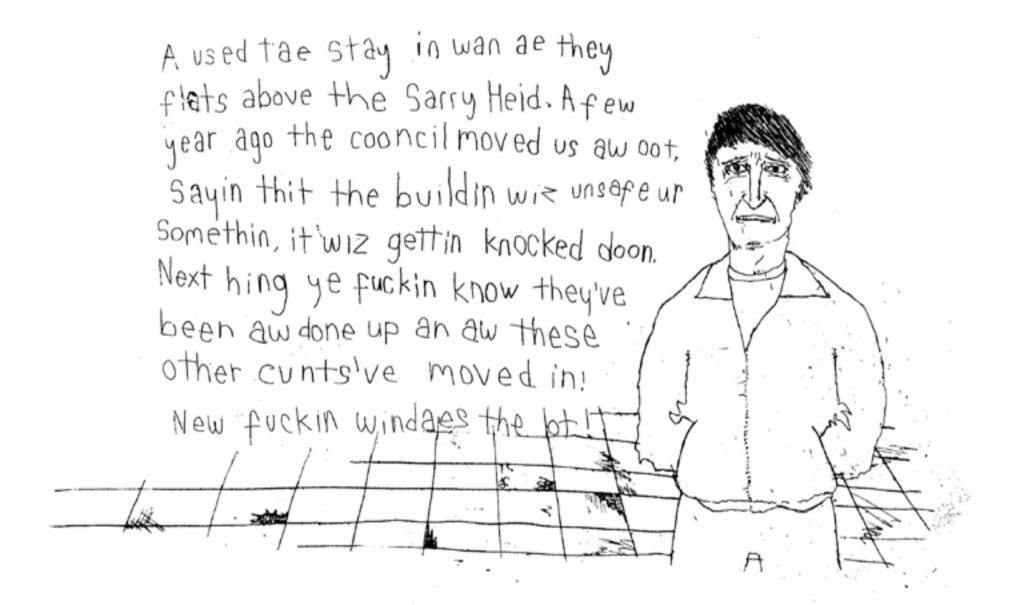
**GLAS** believes that the control of the production and the use of the build environment should be in the hands of all those producing and using it page 617

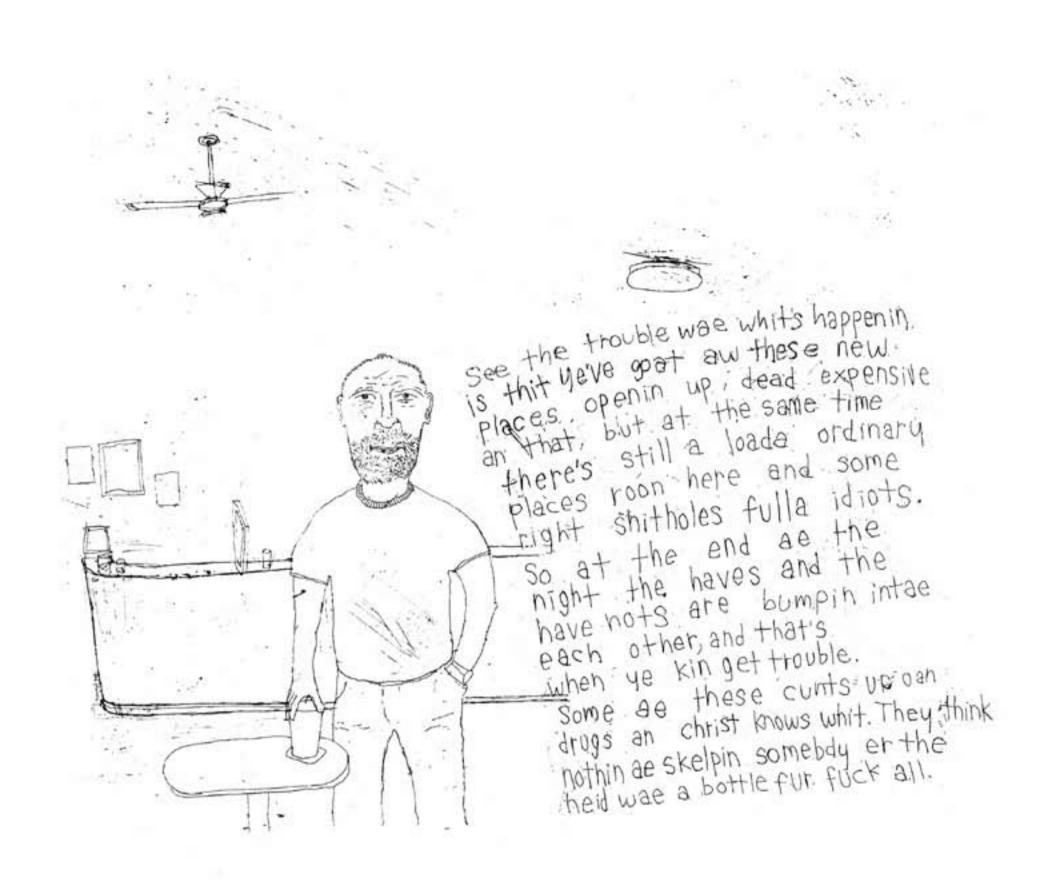
GLAS believes that PFI/PPP is a daft idea page 8/9

**GLAS** questions the production of selective histories through the global tourist industry page 12/13

**GLAS** regards the history of the emancipation of construction workers as an important reference for its own work page 16,22 / 23

**GLAS** criticises the ideological use of historical imagery to conceal real power relations [20 | 21 |



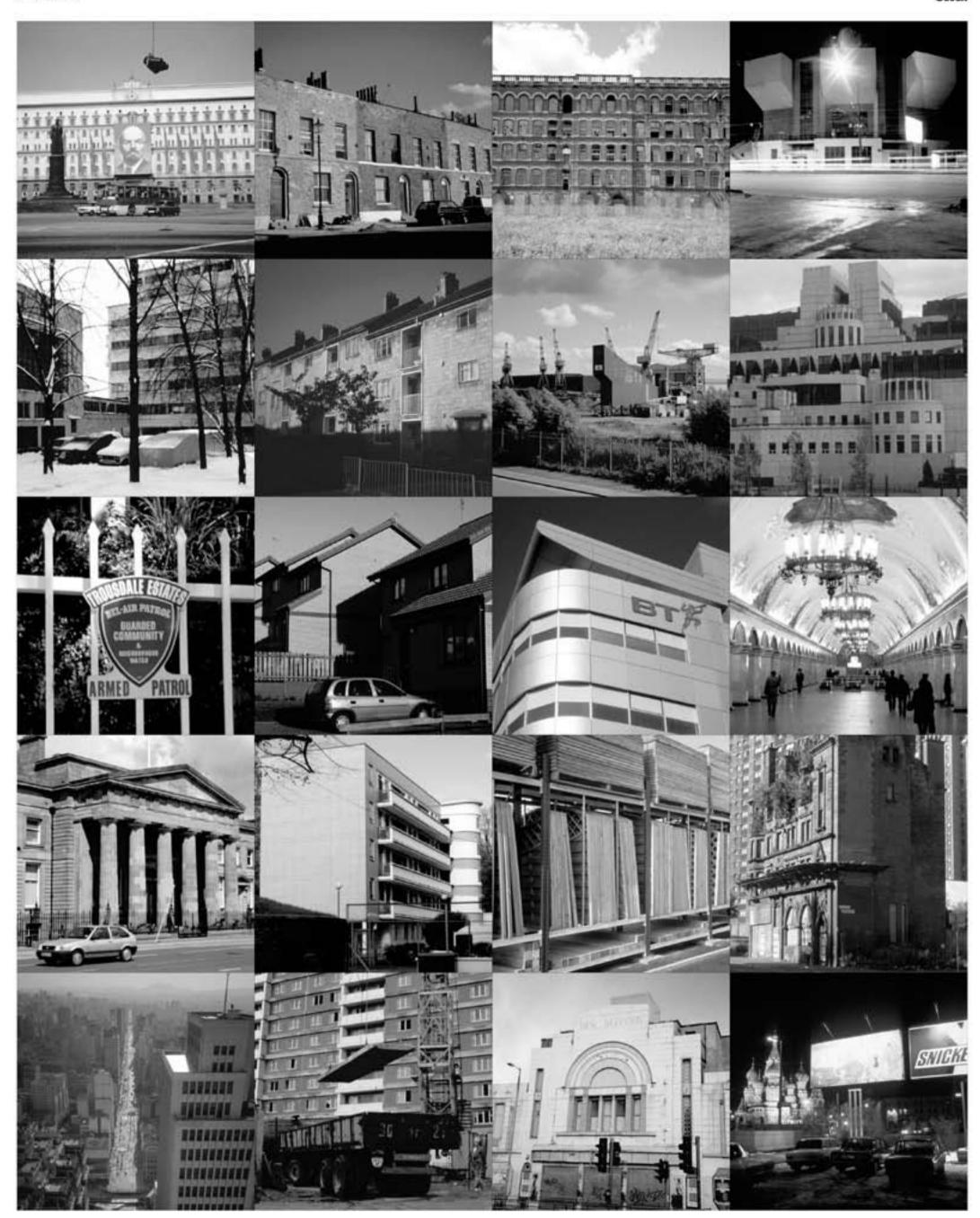


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## "HOLD THE FRONT PAGE – BUILDINGS ARE NOT MADE BY MAGIC"

- The board rooms of multi-national construction firms, the concrete factory managers office, and the debating chambers of politicians and planners, are remote inaccessible places. The camouflaging of the decision making process that occurs in such locations can create the impression that buildings and cities are produced by some sort of extraordinary alchemist's trick that is beyond our comprehension.
- 4 However, it is self-evident that everything connected with the built environment, a drawing, a text, a whole building or indeed a city, is produced by the hands and minds of workers. This process, far from being a politically neutral activity is characterised by conflict and competing interest. Here, it is true, that through organised struggle, architects, construction workers and tenants can influence the way in which buildings and cities are produced. But for most of human history their voices and desires alongside those of the politically dispossessed and economically marginalised, have struggled to be heard against the ideas and motivations of the class that owns and controls the land, technology, and capital which are necessary for building production to take place.
- 3 It follows that historically, the ability to build large scale works and restructure cities has tended to reside in the laps of the rich and powerful, whether the senators of ancient Rome, the Lords and Bishops of feudal Europe, or the state and capitalist bureaucracies of the last two centuries. Not surprisingly then, the production of most urban spectacles from the construction of the first city state of antiquity, to the nineteenth century neo-classical metropolis, and onwards to the twentieth century plans for new cities like Brasilia, Canberra or New Delhi, has been driven by the need to represent and consolidate political and economic power.
- 4 To try and explain how and why such buildings and cities are produced, it is necessary to explore their broader social and architectural context. In particular this requires us to investigate and reveal the political and economic objectives of the individuals and social organisations that control the labour of architects, technicians and building workers, and which direct the activities of users. Here, there is a crucial difference between building activity in modern capitalist societies and that of earlier epochs. The modern city, it's blocks, individual buildings, their parts and contents, along with the labour of architects and building workers are either transformed into, or are produced as, commodities. That is, they become things that are created primarily to be bought and sold in the market place.
- This produces a fundamental shift in the functional and social objectives of building production. It is not enough for instance that a house should stand up, keep out the bad weather, or even encapsulate the desire of its occupant in terms of projecting an image of status and wealth. It must first and foremost make money for the land development company, the construction firm and the bank supplying the credit. The imperative of maximising profits for these institutions can distort the decisions about what, how and where to build. Capitalist society has frequently produced buildings and urban regeneration projects that are at odds with the social, psychological and physiological needs of workers, tenants and users. Sick building syndrome, energy guzzling offices, poorly built ghettoes, increasingly intrusive forms of surveillance and collapsing infrastructure are just a few of the examples.
- **6** Under such circumstances it can prove very difficult to produce built environments that prioritise human need and happiness and which consciously explore and expand the realm of individual and social freedom. For in the context of an increasingly privatised built environment of 'fortified' housing estates, retail parks and city centres, human pleasure, environmental comfort and liberty tend to be defined in terms of monetary value and the defence of property. As a result the ability to choose how and where to live is restricted. First in terms of income level, and second in relation to the prescribed "choices" that are available in the carefully controlled and regulated markets for building products and services.
- **7** Despite the appearance of the capitalist production of the built environment as a conspiracy or covert operation, it is not the intention of financiers or construction firms to produce a built environment, that despite all efforts to the contrary, continues to be characterised by profound socio-spatial inequality and environmental degradation. Rather this is a natural consequence of the unremitting pursuit of profit, and of the concentrated private ownership of land and the objects and instruments of building production.
- But things are not quite so gloomy, for alongside the history of capitalist domination exists another history, that of the individuals, groups and classes that have sought to gain control over the production and use of the built environment. The development of different forms of socialised property in land and buildings. The creation of a fully democratised and accountable programme of urban development. The transformation of the labour of architects and builders into a liberated creative activity over which they have control. The production of hitherto unimaginable new building types and changes of use for existing buildings.

  These are just some of the projects that exist on the horizons of alternative forms of production.



EIGHT 03 glaspaper

multi-billion pound industry
DORTOWING Private Fininace Initiative
Public Private Partnership
brainchild of last conservative administration
design, build, finance, operate
consortium reduced quality

facilities management

political public services

risk

hospitals

devolving political resposibility poor client consultation

complicated leasing arrangements joint venture companies

capital projects

profit
aviation services

PFI lowest price lowest price multi-headed client private investment in public services reduced Government balance sheet banks and investors New Labour

上土上 schools hospitals drive for profit

low investment in design PFI contractors and financiers

facilites
management
public

low quality short design life end users

**Finance** 

architects
political
JVC prisons
private
public purse
bidding
consortium
private finance
Short
design
life
privatisation
public services
hospitals
PPP

Initiative

glaspaper 03 Nine

## PROFIT BEFORE PEOPLE THE MISERY OF PFI

PFI stands for the Private Finance Initiative. It is a process conceived by the Conservative administration of the early 1990's as a method of funding public sector projects. The most obvious of these projects are new buildings such as hospitals and schools, but many other services are operated on a PFI basis, for example, library services, IT provision to schools, and aviation services.

New Labour has enthusiastically taken on the PFI mantle handed to them from the Conservatives and relabelled it PPP – Public Private Partnership. The PFI/PPP process is not unlike a mortgage. A private Consortium consisting of a Main Investor, Main Contractor and Facilities Management Company (Maintenance Company) are selected, following a lengthy bidding process including around four consortia, to DESIGN, BUILD, FINANCE and OPERATE a project/building. Buildings are included in a leasing arrangement that includes, for example, cleaning, catering and maintenance services.

The Consortium borrows money from banks to fund the project. This is then leased back for a fixed period of time, usually 25-30 years, to the public sector in yearly installments plus interest. PFI/PPP is attractive to Governments as it spreads the cost of a project over many years giving the impression that the state is not in debt.

However, all it actually does is spread the cost of the project over an extended period with added interest. The Consortium has a guaranteed income from the lease agreement signed up with the Government. It can at any time refinance its loan from the bank, and pocket the difference. In the meantime the state is tied into a long term and expensive leasing arrangement for 25-30 years. 'How long will it be until New Labour sees that .... when it comes to creating buildings that 'embody a sense of community and civic pride', battalions of well meaning architects and design enthusiasts will never alter the private sectors lack of interest in these goals. The economics of PFI won't allow it.'

Robert Booth, 'Turning a Healthy Profit', Building Design 23.11.01

Collaboration and communication are the keys to good design. The PFI/PPP process does not readily foster such principles. This is due not only to the complicated, profitdriven bidding process, but also to the minimal client contact.

Over the last decade there has been a significant reduction in the access architects will have to the people who experience and use buildings. Greater emphasis is instead placed on the relationship between the architect and those who produce and run buildings. The term 'end user' is used to describe the teachers and pupils in schools or the patients and nurses in hospitals. The very term 'end user' alludes to a sidelined group.

Through PFI/PPP architects are employed by the main contractor whose principle aim, to secure a bid, is to produce as small a building for as low a cost as possible. Banks, contractors and investors are not in the business of placing value on the quality of light required to assist patient recovery or investigation of the optimum learning environment for pupils. The power of a pound sign will always rule. Discussion focuses instead on presenting a limited palette of materials that will only just weather the storm of the 25-30 year building lease. Frustratingly, it is not the building

design that usually secures a PFI/PPP bid but the facilities management arrangement (maintenance and service provision over the 25-30 year lease). The architect Rab Bennett stressed this in last September's Building Design, The really big numbers are still in the facilities management side of PFI. This is where the profits are for the consortium and where the costs are for the taxpayer. This side will always take precedence over design as the bottom line.'

## The Future ...

Buildings are a reflection of the political process behind them. The PFI/PPP process will generate a legacy of buildings constructed of cheap, banal materials with a 25-year shelf life, designed around efficiency and profit-making rather than quality and experience.

Some architects are challenging the way the PFI/PPP system operates, from a design perspective, by urging for more user meetings, being inventive with materials, pushing space allocations to the limit and digging their heels in to achieve a higher quality of finish and materials. This will improve the final building product but does not alter the underlying principal of the profit-driven process.

The present Government no longer views the state as solely a provider of services but as a purchaser of services stating, 'The Government rejects the simplistic approach to service delivery that either private or public sector provision is best.'

Our public buildings should celebrate, involve and value citizens. They should be created through a process that places people before profit. Only through the political will to invest in publicly owned services will this be achieved. Private business has no interest in such issues.

'Efficiencies (in public services) can't be obtained via the drive for profits, but must come through an entirely different approach based on why we want public services and what makes them different from private ones. We want them because we want a society of a different kind – a society of educated, healthy people, in fully serviced homes... with good communications – for which these services are essential'

Colin Leys 'Needs for Markets, Principles for Public Sector Reform', Red Pepper Magazine April 2002

Judith Barber

2??

## **NUMBER CRUNCH**

1992 Year in which the
Conservative Government
launched PFI 'with the aim of
delivering higher quality and
more cost effective public
Services.'

25-30 Average number of years that PFI / PPP funded buildings are leased by the Government from Private Consortiums.

The number of 'big private players' in the UK PFI / PPP market - main contractors, lead investors and facilities management companies.

Number of days that pupils and staff at Graeme High School, Falkirk can access the PFI building in a year. Council must pay consortium for access to school over and above this allocation (170 days).

Average number of meetings an architect and consortium will have with Trust or Education Board to develop design of building prior to selection of prefered bidder.

Number of financial bids made over a 2 year negotiation period for the creation of the new Edinburgh Royal Infirmary PFI project.

Average cost per week for patients to watch bedside TV within PFI hospitals

## **Brain Teaser**

If Hairmyres PFI hospital building cost £67.5 million to build, and is to be leased back to the NHS trust by the private consortium for an estimated fee o £1.2 million per month, what payback would the consortium expect over a

Answer: £430 million

## Who said that?

30 year period:



This announcement will establish confidence in both the NHS and the private sector that PFI is capable of working for the benefit of the patients."

Answer Secretary of Stole, Alon Milbum on government opposite (1997, 200) of that wave of PRI projects, 1997.

'We are trapped in a PFI web, the problem is a countrywide one and secrecy has no place at this stage... The PFI project as it stands fails the people of North Durham for the foreseeable future.'

Answer: ion Howtharn, Load Surgeon of North Durham FFI. Hospital specifing out ogenist bed reductions.

## **Fuzzy Face**



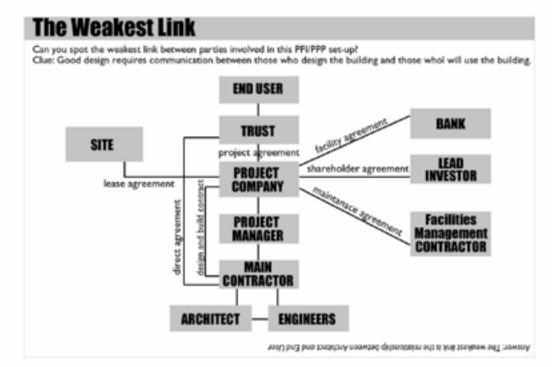
How well to you know your politicians? See if you can name the Prime Ministres in our computer generated fuzzy pictures below.

Clue: The person on the left masterminded the Private Finance Initative and the person on the right, funnily enough, has taken PFI on board and champions it under the renamed PPP. Don't let the left / right issue confuse you!





Answer: Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair



TEN 03 glaspaper

## TRY YOUR LUCK ON THE PROPERTY LADDER

'There is in this country a deeply ingrained desire for home ownership. The Government believe that this spirit should be fostered. It reflects the wishes of the people, ensures the spread of wealth through society, encourages a personal desire to improve and modernise one's own home, enables parents to acrue wealth for their children and stimulates the attitudes of independence and self-reliance that are the bedrock of a free society.'

Margaret Thatcher 1981

'A place to love, a place to laugh, a place to inspire, a place to grow, a place to share.'

Miller Homes

'The best security for civilisation is the dwelling, and upon proper and becoming dwellings depends more than anything else the improvement of mankind. Such dwellings are the nursery of all domestic virtues, and without a becoming home the exercise of those virtues is impossible.'

Benjamin Disraeli 1874

'You move in. We splash out.'

Beazer Homes

'The owner occupied home is visibly better maintained and at less cost in real resources than the rented one.'

Department of the Environment 1971

"All this...and more."

Taywood Homes

'Where you live. The way you live.'

Bryant Homes

'The ideological orientation to a past represents values of seeking to transcend the ambiguities and inconsistencies of present experience, which in turn generate a persistent reference to ideas of authenticity.' David Chaney

Authenticity and Suburbia

'Admittedly the architect, the promoter or even the occupier can compensate for the shortcomings of a given location by introducing signs: signs of status, signs of happiness, signs of lifestyle and so on. Such signs are bought and sold despite their abstract nature, despite their concrete insignificance, and despite their over significance (in that they proclaim their meaning - namely, compensation).'

Henri Lefebvre

The Production of Space

'The symbolic status of these private settings will necessarily mean a great deal of financial and emotional investment in styling, furnishing, decorating, equipping, maintaining and defending these sites by their inhabitants. The suburban home is thus intrinsically linked to the spread of consumerism.'

David Chaney

Authenticity and Suburbia

'Normalising discourses which construct home owners as normal and other housing consumers as abnormal create an outgroup or a 'shameful (housing) class' which exists beyond the frontier of abnormal behaviour. This exclusion is, strictly speaking neither exclusively economic nor social. Instead it is cultural, linguistic and psychological.' Craig Gurney

Pride and Prejudice: Discourses of Normalisation in Public and Private Accounts of Home Ownership

'Private' property entails private life - and hence privation.'

Henri Lefebvre The Production of Space

'Value does not have it's description branded on it's forehead; it rather transforms every product of labour into a social hieroglyphic.'

Karl Marx Das Kapital glaspaper 03 ELEVEN



TWELVE 03 glaspaper

# AROUND THE WORLD IN TWENTY MINUTES

Human circulation considered as something to be consumed - tourism - is a by-product of the circulation of commodities; basically, tourism is the chance to go and see what has been made trite. The economic management of travel to different places suffices in itself to ensure those places' inter-changeability. The same modernisation that has deprived travel of its temporal aspect has likewise deprived it of the reality of space.

Guy Debord The Society of the Spectacle, 1967

Over the last one hundred years the tourism industry has become one of the world's largest economies. An increase in free time as a result of changing work patterns, combined with the introduction of cheap charter flights since the 1950s, suddenly made travel - not only to remote places - available to a wide range of people. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the primary and secondary sector accounted for almost 75% of jobs. However, since around 1950 a growing number of people are employed by tertiary sector industries. Today, more than 60% of jobs in Europe, North America, Australia, and Japan are with finance and insurance companies, public service, retail, transportation and communication. Those 60% represent well off, middle class people who can afford to spend big sums of money for their leisure time. A nineto-five office day, a break of two days after each five days worked, bank holidays, and some 20 to 30 holidays at one's personal disposal, regulate and define the life of most people today. Weekend breaks to New York, a day shopping in Milan, or a night out in Amsterdam, Ibiza or Berlin is becoming a more and more common way of spending one's leisure time. With an increasing number of low cost airlines, offering return flights for £5 from Glasgow to Paris or Dublin, this option makes the weekend away available for most people - only leaving out the poorest in society. As one recent report pointed out, going on an all-inclusive four day break to Spain might be cheaper than spending the weekend in your home town, with two nights out, food and a haircut.



There are basically two types of travel. The individual trip, where you arrange everything for yourself. Or the package holiday, where you buy a vacation, which than comes complete with flight, accommodation and extras from a travel agency.

When travelling on your own or in a small group, countless travel guide books provide information about a foreign country or city. They are published by a (limited) number of companies, state or city governments. Books and brochures tell exactly what to see, where to go, what to do and where to stay. The oldest quarter of a city, the most important church, the prettiest landscape garden, the best and most authentic local cuisine, classic photo spots, and where to buy your souvenirs. Most guides will have three to five classified categories of accommodation and restaurants ranging from budget or affordable to top end or exclusive. Some publications also suggest shorter or longer tours for a city, region or country. The short tours of one to three days cover the very essentials of a place. If you have got more time available, tours of two to four weeks cover a greater geographical area and a wider cultural and historical background. For many countries, these guide books have become the only source of information about a place when not speaking the native language.

A second option when going abroad is to book a pre-defined tour. These can vary from staying at a holiday resort anywhere on the globe to full thematic sightseeing or educational tours or just a stopover for a couple of days on your way to your final destination. Two weeks all-inclusive in Spain, twelve days / eleven nights group adventure travel in Nepal, eight days Tasmanian highlights, half day hot air ballooning, four days / three nights stopover in Bangkok, six European countries in ten days, Italy's Renaissance churches in one week, the monuments of ancient Greece, temples of Japan, America's Wild West, etc. Here again, somebody else has already taken very precise decisions on behalf of you. You are buying the tour from a brochure which gives details about the type of people the tour is targeted at, with tours for 18 to 35s, families, and pensioneers. One knows in advance the whole route, the precise schedule of every day, which attractions one will look at, the venues for breakfast, lunch, and dinner and the hotels where you will stay. Your tour guide will speak any needed language, he or she will know historical facts of places visited as well as plenty of stories about each country, its people and culture. Your guide will also deal with any problem that should occur, from helping with authorities to lost property, from assisting when ordering food to even buying stamps.

Whether you travel on your own schedule or a package holiday, publications produced for the travel market will attract attention to those sites that have been specifically prepared for the visitor. A city, region, or even country is eventually being compressed into a map of attractions, a series of post card motifs, creating a new order which is superimposed on the existing (urban) fabric. You are not offered a complete image of a place and its history, in all uneven development and social inequalities, but carefully selected, singulated experiences determined by an industry which trades in cultural resources and experiences. History is not told in its social, political, cultural and geographical context, but as deconstructed and recycled fragments, which can be easily experienced and consumed in a clean, attractive, and highly secured environment. Over the last two decades, more and more places have been re-constructed,



perfected, or newly created to provide a setting for leisure, pleasure and consumption. Monuments that had been destroyed have been recreated, historic town centres have been beautified, and a wide range of new 'landmark' buildings have been constructed.

One could argue that one of the most extreme forms of this development is represented by the most recent theme parks which have been constructed during the last ten years in Japan. Architectural and cultural elements of various countries had been picked by the parks' creators and its owner consortiums and then put together again in order to create compressed versions of Spain, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Turkey, Canada, Russia, Great Britain or a combination of all of them. With these country-specific theme parks, one can differentiate between three different types of developments. The first type recalls an ethnological museum, the second is a hybrid between a classical amusement park with rides and either conceptual or histo-geographical overarching themes, and the third draws its motifs from a holiday seaside resort.

The first type of park is built with an educational aspect in mind. They can be described as being very similar to a European open-air museum, where historic buildings have been rebuilt to tell about how life and work conditions used to be in earlier centuries. The difference in the Japanese parks is that they not necessarily show their own country's historical buildings, but display recreations of architectural ensembles from all over the world in conjunction with the exhibition of historical artifacts. These ensembles are one to one copies of buildings which still exist somewhere on the globe. The single building ensembles are arranged along one circular route, but each country will have its own pocket area along the circuit, separated from each other by wood. Within the pockets, trees and flowers but also the general landscaping are meant to resemble the part of the world, where its buildings have been taken from. Each part is assigned a variety of shops that stock country specific merchandise, restaurants sell regional specialities, and local music provides the overall atmosphere. Here, the entrance fee includes everything apart from your food and some other specials such as putting on a native traditional costume and getting your picture taken.

One example for this type is 'Little World', which is owned by the private train company Meitetsu. It is situated near Inuyama, half an hour north of Nagoya, about three hours from Tokyo. From Inuyama a special bus brings you to 'Little World', another half hour ride, where you arrive just in front of the entrance which is also the main exhibition building. The park admission ticket for 1,600 Yen, around £10, gives you a day of unlimited access to the displays in the museum and the 'open air exhibits' within the park itself.

While the museum is intended to provide the visitor with a general background knowledge of ethnological themes such as evolution, technology, language, society and values of world cultures, the open air exhibits are supposed to present the way certain cultures live through the display of their material culture, domestic residence, and original settings. For this purpose, 29 'facilities' with 50 houses have been reconstructed and reproduced from many parts of the world. From the main entrance, the 'Little World Tour Bus' leaves every 15 minutes for a 20 minute 'trip around the world'. Along its route are historic buildings from various Japanese regions, a Farmhouse from Taiwan, Indian Tents and a Navajo House from Northern America, a Tlingit House from Alaska, a Peruvian Landlord's Residence, a Balinese Gentry House, a Bavarian Village, an Alsatian House, Mediterranean Houses from Italy, Bedouin, Turkoman, Quashqai and Rendille Tents from Syria, Iran and Kenya, a Buddhist Monastery from Nepal, various houses from Thailand and Korea, and a Kerala Village from India. Whatever part of the park - or region of the world - you will visit, music from loud speakers which are hidden somewhere in the landscaping will attune to the respective country on display. Italian canzone, French chansons, German brass music, Indian chants, Peruvian folklore, or African drums. Another element when approaching a country are small booths located at the entrance to buildings, where you can stamp your special 'Little World' passport with a fictitious motif representing each region or country. The buildings on display are all fitted with furniture and accessories that illustrate how a person would have used and lived in the building at the time of its construction, which sometimes dates back as far as the late 15th century. In addition to that you can become a piece of furniture yourself as you put on a costume that matches the style and time of the buildings. There are costume hire facilities throughout the park where you can exchange your clothes for a Ryukyu, the traditional dance costume from Okinawa, a traditional Alsatian dress, an Indian sari, or an Italian pannello against an extra charge. In order to let you experience yet another level of the



respective country, small restaurants or food stalls will serve local food and drinks such as Indian curry, Peruvian dishes, Okinawan sweets, Taiwanese dumplings, northern African dishes, Korean pancakes, or you just have a Cappuccino on the terrace of Alberobello. Some of the more popular areas, which include the European part with the Bavarian Village, the Afsatian House and the Trulli from Italy, have bigger restaurants and additional stores where the Japanese visitor can buy souvenirs in form of German sausages, nutcrackers or teddy bears, French wine, cheese or handmade chocolate, and Italian pasta, olive oil or Milan salami. For further souvenirs, the World Plaza and the Museum Shop at the end of the Little World circuit offer a wide range of

glaspaper 03 THIRTEEN



folkcraft and other accessories from around the world, such as Peruvian flutes, knitted jumpers, ornamented beer steins, Indian fabrics, Franken, Italian and Alsatian wine, cookbooks and cooking ingredients. Since the park opened its doors to the public in 1983, more than ten million people have visited and the owners have continually added new 'countries', with the European part being the latest extension in 1995. The economic recession that hit Japan in the late 1990s has yet prevented the park from embarking on the construction of further 'countries'. However, an already reserved site between Indonesia, Samoa, and Bavaria, awaits the postponed construction of a Tudor England.

A second type of theme park development combines classical amusement park rides with a thematic environment that acts as a stage set - for rollercoasters, boat tours, and shows. Themes range from more conceptual ones such as 'Sea' or 'Future' to those that are based on histogeographical motifs such as 'Spain' or 'Germany'. Here, buildings are constructed to provide a general atmosphere that is achieved through the use of certain architectural typologies, materiality, treatment of surfaces, signage or advertisements on buildings, all complemented by employees wearing country or regionally specific costumes and performing artist groups. Spatially, the parks are divided into different zones or 'lands' that are reserved for one thematic area only. Although some shortcuts between different 'lands' might be available, rides and other attractions are arranged along one single route. Admission for the conceptual type is generally charged for the whole park, as rides and the thematical setting are inseparable. Rides and special attractions are free of charge, but sometimes require hours of queuing. For the park that is arranged around histo-geographical themes, there are usually two different options: a ticket for the park only, which allows you to enter, wander about and shop while enjoying the setting, or a 'passport' ticket, which also allows unlimited access to all attractions and rides.

'Shima Spain Village' or 'Parque España', owned by the private train company Kintetsu, is situated within Ise-Shima National Park near Isobe, three hours south of Nagoya. Kintetsu Corporation, which provides the only available train connection to Isobe, also owns several buscompanies, travel agencies, major hotel chains, department stores and supermarkets. But, "Kintetsa's most important commitment is to contribute to the qualified leisure time of [their] customers." 'Parque España' opened in 1994 and within its first two operating years more than 7 million people visited Spain in the Japanese countryside. Isobe train station, the adjacent hotel, and various other buildings within this small town, are already resembling architectural elements from Spain, such as the white mediterranean rough cast and red tiled roofs, although it still takes another fifteen

minutes by bus to reach 'Parque España'. Admission to the park only is available for 2.800 Yen or around £18, while a 'passport', entrance plus rides, comes to 4,800 Yen, almost £32 per adult. Parque España is composed of four main themed areas: Ciudad, Tierra, Mar and Fiesta, which form two basic parts: one part recreates various Spanish style urban and rural building ensembles that are combined with special attractions and the other part features a number of fun rides. Located just behind the main entrance gates is 'España Street', a covered restaurant and shopping arcade with two storey urban-scale buildings, said to be inspired by Las Ramblas in Barcelona. From 'Cibeles Plaza' you can either take a left turn and go straight to 'Fiesta Plaza', where amusement fair fun rides are arranged around a Gaudiesque centrepiece. Or you continue your way through 'Cibeles Plaza' to the 'Mayor Plaza', resembling Madrid's Plaza Mayor, but on a much smaller scale, and from there on into a scenic arrangement of Spanish rural architecture which provides the setting for restaurants, shops, and special shows. There is a large Roman theatre, a 16th century castle, some Roman ruins, 'Columbus Plaza', and ensembles of single storey village houses forming squares or little streets. While none of the buildings is an exact replica, architectural typologies from the Spanish regions of Andalusia, Seville, and Málaga, are said to have



been the force behind these reconstructions. The only place within the park where you can actually actively learn something about Spain, its history and culture, is located within the above mentioned castle. The 'Museo' displays Spanish art and history of various periods and also provides some information about traditional crafts. Apart from the factual material provided by the museum, the Japanese visitor can further experience Spain through consuming the park's numerous restaurants and shops. Throughout the park, 'Theme Restaurants', bars, and cafés offer Spanish style food and drinks such as Paella, Tapas, churros, lemon cakes, Sangria and Spanish coffee. It is also possible to order your meal in Spanish as menus are always bilingual. Shops offer a wide range of merchandise, ranging from simple souvenirs such as pens and hats, to handenamelled ceramics, leather products, furniture and fashion, which also includes flamenco costumes and matching shoes. You can also purchase imported Spanish crockery, pots and pans. The major attraction though is the 'España Carnival', a parade "which incorporates the themes of Spanish festivals and traditional culture." Once a day, band wagons featuring themes such as Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, Dalí, Picasso, bullfights, and Flamenco tour the park on a fixed route. Spanish and Japanese artists illustrate the respective theme through further dance and theatrical performances.

The third type of park recalls in many ways a small town or (seaside) holiday resort. There are hotels, pubs, restaurants, pharmacies, police and fire stations, and a wide range of clothes shops within the parks boundaries, many of which with opening hours exceeding the general opening hours of the whole park. The general spatial layout draws from elements of an actual. small town or city. There are a series of smaller and bigger squares, pedestrian zones and streets carrying some internal motorised traffic, narrow lanes, differently scaled townhouses, and more or less interesting or important buildings. Some of the architecture is copied directly, while others represent simplified variations on the theme townhouse or market building, achieved through the use of a certain material and the overall proportions of a building. In some ways this type of development also behaves like a small town in the sense that it for example openly collects garbage.

'Huis ten Bosch' in the South of Japan is advertised as 'a city where people and nature coexist.' By train, it takes one and a half hours from Nagasaki or Fukuoka. You arrive at Huis ten Bosch station, a stop which is incorporated into the national rail network of Japan Rail. If you arrive in Nagasaki by plane, a speedboat takes you in fifty minutes straight from the airport to Huis ten Bosch marina, which is already part of the vast development. 'Huis ten Bosch' opened in 1992 at a total cost of \$2.5 billion, and more than 40 million people visited the park during the last ten years. Its total area covers 152 hectares, and located within the park are four hotels with almost 1000 rooms, 69 shops, and 58 restaurants, bars and cafés, plus numerous attractions and museums. Admission to the park only is 4,200 Yen, about £28, and admission plus free access to attractions and museums is available through the 'Huis ten Bosch 1 Day Free Passport' for 5,800 Yen, almost £40. The latter also allows the use of various transport facilities throughout the park, such as canal cruisers and buses. Huis ten Bosch consists of a number of exact replicas of landmark buildings from various Dutch cities, but most of the buildings are only inspired by existing buildings or they are just atmospherical recreations. However, any building within 'Huis ten Bosch' was built with bricks that were imported from Holland. The 'masterplan' for the whole development is described as being designed in the same way as Dutch cities have developed over the centuries. The historical and architectural development is divided into five phases: 12th, 12th - 14th, 14th - 17th, 19th and 20th century. The first phase is described as the general establishment of a village with the erection of stone houses and the building of roads, represented by 'Spakenburg' in Huis ten Bosch. During the second phase inner and outer ports and a fish market were added and at the centre of the town a city hall and a church were



erected, which is synonymous with 'Binnenstad' and 'Museumstad'. The third phase, portrayed in 'Nieuwstad' and 'Utrecht', witnesses the enlargement of the harbour and an extension of the city through further reclamation of land from the sea, on which warehouses, townhouses, and a larger marketplace are built, as well as the Royal Palace of Huis ten Bosch. The period of the 19th century, an era of massive industrialisation and the building of railroads, finds no architectural expression in Huis ten Bosch, but it is said that the system of canals was extended and so was the Royal Palace. During the last phase, the brochure explains, 'the old district, marina, and docks are redeveloped to create comfortable living



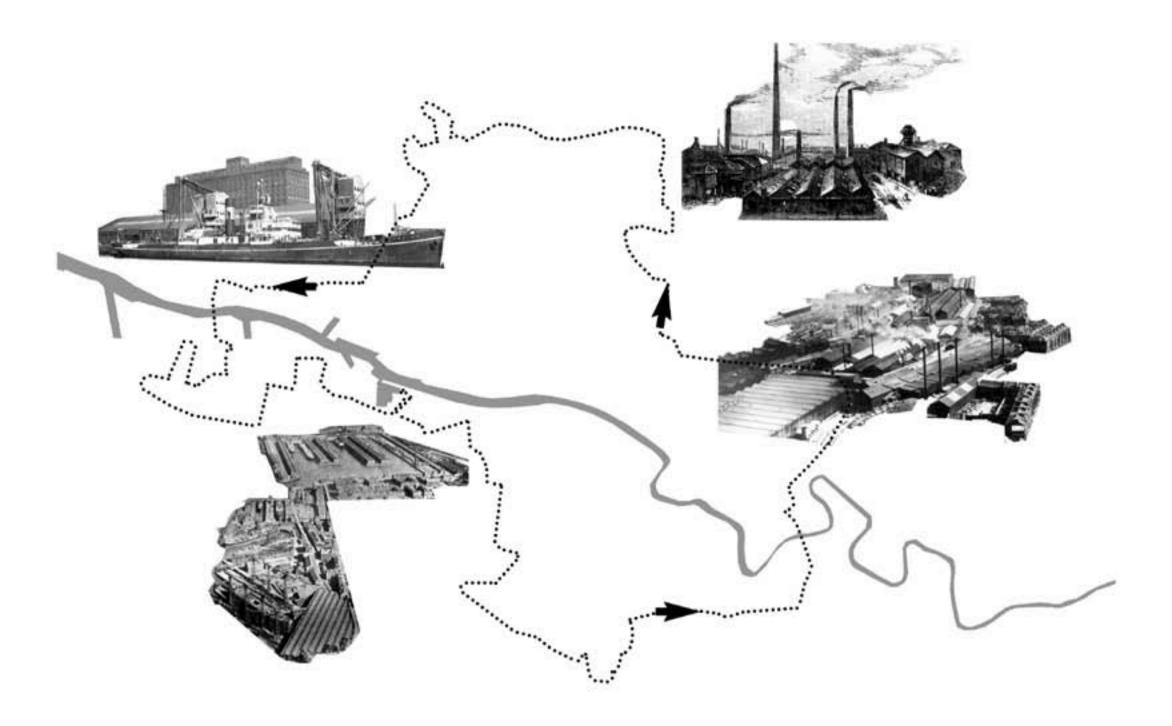
spaces by modern standards' (former warehouses are now housing Huis ten Bosch's hotels), and the 'suburbs' are further developed. 'Wassenaar', a development of more than 300 villas and apartment buildings, featuring 17th, 18th and 19th century style architecture, has been built on reclaimed land next to 'Nieuwstad'. All this has been built in a construction time of less than four years.

Throughout Japan, a growing number of theme park developments are either specialising on the display of country specific themes or the use of foreign and exotic motifs for new projects. Similarly, the numerous Disney parks as well as various European and American parks have started to re-create and exhibit other parts of the world. And although this form of theme park can be seen as the most compressing arrangement of a country's complex structure of history, culture and architecture, other recent architectural developments increasingly draw on the same visual principles. Museums, theatres, multiplex cinemas, shopping malls, urban entertainment centres and even urban inner city regeneration projects are thematised through simplified historical, geographical, and cultural elements as well as architectural motifs.

It took Jules Verne's Phileas Fogg eighty days to travel around the world, only to arrive again in his distinguished London club. When he hurried from England to France, and then on through Egypt, India, China, Japan, North America, Ireland and back to England, it wasn't his intention to experience other countries and cultures, although he more or less accidentally did, but his interest was a sporting obsession with time and travel. Today, the modern theme park offers the possibility of experiencing foreign countries and cultures, without even having to travel. Theme parks, as one form of a completely controlled environment, deliver predictable conditions of safety and guaranteed pleasure within a well defined period of time and space. In that respect these parks can be seen as a built condensate of the manufactured package tours of the travel industry or a guide Tatjana Schneider book in its physical form.

FOURTEEN 03 glaspaper

## 89 / 90 - PASSAGE THROUGH A DE-INDUSTRIALISED CITY



For a city of its size and antiquity Glasgow is not very rich in objects of architectural or historical interest. (...) Any lack of archeological showplaces is, however, amply compensated by the industrial and human interest of the city. Clyde shipbuilding yards have led the world since the momentous day when Henry Bell's Comet introduced steam propulsion, (...) and if in less prosperous years the achievements of Clydeside shippards have been less spectacular than in the flourishing days just before the 1914-18 War, the influence of the other great Glasgow industries has been potent in many directions.

The stranger who wanders along the quays and wharves of the Broomielaw will realise, if he has not done so before, how great is the interdependence between the third most populous city in Britain and the wild country stretching almost from the municipal boundaries to Cape Wrath and the furthest Hebrides. Flocks and herds and the abundant produce of the seas are poured into Glasgow daily, and in return almost every artificial requirement of life is sent to every hamlet in the western Highlands.

glaspaper 03 Fifteen

Sign A Rama - for all your signage needs, Panda House, Star Fish Bar, Chili 'n' Cream, inbetween a Chinese and an Indian restaurant the local Chippy, run by an Italian, Diverted Traffic, suburbia, two storey terraces, red sand stone, probably 1910s, back into the city, tenements rhythmically modulated facades, Non surgical face lifts, the promise for beauty without pain, an impressive mansion at the corner of Queens Park, UEFA Champions League Final, Playstation 2, Battlefield Road, emptied corner of the block lies there like a real battle ground, Mellville Car rental, the street full of parked white vans, Hyundai, Manufacture of football kits, UEFA Champions League Final, Mastercard, Minuteman Press - for the job you need yesterday, again 1910s suburbia, Second Avenue - Scottish defeat to the English terraced house, quarter-detached houses, Hampden Park - Scottish Football Museum, the stadium as an alien in an alienated surrounding, Hampden Cars Private Hire, ASDA, sitting in a cleared open field that became a car park, No. I: Best company to work for, We are open when you need us, Police - Warning: it is an offense to drink alcohol in a public space, no offense to be drunk, Prospect Hill, how much prospect is here in the three 1960s Tower blocks, maybe a good view, Welcome to South Lanarkshire, no more UEFA Champions League Final here in Lanarkshire, 30s detached houses in a dirty white, approaching Rutherglen, Atomic Kitten supports KEEP BRITAIN TIDY, paving stones guiding the blinds lead onto a Halifax Cash Point, Road & Track (closed), Motorworld, Jet, Bedrooms, an open field, overgrown with some rudimentary structure on it, "Rent me", a site with cleared up brick sheds, the stones still laying in piles, overgrowing, crossing the River Clyde, glittering in the sun, colourful circus wagons opposite some petty 80s housing, Sunnybank Street, all windows of the tenements are boarded up, Fuck the Pope, two towerblocks overlooking vacant land, the streets lamps of the housing blocks still lined up, the houses gone, grass instead, **Springfield Road**, post modern design for the bin areas, the houses in front it empty, ready to be binned, in the background Parkhead Stadium, Don't live a little, live a LOTTO, next to St. Michael's Primary School Barr Soft Drinks, Parkhead Cross - looking towards the site of the former Parkhead Forge works, now just **The Forge**, glass pyramids containing a shopping centre, opposite Mecca Bingo, behind it nothing, in the distance derelict train tracks, Adele Ivs Billy, New Life Church, the windows behind heavy metal grilles, to the left pigeon towers and trailer homes, to the right, in the distance the burned down 30s tenements of Haghill, sun shines beautifully on the new green grass, Duke Street, The Loudon Tavern - The greatest pub in the world, painted blue, For Sale, To Let, To Let, To Let, Karaoke Thu, Fri, Sat, For Sale, Discount Zone, At the end or the beginning of Dennistoun villas and formerly luxurious terraces, Alexander Dennistouns' failure to attract the bourgeoisie to the east, brutalist architecture for the Glasgow abattoir enriched with some 80s soft yellow, Great Western Hotel (closed), passing the Glasgow Necropolis, last home of the wealthy merchants, Cathedral Square and Castle Street, medieval mimicry and a Tourist Information sign, scratching the edge of the official city, in the axis of the cathedral portal a statue of David Livingstone, Royal Infirmary - Danger Demolition in Progress, crossing the M8, Sighthill 1/2 mile, on the embankments of the motorway grows long grass and wild dandelions, Sighthill, ten highrise slabs, 19 stories each, containing 2500 flats, the lowered street cuts through an artificial landscape, no footpaths on both sides of the street, Fountainwell Avenue, CCTV cameras control all zones inbetween the single slabs, St. Rolox Church of Scotland - last reminder of the St. Rolox District , "earth's nearest suburb to hell" ( James Stewart MP 1924), rows of simple gravestones in the Sighthill Cemetery, poor counterpart to the lavish monuments of the merchants on the Glasgow Necropolis, St. Rolox Superstore - turn right, "Rent Me", Barrat Homes, filling the gaps of the formerly industrial fabric, only every fourth parking space is occupied, Springburn Health Centre, the size of it might be reciprocal to the health of the Springburn community, Springburn Possilpark Housing Ass., two high rise towers, triumph of prefabrication, the ground floors decorated with a joyful red, above 24 storeys of infinitive grey, green slopes with no people around, Hawthorne St., 1930s tenements, refurbished some time ago, some flats boarded with metal sheets, an empty old brick shed along the street, romanesque windows like in a place of worship, Gala - free admission, Autoglass, Denmark Street, buildings in a rotten state, Library Bus on the city council car park, Northside Motor Factors - discount car components, Vogue Bingo - For Sale, on the right, behind brick walls, new Wimpey Homes, 'Parkview', 'Hillgrove Gardens', Showflat Open, on the left Ruchill Hospital - abandoned, Shannon Street, a man with a Republic of Ireland football strip, Ruchill, between the semi detached interwar houses a glimpse of the Campsie Fells in the distance, a building site, timber frame houses, some already cladded with bricks, crossing the Forth & Clyde Canal, Chapel Street Industrial Estate, indicating the work ethic?, McDonalds Drive-Thru, opposite Maryhill Shopping Centre, formerly the site of the Maryhill goods station, in-tune - full trained technicians, the remains of wall and gate of the Maryhill Barracks, behind it the Wynford Estate, suddenly: **The Westend**, red sandstone, glowing in the evening sun, front gardens, flower pots on the window sills, trees in the streets, UEFA Champions League Final, Mastercard, Western Gate Partick X - luxury 2 & 3 bed room apartments, what are normal apartments these days?, Partick Train Station, Nail Enhancement Specialist, the view from Dumbarton Road towards the Granary, "the biggest brick building in the world", the top floors are already gone, the destruction on the waterside still invisible, into the Clyde Tunnel, deeper and deeper, 30 miles max, again on the Southside, simple two storey houses, terraces, semidetached, two iron goals make it a football ground, a newly built cul de sac estate is fenced off from its 1980s predecessor, a 1930s estate still relating to the public street, the street is a motorway feeder, Southern General Hospital, out patients next entrance, kids throwing stones against the windows of an empty shed, Vauxhaul Frontera Sport, turquoise metallic, Fairfield Green - six flexible villas, looking more than garages, in the distance Rangers FC. Football Stadium, Elderpark Workspace, barbed wire metal fences with a dense hedge behind it obstructing intrusive views, JR Scaffold Service, Timber and Building Supply, Govan Cross with Govan Underground Station, a triangular square defined, by ten trees, no benches, Colopops - ideal lunchbox food, observed by a set of large CCTV cameras on high masts, Strathclyde Passenger Transport Broomland Depot, brown brick and barbed wire, .....VA. ......OS, ......OS, ......r, signage on the Govan Shopping Centre, Hury Hury Hury, a boarded window, no people around, Power Plant Hire, a shed, brick base, corrugated metal roof, six windows, all shut with roller blinds, around it a tarmac car park, one car and a portacabin, Govan Police Station with a Prison at its rear - closed, Broomland Public School - (closed), Govan Town Hall - nothing to govern any more, Glasgow Science Centre, four cars on a huge car park, three silver aliens without context, BBC Scotland site awaiting construction, The Loudon Tavern - The greatest pub in the world, -this time in Govan, Union Jacks hanging out of the windows, Mohamed Sawar MP, Gordon Jackson MSP, New Labour Paisley Road Surgery, Kinning Park Industrial Estate, the M8 flying over ten meters above ground, Strawberry Garden, Asian children playing in the streets, Yamaha Motorcycles, The Biker Barber, gents £6, OAPs £2.50

SIXTEEN 03 glaspaper

## REMEMBER THE DEAD -FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

On the 28th of April this year like every other year millions of people around the world observed International Workers Memorial Day. It has been celebrated in North America for more than twenty years where it originated to commemorate the introduction of a compensation scheme in Canada for men and women who are killed or injured in the workplace. Spain has officially recognised the day since 1999. This year in the United Kingdom over thirty local events were organised to mark the occasion; many by community groups set up to support those directly affected by work-related death, injury and disease.

Since 1974 three and a half thousand building workers have been killed in the United Kingdom and ten times as many have suffered major injuries. Countless others have had to live with the long-term consequences of poor working conditions - chronic physical and mental illness including respiratory disease, repetitive strain injury and musculo-skeletal problems. The most recent Health and Safety Executive figures for 2000/2001 reported a annual 31% rise in the number of construction industry deaths. Fewer people lost their lives in fishing, farming and manufacturing combined. Nor do these faceless figures record the personal stories of tragedy and pain each sufferer and relative carries with them, nor the experiences of the thousands who have lost their lives after lengthy, debilitating illness contracted as a consequence of exposure on building sites to hazardous materials such as asbestos. Despite the disturbing nature of these figures and the grim upward trend of the death toll, a quick survey of the plethora of magazines and websites dedicated to the construction industry, including the mainstream architectural press revealed not a mention of International Workers Memorial Day. The white-collar construction press treats the daily tragedies of the building site in an unashamedly white-livered fashion. Innocent onlookers might conclude that the journalists working for these publications have carelessly missed a good story whilst the cynic could understandably reach rather different conclusions – that the advertising revenue which sustains all trade journals creates a blind spot on their investigative radar which facilitates and sustains this complicit cover-up.

An unwillingness to address the human suffering at the centre of the industry can be traced directly to the boardrooms of the major construction companies, the trading floors of the international markets and the government ministries responsible for regulating the industry. Like all listed companies the big housebuilders and construction giants are legally required to annually report and publish their financial performance. Why then are they not also obliged to publish their safety record? Recent research has shown that workers are twice as safe in unionised workplaces where safety representatives have full consultation rights (London Hazard Centre). Why isn't every building site required by law to provide such a workers representative? Central government has repeatedly stated its commitment to reducing the number of workplace accidents and has promised time and again to introduce new offenses to make prosecutions for Corporate Killing easier.

Advertisement for claddings containing asbestos from 1978



Why then can the average workplace expect a visit by the Health and Safety Executive only once every fourteen years and why hasn't a single company director spent a night in jail for the avoidable death of one of their employees? What chance is there of any of this changing when young construction professionals are rigorously trained and tested in the smoke and mirrors art of contract law but are told nothing of the industries historical predilection for anti-trade union practices and its penchant for casualised labour.

The MacPherson Inquiry team who studied the investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence declared that the police and prosecution services were 'institutionally racist'. By this it meant that although not all policemen or prosecutors were themselves racist the systems and procedures employed by these organisations made them incapable of acting in a non-racist manner. The time has come to accept that the construction industry is suffering from a similar malady. There exists a fundamental "institutional complicity" which allows the hunting of profit to run roughshod over the rights of thousands of workers involved in the industry. The privatisation of public services, compulsory competitive tendering, Private Finance Initiative, Public Private Partnership always mean worse working conditions and therefore greater risk of accident and illness. The near complete casualisation of construction labour has led directly to death and injury. Construction companies who are legally obliged to serve their shareholders ahead of their employees must search endlessly for greater profits. These pressures demand increased productivity from a workforce already working some of the longest hours in Europe in conditions where proper safety measures cost money and slow the construction process while directors demand its constant acceleration.

It is not acceptable for architects and designers to abnegate their responsibilities in this matter. How many architects have a thorough knowledge of the safety records of their regular contractors? What rights do workers employed by these firms have in terms of sick pay and compensation in the event of an accident? How many architects if aware of the exploitation of casualised labour within a construction firm would mention it to a client who is happy to accept their attractive 'competitive' tender?

The Labour government's privatisation of local authority housing through stock transfer (glaspaper 01) has been universally welcomed by the construction industry in general and architects in particular. Despite referenda results that recorded significant resistance to transfer in Glasgow and outright rejection in Birmingham the majority of construction professionals have publicly and privately welcomed the government's willingness to aid the industry in its bid to accelerate their rates of profit. Stock transfer exponents claim three thousand jobs will be created in Glasgow. These will not be created by the local authority whose Direct Labour Organisation offered high standards of training and remuneration; if created at all they will be in small sub-contractor firms whose safety and training standards are much more variable and where job security is at a minimum.

Once again the architecture profession has found itself chasing the crumbs of a financial settlement which sees the local and national state washing its hands of a social service – in this case housing – and the built environment which supports it. Such desperation and short-termism has seen the problems of a low-skilled, casualised and non unionised workforce extend into the white collar professions whose Royal Institutes once protected fee scales, remuneration and recognition.

If architects are to retain their unique role within the construction process; indeed if the architect is to have any future at all then their ability to imagine other and of course better worlds must be placed at the top of their list of responsibilities. This imagining must also be applied with equal gusto to a radical rethinking of the construction industry itself. It is pointless advocating a Lord Rogersesque Urban Renaissance of tree lined avenues, high density cities and vibrant communities if these places are built by construction firms endangering the lives of exploited, casualised labour. It is inane to complain about the industries inability to deliver high quality buildings if you are willing to turn a blind eye to the fragmentation of training programmes, the obliteration of apprenticeship schemes and the full frontal assault on the trade union movement. Tiny concessions to design won by the architect during contractual processes like PFI or PPP that always demand 'best value' will only ever be that - concessions.

Those searching for a 'new architecture' to emerge in Scotland endlessly look for buildings or projects which will signal this arrival. They are right to do so in that others will judge us by what we produce. However they fail entirely to recognise that the quality of design, construction and programme of any building reflects the mode of production and complex social relationships of the industry and society from which it has emerged. Would it not be better to be known for high standards of building construction that reflected a highly skilled and generously remunerated workforce that created environments collectively, responding to human needs and desires? Or trundle on endlessly with the mean spirited, profit driven industry that allows scores of its employees to die unnecessarily each year? If all that seems a little far-fetched then at least lets see the following suggestions implemented without delay.

SUPPORT THE PROSECUTION OF COMPANY DIRECTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFETY WHEN AVOIDABLE ACCIDENTS OCCUR

FIGHT ALL FORMS OF PRIVATISATION AND CASUALISATION OF LABOUR WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

DEMAND THE PUBLICATION OF SAFETY PERFORMANCE RECORDS FROM ALL COMPANIES

DEAL ONLY WITH COMPANIES WHICH GRANT FULL RIGHTS TO TRADE UNION RECOGNITION AND ENSURE THAT ALL BUILDING SITES ARE ACCESSIBLE TO SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES

RECOGNISE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY ON APRIL 28TH EACH YEAR AND LOBBY ALL WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO DO LIKEWISE glaspaper 03 SEVENTEEN

## SMITHFIELD MARKET, DUBLIN, FRIDAY NIGHT, 2002

Smithfield Market, Dublin, Friday night, 2002. In a scene redolent of a fusion between the architecture of the Third Reich and a petrochemical plant, a series of oversized lamp-standards strike into the distance. Recently designed by an award winning architect, each lamp is crowned by a flaming torch which dispatches thousands of kilojoules of burning methane into the night sky. Opposite, the hollowed out shell of a former whiskey distillery accommodates a mixture of luxury apartments, a trendy hotel and bar, sundry boutiques and bistros and, unsurprisingly, a heritage centre dedicated to the history of whiskey. In an ironic reversal, the distillery



stack, no longer required to expel gaseous waste, contains on its summit a glassobservation platform. Here, for a small consideration, tourists can gaze over the city; to the foreground, where the site of a collection of scrap-yards is earmarked for luxury apartments or, if they look carefully into the distance, witness the moment where the suburbs bleed into the horizon. The scene is familiar to many European cities. Buildings and forms originally designed to meet the utilitarian requirements of manufacturing process become recast as novel and exciting places to be and live. As the distance of history allows the spaces of industry to be reduced to a landscape of spectacle, all the troublesome realities of production disappear. Here, the young professional can inhabit a phantasmagoric world of mute chimneys, silent machinery and absent industrial workers.

Nostalgia for the spaces of industry is, however, a product of both historical and geographical distance. As the production of the majority of the world's goods has shifted in last few

decades from western societies to the developing world, heavy industry tends to be something which happens elsewhere, beyond the fringes of our experience and under circumstances we have no direct knowledge of. The western city, once the workshop of the nation state, has been redefined as a centre of services: tourism, finance and leisure. One of the consequences of this process is an increased emphasis on the aesthetic qualities of its central areas. Indeed, in the international competition for tourist revenue, the production of a marketable image, ensures all sorts of disparate but picturesque phenomenon become repackaged as the city's list of attractions. At the same time, however, it presupposes the exclusion of those groups and phenomenon whose presence may disturb the harmony. As the number of homeless people living in Dublin has risen exponentially in the ten years or so of unprecedented boom since the inauguration of Ireland's 'Celtic Tiger' economy, it has been matched proportionally by new measures to prohibit their presence in certain areas of the

There are, however, historic echoes to all this. Dublin, unlike Manchester or Glasgow, did not owe its development as a city to the large scale industrial complexes of the nineteenth century. Instead, its growth began much earlier. It is inextricably linked with the colonialisation of Ireland, which, whilst beginning in the tenth century was not fully consolidated until the end of the seventeenth, when vast tracts of land were transferred, as the spoils of victory, into the hands of the colonising forces of soldiers, mercenaries and adventurers. The dissection of the island, however, was also contingent on the colonisers' more radical approach to land and space. They introduced an abstract, rational system of measurement and representation which simultaneously dissolved indigenous Irish social and cultural connections to land and replaced them with imported ideas of land management and property rights. This first act of 'disenchantment' was reinforced in the eighteenth century, when the ideology of 'improvement' introduced to both Britain and Ireland, a new concern for the productivity of land and more importantly, its potential as a source of profit. The methods used to realise this potential heralded the dawn of the modern, capitalist age: the transition of peasants to wage-labourers, the enclosure of common land and the creation of 'economies of scales': vast farms on which new technologies and mechanisation could efficiently reap vast harvests. The result was two contradictory types of surplus. An economic surplus, which for the colonising farmer, manifested itself in a built environment of conspicuous consumption of palatial villas and pleasure gardens. These, whilst deriving from the new and radical agricultural methods, were characterised by an architecture of 'antique simplicity': a transhistorical and legitimising aesthetic of permanence. The other type of surplus was of a human kind: the peasants and wage-labourers whose labour, due to the impact of technology, was no longer required on the land, drift towards the growing urban centres. The impact of both types of surplus on Dublin created a series of tensions and contradictions which have been played out in one form or another ever since.

In mid-eighteenth century Dublin, the rich began to vacate the squalid and heterogeneous Old Town, home to tanneries, piggeries, numerous small industries and their associated workers, for socially homogeneous and residential suburban enclaves. Over the last quarter of the century, under the aegis of a government quango called the Wide Street Commissioners, the city was reshaped in a series of moves which attempted to link the disparate suburbs with key buildings and create a discrete but unified colonial city. Here, the ruling class could leisurely bask in the reflected glory of a series of massive and elaborate architectural stage sets tied together by wide and commodious streets.

The partition between this 'city of spectacle' and its hinterland, however, was often paper thin. Spectres of decay and destitution, emissaries from a burgeoning 'Other' city, perpetually appeared in the new, magnificent landscape contradicting its message of beauty and harmony. The second half of the eighteenth century witnessed the creation of a series of new or improved carceral and disciplinary institutions: the Workhouse was extended, a lunatic asylum created, a hospital designed for those 'offensive to sight' was opened as well as the introduction of various other measures to 'sanitise' the streets. Perhaps the most potent example of the attempted division of the city into two discrete zones of spectacle and invisibility was two building designed by the same architect. City Hall was one of the first of Dublin's new architectural set-pieces. A large white neo-classical building, it provided a spectacular vista for one of the wide streets. Only a few hundred yards away, Newgate Gaol was constructed in black limestone and addressed narrow streets in a cramped congested section of the city untouched by civic improvements. In the centre of its façade, the hanging gibbet, mechanism of execution, was a permanent theatrical reminder to a working class audience, of the perils of transgression.



Geographical distance from the spaces and agents of industry and the production of goods has always been a luxury of the wealthy. It is only today, however, that this separation is predominantly on a global scale.

Our current lust for nostalgia is only possible because our yesterdays still exist in the working class sectors of the developing world: satanic factories, extensive industrial pollution, widespread industrial accidents, insalubrious shanty housing and the routine and savage suppression of workers groups and unions.

Here, as the production of goods has given way to the production of information and services, it has simultaneously produced massive opportunities for wealth accumulation for the few, whilst creating an array of insecure, low paid and often temporary jobs for the many. Indeed, even as the Irish economy edges towards full employment, an already burgeoning underclass is swelling. Such polarisation produces even sharper juxtapositions.

Last winter, as the lamp standards of Smithfield blasted off surplus energy as flaming spectacle homeless charities were reporting the deaths of surplus population in the streets.

Gary Boyd



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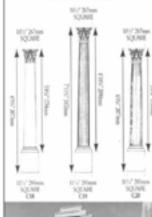
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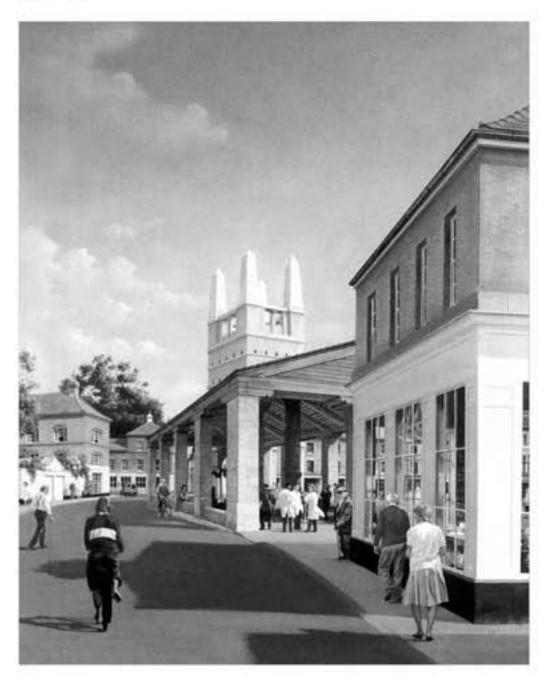
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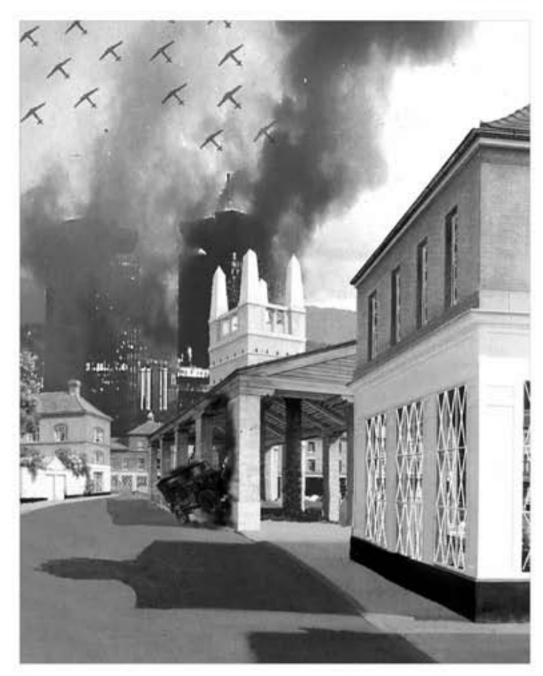
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## **EARLY VISIONS OF EMANCIPATION**

The class consciousness of construction labour like other wage workers evolves through a series of stages - the struggle for existence, the struggle for union recognition, the strike over wages and conditions, and the formation of political demands. The struggle for political rights, for forms of economic redistribution, for the instigation of a workers government, on to the syndicalist dreams of society regulated and organised through trade unions, forms one part of this story, in which building workers in the nineteenth century were often in the vanguard. But the possibility of the development of a new social form of labour concerned not only its juridical description in terms of labour's relations to political institutions and organisations but in the concrete, creative character of labour itself, that is the concept of praxis, that liberated form of human activity which exists beyond utilitarian notions of work.

The anarchist tradition that links Bakunin and Kropotkin, to Gan, Makhno, Voline, De Santillan and to the anarchists of the nineteen sixties has remained as the conscience of many of the 19th and 20th century political movements that have been unable to conquer power without its phoenix like re-emergence as another panoply of discipline and deadening bureaucracy<sup>1</sup>. Although the anarchist movement is as complex and diverse as any other political grouping, spanning a spectrum of values that contrasts and links the organisational platform of the Libertarian Communists to the contemporary ideas of Ward or Sennett, to the life style communes of the late twentieth century, they all share in one way or another an unqualified insistence on individual and collective liberty. Historically this has involved the critique of all forms of organisational theory that attempted to give control and power benign apparel, an attack on all forms of authoritarian regulation of which the state and its ultimate negation remained pivotal. Bakunin had warned of the "red bourgeoisie", Prouhdon had alerted anarchists to "barracks' socialism", and Orwell seventy years later would point towards the "totalitarianism of public opinion", a play on the process of legitimising authority exploited by left and right, that culminated in the implacable opposition of the modern anarchist to the bourgeois state.2

The alternative imagination looked to small scale organisations based on collective self management, that should be temporary, voluntary, autonomous, with acknowledged 'specialist leaders' but no 'followers'. Importantly as some of the programmes of Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian anarchists indicated, this did not exclude an understanding of the importance of a larger

and wider organisational model. There were in fact quite sophisticated ideas on the establishment of a federation of genuinely free associations, a model that libertarian communists shared with the early anarchists. Absolutely central to this model of organisation was the dismantling of structures that not only reinforced class rule but all of the associated forms of patriarchy and gender discrimination. The anarchist model of organisation which implied the full and equal participation of all members in decisions making was to be universal in its application. Amongst all the other goals of the anarchist movement were the crucial right to free space and labour unencumbered by the legislative arm of the state and capital.

The anarchist movement is implicitly spatial in that it envisages a decentralised network of free communes that are not by necessity anti urban<sup>3</sup>. In other words there may be cities, but there is no more capital city. It advocates the abolition of private property over land, the expropriation and re-distribution of bourgeois property to the communes and the right of workers to organise production collectively and independently of compulsion whilst retaining the right to personal possession individually or collectively. Lastly the anarchist movement has aspired to the unhindered self-management of everyday life, a further liberation of space but also of time.

When Bakunin commented on the Paris Commune as an imagination of the possibility of the free association and federation of workers in all fields scientific, agricultural, industrial and artistic, he underlined a theme that has remained pivotal to the libertarian movement. Jean Louis Pindy, a delegate to the first international from the Paris Construction Workers Union, would table a motion at the Jura Congress in 1880 for a dual federation of communes and trade unions, a simultaneous emancipation of labour and space<sup>4</sup>. For many of the libertarians in the nineteenth and twentieth century the geographical and historical aspects of everyday life were inseparable. It was meaningless to talk about the emancipation of labour without talking of the emancipation space.

As implicitly labour-space imaginations, the concept of a liberated praxis works its way through Kropotkin, Morris, Kollantai, Gan, and re-emerges in the writings of Lefebvre and Debord. Labour defined as work is dismantled and replaced by a concept of human labour defined as play. A labour that is not constructed around survival and coercion is not geared to the production of commodities for exchange, in which the labour process which becomes intrinsically satisfying is controlled by the worker.

Kropotkin is important to the story not only because he was a Russian who lived in exile in London, but because of his passionate defence of an anarcho-communist tradition that was to be particularly influential in Spain. Kropotkin shared Marx's interests in primitive communes, not as a nostalgic search for some essential human nature but as representing a definable historical tradition that could be traced back to the late mediaeval communes of the 11th to 13th century, forms of social organisation that explicitly expressed mutual support and solidarity, a vision was of the possibility of a genuinely "free society, regaining possession of the common inheritance."

But Kropotkin's interests lay not just in the more formal aspects of communal social organisation but on any initiative taken that appeared to reinforce bonds of solidarity. Central to Kropotkin's writings was not only a concept of liberated labour engaged in "agreeable work" a contemporary of Morris' "useful work", but of a liberated space that was to arise through the free movement of labour and the voluntary associations of workers and peasants. Openly rejecting both the visions of Fourier, or the early twentieth century ideas of state socialism, Kropotkin's pantheon of events featured everything from the free libraries and museums of municipal socialism, to the forced communism of calamitous events, even to the 'extra' ordinary co-ordination of continental railway construction, and the emergence of the red cross and the British life boat association7.

As is well known Kropotkin extended his critique of capitalist society to a call for the direct socialisation of land and buildings. In an essay in which he describes the construction of Paris as a communal exercise forged from the labours of fifty generations of Parisians, he expounds a manifesto calling for the expropriation of bourgeois property in land and buildings, its redistribution and conversion to other purposes and the abolition of rents an historical imperative arising from the illegitimacy of private home ownership, a series of familiar revolutionary tactics in which the "fine ladies would find that the palaces are not well adapted to self-help in the kitchen"s.

Although anarchists appear to be on the periphery of the political landscape in Britain, anarchist ideas on individual liberty and the anarcho-communism of Kropotkin resonated within the development of socialist thought at the end of the nineteenth century, notably in the celebrated 'Soul of Man under Socialism' by Oscar Wilde and the explicit anarcho communism of 'News from Nowhere' by William Morris.

Utopia for Wilde was not so much a place as an expression of the human desire for liberty. Utopia functions as a dream, a memory, a hope, the realisation of which is always historically relative and temporary. It appears in the literary imagination of Morris in the transformation of Dickensian London into an urban garden, where Trafalgar Square has since 1952 in what appears to have been a decisive revolutionary conflict become slowly overgrown, its monuments and statues to empire and church dismantled, destroyed or hidden amongst orchards and "gay little structures of wood". A romantic idyll of a post revolutionary Britain in which Parliament House has become a Dung Market.

Despite this vision of a state that has withered into a cattle yard, Morris, was no Leninist. However he had arrived at his own idiosyncratic version of socialism, that combined a critique of capitalism with a romantic libertarianism. More than anyone else in Britain Morris articulated a critique of labour in "Useful Work versus Useless Toil" that historically connects him to the libertarian wings of the Russian revolution and to the Lefebvrian and sixty-eight declaration of the necessity of the transformation of every day life. He had read Marx and Engels and was a close friend of Kropotkin and their combined influence appears clearly in his writings. The tone of righteous indignation at the degradation of labour and life that had emerged in the epoch of capitalism echoes the work of Marx and Hegel on estranged and alienated labour, but it also owes a legacy to Ruskin.

Whilst Ruskin's politics were relative to Morris reactionary, insisting on maintaining the distinction between "nobleman and commoner" his idealised vision of the mediaeval craftsman as one whose "thoughts and affections may be true and deep", on the destruction to craft traditions brought about by the increased use of machinery and of the consequent tragic separation of mental and manual labour were sentiments that were subsequently articulated by Morris.

As the embodiment of the devotion to labour of the medieval craftsman, the Gothic for both Pugin and Ruskin, was an expression of what might be called a non-alienated architectural production." It is a well-worn path that traces the evolution of the arts and crafts tradition in Britain, and constructs a lineage that joins Ruskin, Pugin, Morris, Lethaby, and Webb with the development of modern movement ideas in relation to honesty and truth. In Morris in particular there is a concern with the labour process that historically ties him to the Bauhaus, in which whatever the political motivation there is a shared concern with the 'faithful' well crafted object in which clarity of message and purpose shone through the glaspaper 03 TWENTY-THREE



work. Morris as is well known spoke at length on "the primary beauty of materials", on the union of mental and manual labour, on the worker as creator, and in relation to his pattern making in the importance of geometrical structure, cleanness of form, firmness of structure, on the strong recurring line, in the construction of a work in which there is little ambiguity", a list of guidelines that could equally have been excerpts from one of the early modern manifestos on architecture.

On the face of it there would appear little to connect the Villa Savoye to the Midland Hotel at St Pancras. However the motivation behind the Gothic revival that swept Britain in the latter half of the nineteenth century, was that of the quest for an ideal, a deeply Hegelian search for the spirit of truth that Ruskin argued could be found in the structural clarity and bold expression of the Gothic arch and buttress. In other words the Gothic was an expression of the honesty of labour fully manifest in the honest rationalism of structure, an architecture imbued with "the sprit of truth", which is exactly how Corbusier was later to describe his own motivation, manifest in a different form but driven by the same Hegelian belief<sup>13</sup>.

But it would be wrong to depict Morris's thoughts on labour as a simple reiteration of Ruskin. Ruskin was unequivocal in his denunciation of the machine and its impact on the building industry. Both Ruskin and Morris were writing within a time frame in which the craft traditions of the building process were being undermined by the introduction of machinery into building materials fabrication, and by the rise of the speculative "jerry" builder. However Morris was like many of the Luddites not so much anti-machinery as anticapitalist, that is he was a critic of the devastating introduction under capitalist relations of machinery into the labour process,14

His famous precepts, that art should be an expression of "joy in labour", that nothing should be made by degraded labour, and that labour should be a happiness for both maker and user, predicts in many ways the words of Gan, Kollontai, and Shliapnikovii. For Morristhe corruption of art, of human labour lies in the nature of capitalist exploitation. It is capitalism that obstructs the reconciliation of labour with happiness, and for Morris like Lefebvre socialism is not just about tonnes of bricks and steel, it is about happiness. It is capitalism that Morris believes has incurred a "degradation of mind and body", and a modern civilisation that has "bred desires, which she forbids us to satisfy". A liberated labour is a labour where it's attractivenessemerges through the consciousness of usefulness, that is carried out with intelligent interest, that is varied, exercised in pleasurable surroundings, and is performed over a shortened working day. This liberated labour would exist in a liberated factory, that far from being a headquarters of physical coercion becomes a centre of intellectual activity in which science eliminated waste and "dangerous stench", a building that is more like a home than a prison.

Far from being the problem machinery becomes one of the means by which human life can be liberated from toil and want. Morris envisages the possibility then of a quite different role for machinery, imagining as did Marx that under post capitalist property relations such obvious labour saving devices should indeed be employed in such a manner that releases the worker from pain whilst simultaneously opening up an as yet unknown world of desire and leisure. Morris sees then one of the principle contradictions of capitalism as an absence of pleasure, and it is the "lack of pleasure in daily work which has made our towns and habitations sordid and hideous"s. In other words far from the grotesque Stalinist invention of the Stakhanovite shock worker in which heroic painful labour is erected as the goal of socialism, Morris's 's socialism is about pleasure. "In any case, the leisure which socialism above all things aims at obtaining for the worker is also that very thing that breeds desire - desire for beauty, for knowledge, for more abundant life, in short."

Morris's socialism then is more akin to the possibilities of a non-reified, noncommodified world imagined by the sixties generation. It is closer to Emma Goldmans, "if I cant dance it is not my revolution", than to the technocratic elite of the state capitalist dictatorships who conceived of socialism in terms of statistics and security police. His greatest legacy is in many ways his most ignored. Unwittingly or otherwise he had like subsequent libertarians touched on the limitation of all revolutionary projects that do not have at their centre some concept of the transition from need defined as biological reproduction to the realm of desire, the imagination and attainment of which is contingent on the transformation of work into

Jonathan Charley

### NOTES

- I. In opposition to the bomb throwing secret agent of Conrad, the anarchist tradition can boast thinkers and writers that stretch from Bakunin and Kropotkin to Chomsky, Sennett and Debord. In the tumultuous years surrounding the civil rights movement in the USA and the wave of revolutionary sentiment that gripped the imagination of many during the 1960's anarchism re-emerged on both sides of the Atlantic, consciously drawing on the traditions of popular revolt with a plethora of programmes and manifestos that ranged from the cryptically obscure to the maximalist slogans beloved of both Situationists and American anarchists.
- 2. Here, there is no attempt to provide any justification of social democracy, the state appears as little more than the armed wing-executive authority of the bourgeoisie, that reproduces itself by five principle mean. By appeals to patriotic nationalism, by diluted specifically bourgeois definitions of justice and rights, to the maintenance of order and stability, and to the provision of bread and circuses, whether in the form of the spectacle or in terms of welfare programmes designed to soften the edges of a repressive authority. See for instance, De Leon, Anarchism and the State, in Erlich, De Leon, Morris et al in Reinventing Anarchy, Routledge Kegan and Paul, London, 1979, p70ff
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- 10. ibid, p329
- Swenarton, Mark, Architecture and the Industrial Revolution, Pugin and Ruskin, in the Sites of History, op cit, p211
- See Thompson, E, P. The Decorative Arts, op cit, p100-108 for a discussion of Morris' relationship to the craft tradition.

- 13. Spoken in the context of Corbusier's comments on the entries for the Crystal Palace competition won by a neo-classical design. Quoted in Jackson, A. The Politics of Architecture, A history of Modern Architecture in Britain, Architectural Press, London, 1970
- 14. See Thompson, E.P. William Morris, Romantic to Revolutionary, Merlin, 1977
- For a summary of these precepts and their emergence in his thinking see **Thompson**, op cit, p647ff
- Morris, William, Useful Work and Useless Toil, in Selected Writings, Penguin 1986, p121
- 17. ibid, p123
- 18. For a summary see, Morris, ibid, p132
- Morris, W. The Worker's share of Art, in Selected writings op cit, p140