

Avant propos: Cognitive Deception or Lost Utopia - Tear it Down?



27 February 2008 Dear Mr Burnham R OBIN HOOD GARDENS - TOWER HAMLETS I am writing in support of retaining Robin Hood Gardens. Peter and Alison Smithson built two seminal buildings in London - the Economist Building in St James' Street and Robin Hood gardens in Tower Hamlets - both as good, if not better, than any other modern building in Britain. If one looks beyond the present condition of the landscape and the buildings of Robin Hood Gardens, one can still see the original concept which combined a heroic scale with beautiful, human proportions. The juxtaposition of the repetitive window frames, the columns and the linear terraces creates a unique and powerful aesthetic. The siting of the buildings around an elegant man-made mound creates a harmonious spacious enclosure, reminiscent of the great Georgian crescents and squares in Bath. Whilst the Economist Building has been maintained and upgraded, Robin Hood Gardens has been appallingly neglected and from the beginning, has been used as a sink estate to house those least capable of looking after themselves - much less their environment. It would be a real tragedy and a terrible mistake to demolish this important and extraordinary piece of modern architecture. Yours Sincerely Richard Rogers







