

Making it with the University of the Future: pleasure and pedagogy in higher education

Professor Mike Neary mneary@lincoln.ac.uk @mikeneary Married to the Berlin Wall: "The Best and Sexiest Wall Ever Existed!"

Teltower Straße

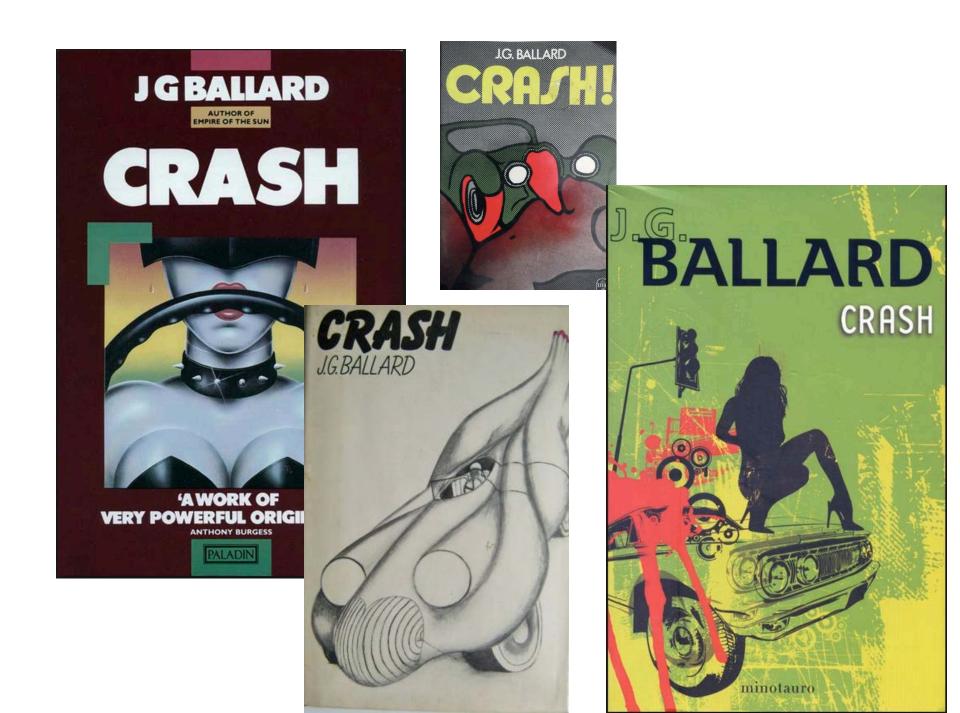
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Have you ever wanted to fuck a building?

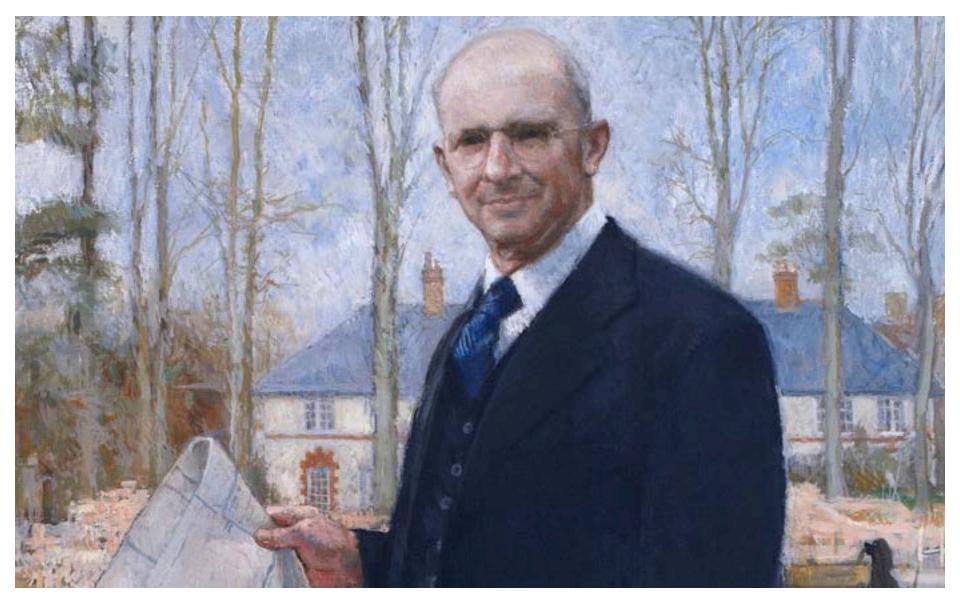
Mrs Eiffel Tower



Photo&Copyright, Eklöf-Berliner-Mauer, Liden, Sweden







Conscientous objector: WW1

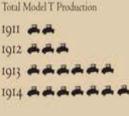
Highland Park Henry Ford Factory

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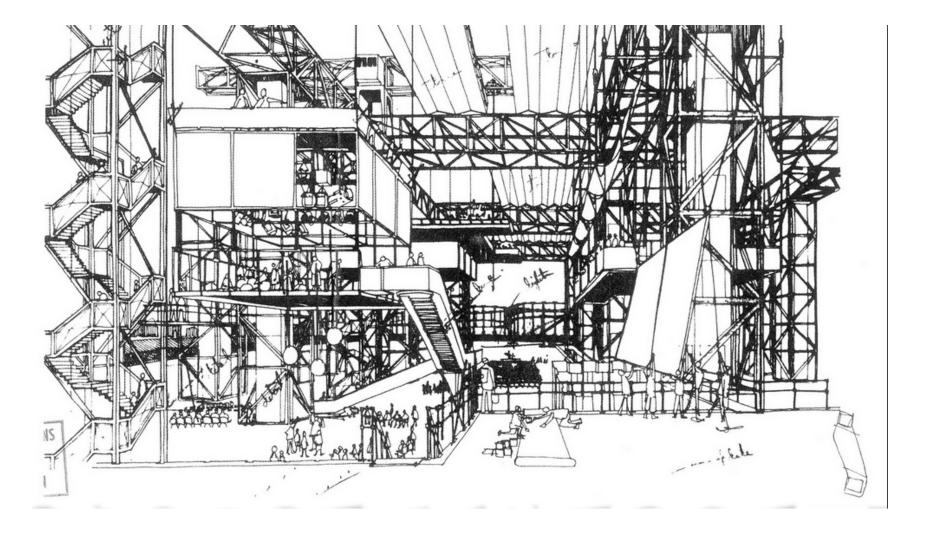








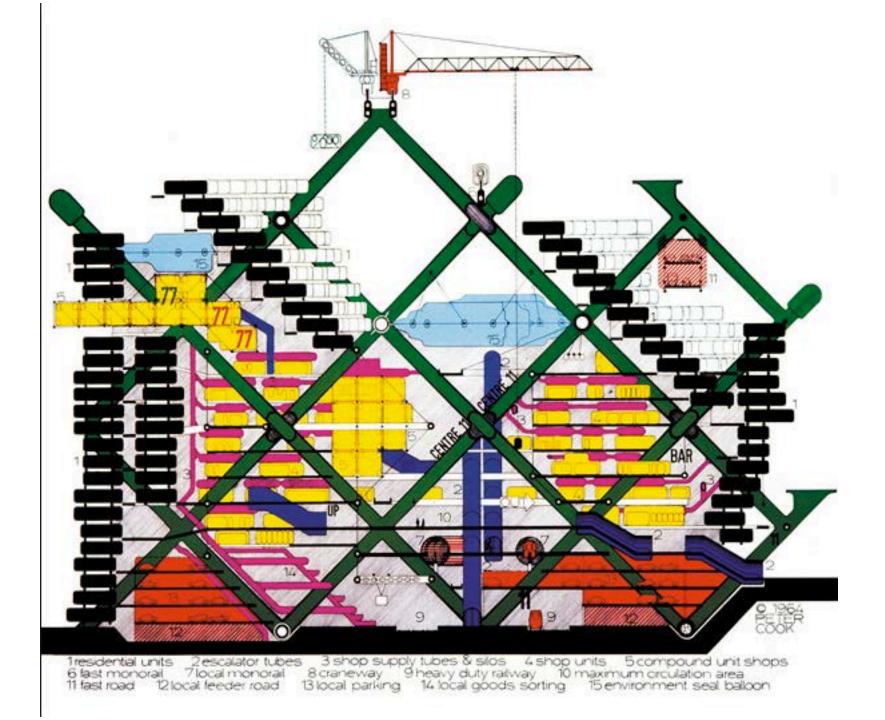


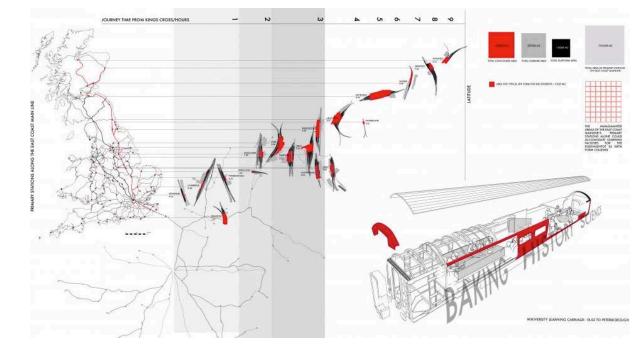


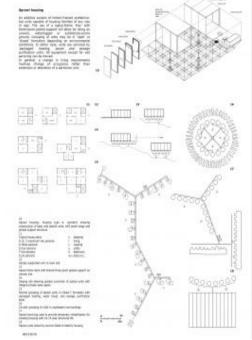




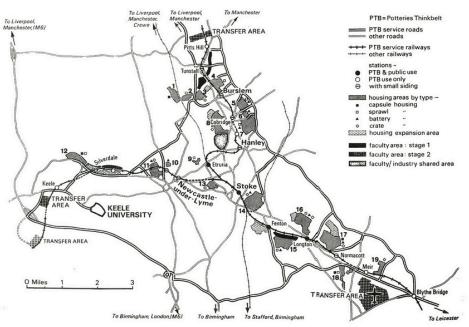




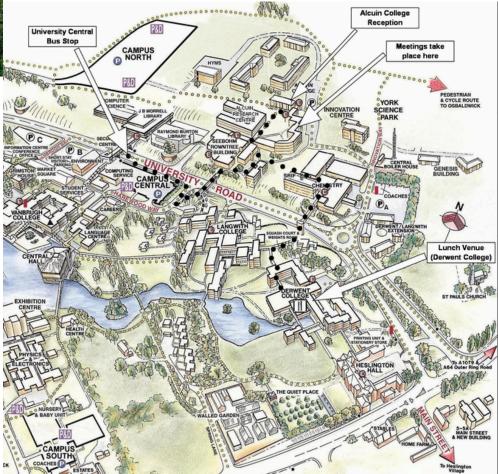












06 THE SCIENCE OF SPACE

At the core of Learning Landscapes in Higher Education lies the challenge of engaging with academics in the design and development of teaching and learning spaces. A response to this challenge is to develop new academic spaces through the concepts and ideas derived from particular academic subject areas.

This section demonstrates the way in which academic values, within a particular subject tradition, might be mobilised to affect the design of teaching and learning spaces. Written in the paradigm of critical pedagogy, this section considers the way in which sociological categorisations might impact on the shape of pedagogical spaces.



Virginia Woolf 'Three Guineas'

• 'Before you begin to rebuild your college, what is the aim of education, what kind of society, what kind of human being it should seek to produce...the old education of the old college breeds neither a particular respect for liberty nor a particular hatred of war - it is clear that you must rebuild your college differently. It is young and poor; let it therefore take advantages of those qualities and be founded on poverty and youth. Obviously then it must be an experimental college. Let it be built on lines of its own. It must be built not of carved stone and stained glass, but some cheap, easily combustible material, which does not hoard dust and perpetuate traditions. Do not have chapels. Do not have museums and libraries with chained books and first editions under glass cages. Let the pictures and the books be new and always changing. Let it be decorated afresh by each generation, by their own hands. Cheaply.' (Woolf 2008 198-199)







Theory of the Future

The Present: intensification of time and space and matter (socially necessary labour Time, or commodity form) = capitalism = catastrophe (Neary 2003 *Critique of Political Cosmology*)

The Future: abundance=needs and capacities: theory of social time = communism (Neary and Rikowski 2002 *Theory of Social Time*)

Principles for the University of the Future

Grounded Dynamic Power Open Play Anti-War

Principles for University of the Future

- **Grounded** the space needs to be grounded theoretically in its own version of historical materialism; and practically, to provide the room for social transformation or utopia, even. The floor should be fascinating, a surface for working on as well as walking on. Giving Gravity and Gravitas. While, at the same time, facilitate a lightness of being by the removal of anything that looks too much like architecture.
- **Dynamic** the space should promote movement and mobility, demonstrating learning and teaching is more than a mental activity, but requires physicality and bodily functions inter, intra and extramural, or Dance Dance Revolution. The spaces between classes can be transformed into learning events, as corridors, transporters, e.g., lifts and other vehicles, all in an environment that promotes walking as a philosophy and the root of *ped*agogy.

Principles for the University of the Future

- **Power** the space should be democratic, with all arrangements to be negotiated and agreed. There is no locus of power or powerpoint in the room, no space for teacher or student, and with all of the spaces designed for cooperation and collaboration. There should be Fun House mirrors on the walls to promote distortions of space and time and future possibilities.
- **Open** the space should be indeterminate and open-ended, as if it has yet to be complete. Sexy. Stretched like a membrane right up to its edges, except there are no edges, only the smooth curves of complexity. This is what we strive for: to be fully rounded. Sometimes we want it so bad it hurts, like an uncomfortable principle which should be reflected in the furniture.

Principles for University of the Future

- **Play** all work in the spaces should be kept to a minimum and only ever when it enriches life and pleasure. The space should contain the most labour-saving devices and work should be apportioned according to ability. An important part of play is learning to carry out activities that will enhance the life of the group using the space and our own lives as a sort of role-play area.
- Anti war the space should scream anti-war, recognising that violence can be 'divine' (Benjamin 1921) justified not as an absolute ethic, but as a sign of the injustice of the world, depending on each circumstance that cannot be pre-judged: as an excess of love, or anti-pornography or 'Educative Power' (Benjamin 2009). The concept of educative power should be scrawled on the wall, as graffiti: *Learn, Learn, Learn Teach, Teach, Teach* (after Zizek 2009)