



Social housing and working class heritage

Sense of place perspective: Alan Powers

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I think people very wisely don't trust projections of the future because you can be promised a lot and very often it doesn't get delivered. So what you've got is what you know, and I think there's a kind of back foot response to say we're okay, we don't want to change. While it would be nice in many ways to recognise people's attachment to buildings I think it would in a lot of quasi Marxist terms be their use value that I would like to represent.

For example, I was involved in a campaign for open air swimming pools in the early 1990's and many of them could never be listed, they didn't meet the criteria, but they were charming, delightful places with historic associations and went on being very useful to quite a broad community and this, to me, exposed the absence of any sort of mechanism which allows people in a place who care about something which, in those cases, was always in public ownership, to actually get something done about it in the face of the pressure to capitalise on the value of the site, which was the problem with most open air pools.