

Project Proposal

Shirehall: A Photographic Portrait

6FP011 – UM2: Independent Practice

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Initial Mind Map

- Round Mirrors
- Reflections
- Convex / Concave Mirrors
- Concrete Buildings - Morley von Sternberg
- Japan Images – differences in cities and countryside
- Redscale images of brutalism (UEA work)
- Other film types / Redscale / cross processing
- Pinhole Holga camera and architecture
- Printing or storing on disk. How to archive
- Dealing with old family images.
- Lives and deaths of Mum and Dad
- Finding disgusting things and puking on them
- Shirehall Council Offices
- Dereliction and demolition of local buildings

Narrowing Down

- Shirehall Council Offices
- Local government buildings
- Recently mothballed
- Destined for demolition
- Brutalist Concrete Design from 1960s
- Thousands of previous workers
- Iconic landmarks
- Location of Registry Office – weddings and deaths
- Archiving local history



What?

Photographic portrait of an iconic set of municipal brutalist buildings, destined for demolition, with the aim of creating a visual record that captures both the grandeur and the subtlety of interior and exterior spaces. Examining the interface between human occupants and structure.



Photo: Bob Griffiths 2025

Why?

Brutalist architecture and local history feature widely in my practice. Documenting the gradual decline of local landmarks important to architectural design history, allows me to explore my environment and capture an archival record of the details and wider facets of a multipurpose and multi-occupancy set of structures. Chronicling the beauty, dilapidation and demise of a divisive estate will ensure that its historical importance continues to remind previous occupants of the memories held within and explore grief for the loss of the landscape and fabric of the town.



Photo: Bob Griffiths 2025

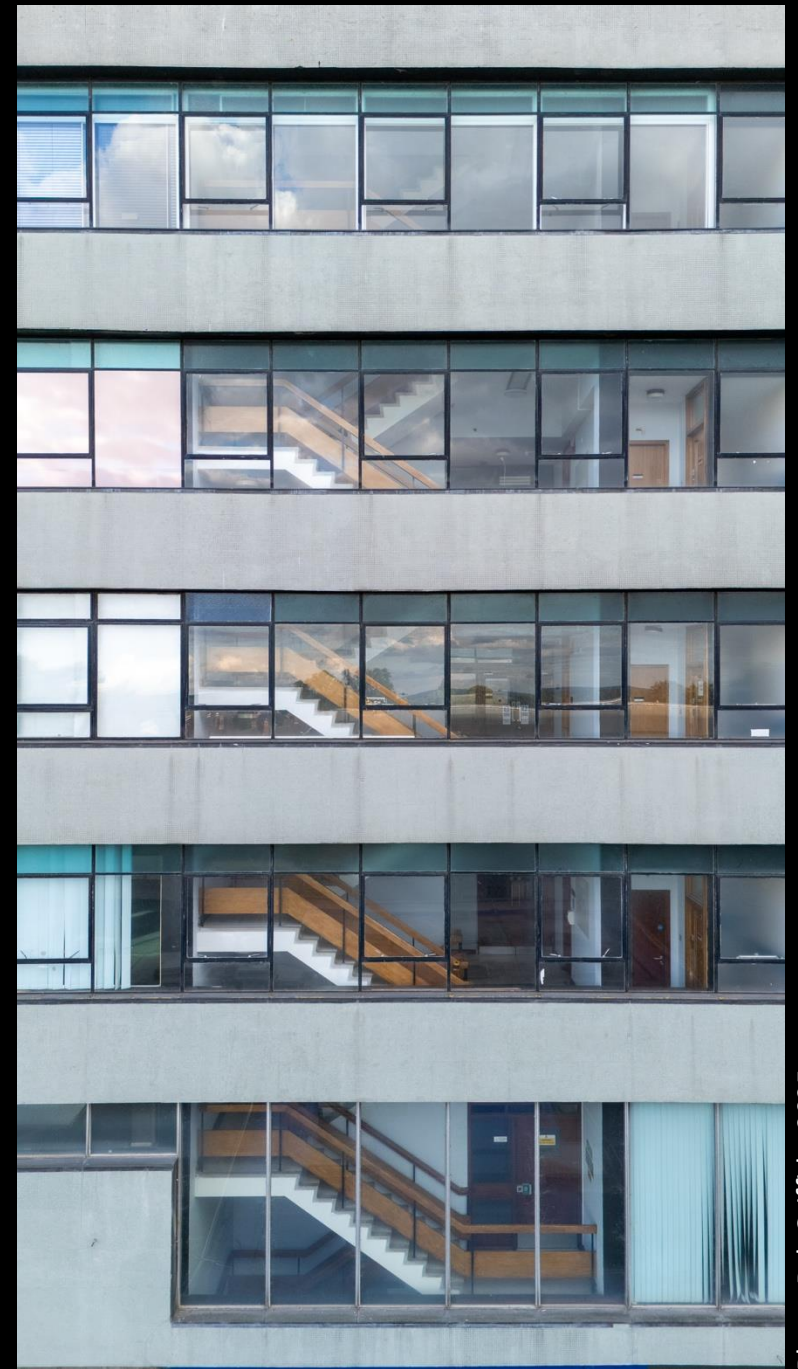


Photo: Bob Griffiths 2025

How?

- Secure permissions, from the building managers to explore inside and out.
- Engagement with the Save Our Shirehall group, Modernist Society and C20 Society.
- Explore corridors and rooms, documenting light, shadow, and story.
- Utilise digital cameras to document precise details and fleeting moments.
- Use film cameras and possibly redscale film to evoke nostalgia.
- Edit and curate the images, creating a story of the building facing disuse, dereliction and demolition.
- Employ drone photography for unique perspectives not possible from ground level.

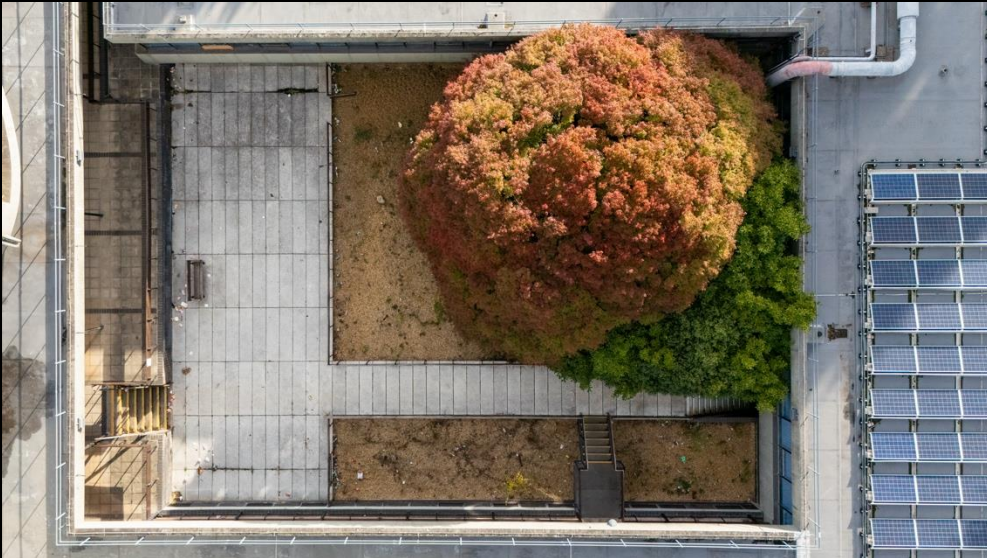


Photo: Bob Griffiths 2025

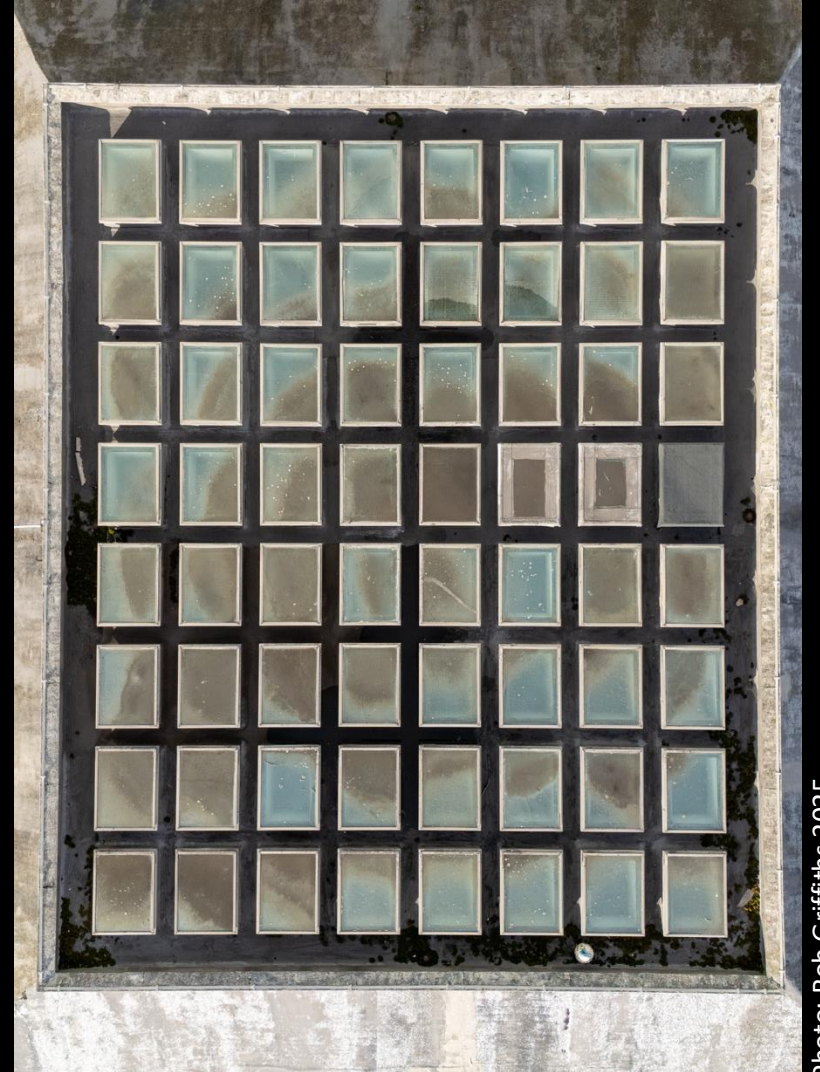


Photo: Bob Griffiths 2025

So What?

This proposal envisions a photographic journey through the Shirehall Council offices in Shrewsbury, which represent history, architecture, and civic purpose. Employing digital, analogue film cameras and a drone the project seeks to document the soul of the building, its intricate details, and its significance within Brutalist architectural discourse.

Producing for posterity:

- A curated collection of images that invites viewers into a visual narrative of place.
- Resources poised for exhibition, commemoration, and sharing with the local council.
- A lasting archive of images and possibly other media to reflect on once the buildings have been demolished.
- Link with “photography and grief” dissertation.



Photo: Bob Griffiths 2025

My Practice

- 20 Years Of Documenting Local History
- Partnering with organisers & solo
- Interiors and Exteriors
- Film
- Digital
- Drone
- Before, during and after demolition
- Some for community projects
- Exhibited:
 - Zines
 - Website
 - Galleries



Photo: Bob Griffiths 2023



Photo: Bob Griffiths 2024

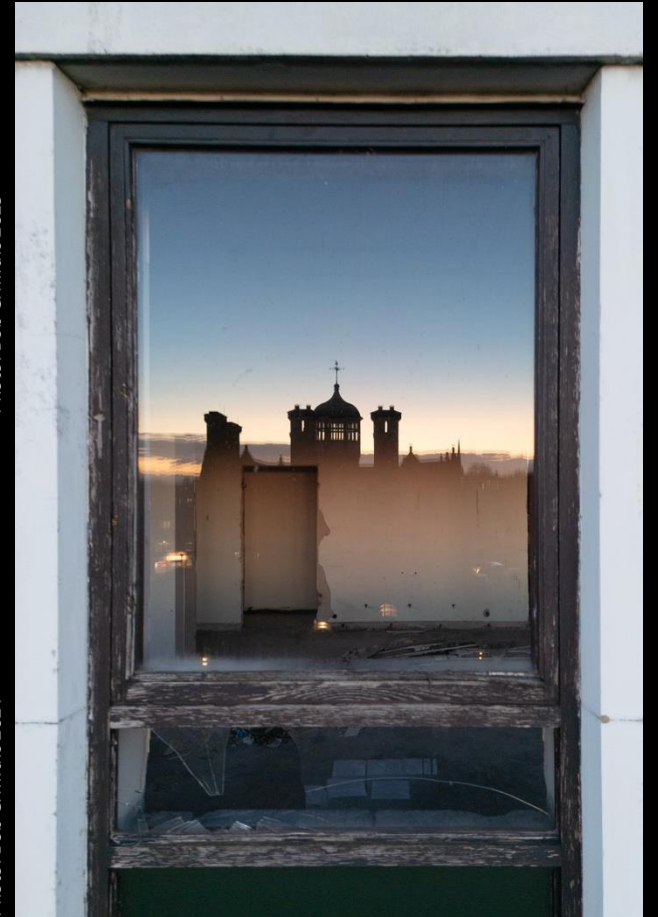


Photo: Bob Griffiths 2025



Photo: Bob Griffiths 2013



Photo: Bob Griffiths 2013



Photo: Bob Griffiths 2006



Photo: Bob Griffiths 2002

Research

Morley Von Sternberg (RIBA Award Winner [Instagram](#))

Simon Phipps (Author of Brutal North) ([Instagram](#))

SpacePlay (Adam Carthy) ([Website](#))

Elain Harwood (Author of Brutalist Britain) ([News Article](#))

Michael Revill (The Revillator) ([Instagram](#))

Maurice Bloomfield ([V&A Website](#))

Peter Mitchell ([Photographers Gallery Website](#))

Chris Killip ([Website](#))

Mark Power ([Website](#))

Modernist Society, C20 Society

Brutalist Architects:

Denys Lasdun (UEA & National Theatre)

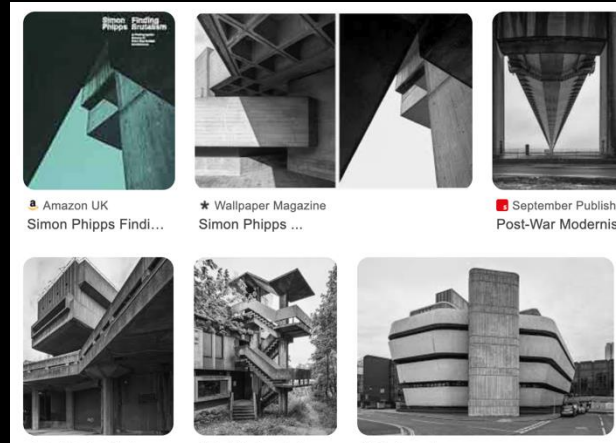
Chamberlin, Powell and Bon (Barbican, Uni Of Leeds)

Le Corbusier (Dudley Zoo, London Zoo, UN Headquarters)

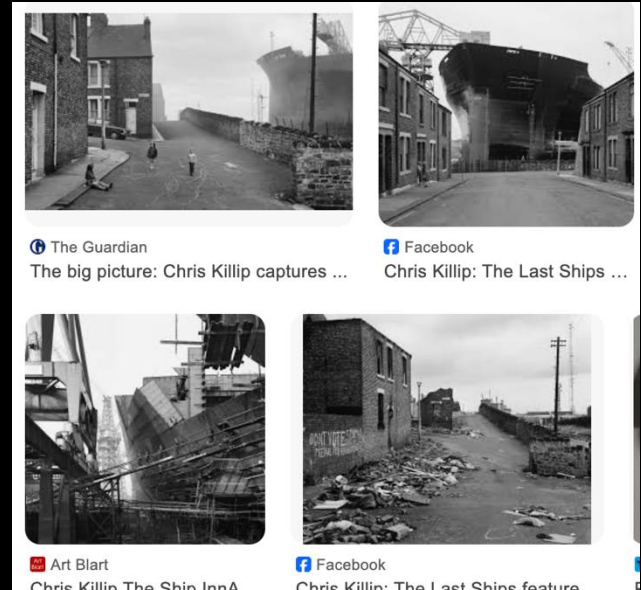
Ralph Crowe (Shrewsbury Shirehall)



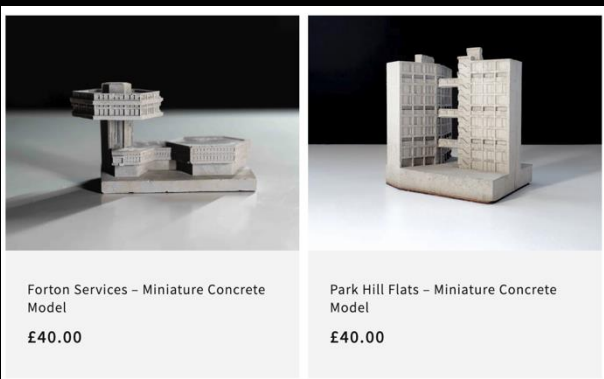
Morley Von Sternberg



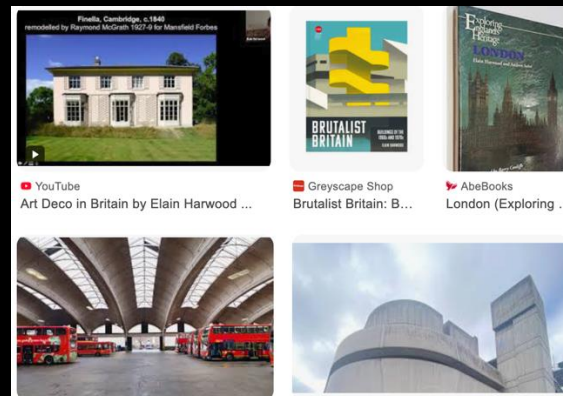
Simon Phipps



Chris Killip



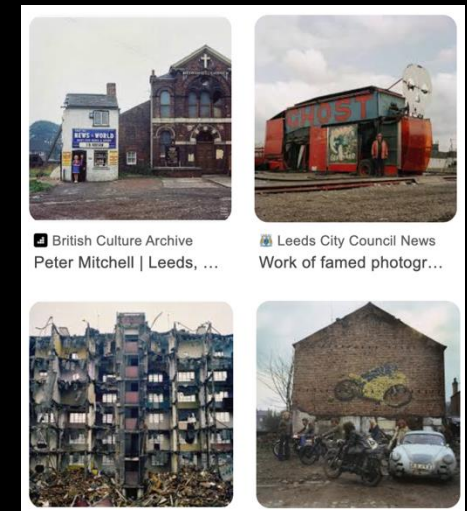
Spaceplay



Elain Harwood



Michael Revill



Peter Mitchell

My Practice

Shirehall Internals

Photo: Bob Griffiths 2024



Photo: Bob Griffiths 2024



Photo: Bob Griffiths 2024

My Practice

Shirehall Exteriors

Photo: Bob Griffiths 2025

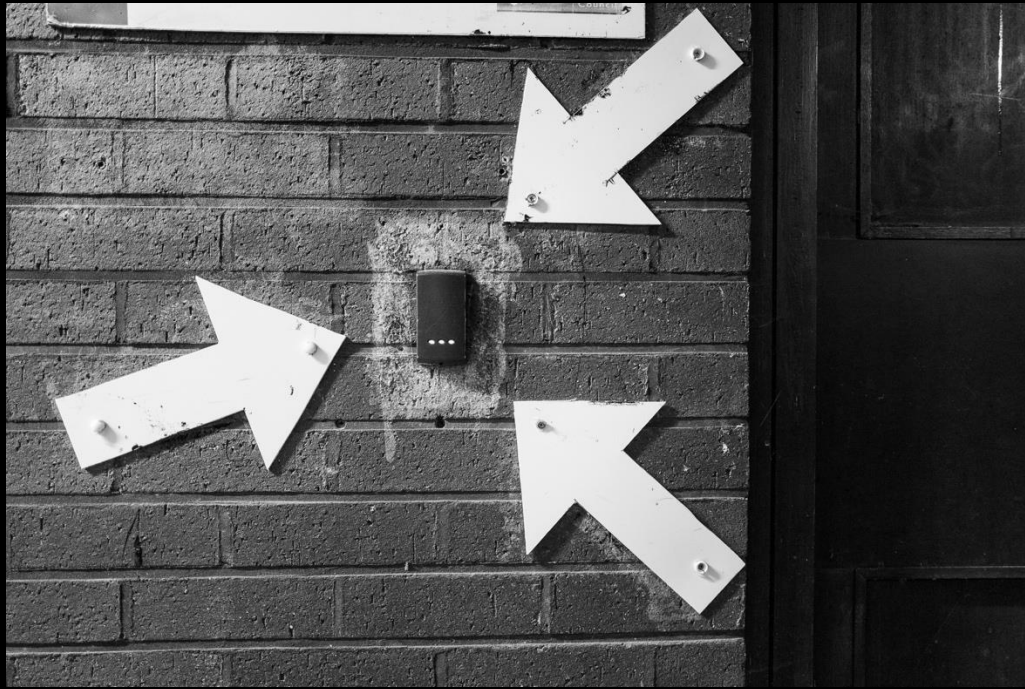


Photo: Bob Griffiths 2025

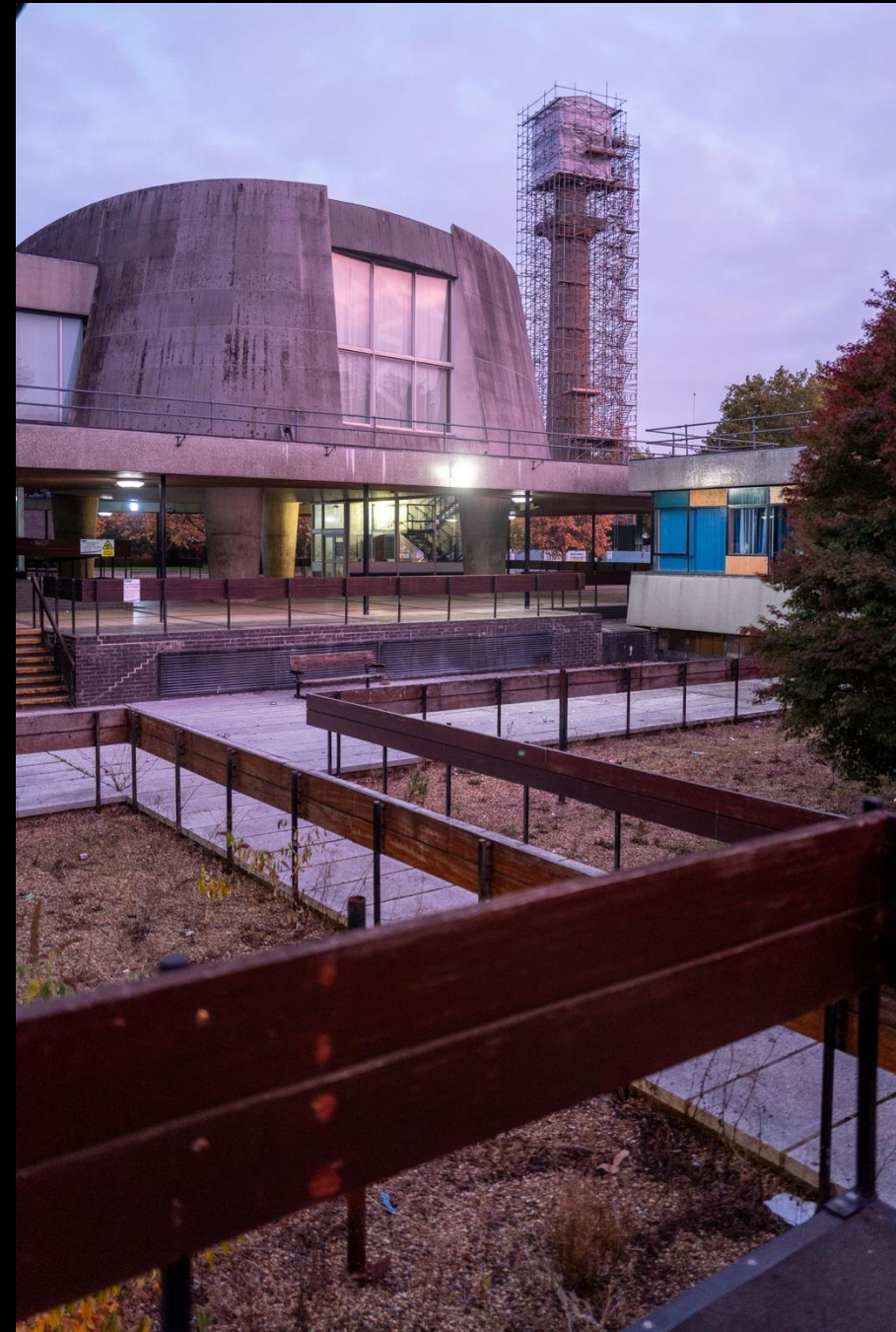


Photo: Bob Griffiths 2025