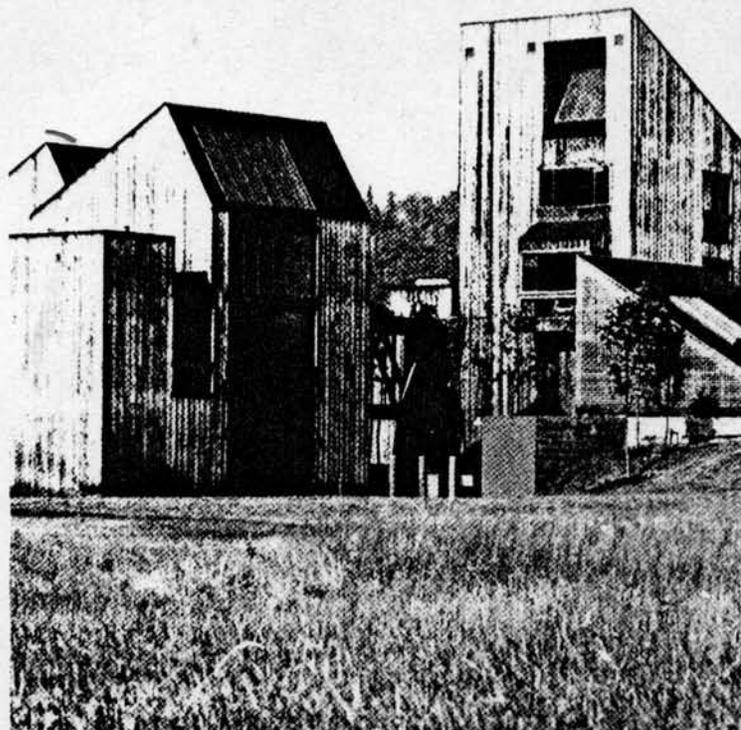


*This shingle-style museum in Oregon (Douglas County Museum by Bracken, Arrigoni & Ross, 1969) is typical of the arts facilities suitable for average provincial communities that are presented in the two latest reports from Educational Facilities Laboratories. Both books provide representative selections of arts facilities — theatres, museums, art galleries and assorted arts complexes — across the United States; one book concerns itself with new buildings, the other with building conversions.*

**New places for the arts**  
76pp. \$5.00.

**The arts in found places**  
138pp. \$7.00.

Educational Facilities Laboratories  
the National Endowment for the Arts  
(850 Third Ave, New York, NY  
10022).



## Confronting bulldozers

**The battle for Tolmers Square**  
*Nick Wates. Routledge & Kegan Paul.*  
232pp. £2.95.

For almost twenty years a tiny triangle of land west of London's Euston Station has been confronting the developer's bulldozer. It is a tiny 5-acre patch but is in many ways typical of those blighted margins of central business districts which developers label 'ripe for development' and planners 'areas of opportunity'. Tolmers Square has had a short life-cycle by London standards. It was initially developed at the start of the 19th century, large town houses and some smaller ones aimed at a genteel minor bourgeoisie. But it was less than 50 years before the surrounding areas were overtaken by the boom in railway station construction and landlords began to find it profitable to trade down. The element of gentility was soon lost, and the last hundred years has been an almost continuous period of disinvestment in the physical fabric, paralleled by a decline in the social position which the area enjoyed in London's housing market.

The last 20 years have been a period of struggle by residents against

the inexorable pressures of the land market. Nick Wates was involved in these struggles over the last few years, first as a student in nearby University College and later as a community organiser paid by a charitable trust. His book on the struggle is thus essentially an insider's diary, and in part a manifesto.

The great strength of the book is the remorseless detail of its account of the developer's (Stock Conversion) tactics (and bungles), of the fitful politics of the residents' resistance, and of what it is like to be on the receiving end of major redevelopment. The author's own perspective is not that of the long-standing polyglot working population of the area, but he does incorporate telling reminiscences by indigenous people. He is part of that other characteristic population of metropolitan slums in late stages of blight — Leftishly inclined squatters, educated and confident enough to understand the language and activities of the planners, the local Labour party, the developers and the Department of the Environment. All of these strands are skilfully traced and interrelated, with lavish illustration throughout.

The weaknesses of the book are twofold. It implies a notion of community far too simple and romantically related to locality to explain the fundamental processes of what was going on. More important, it fails to explain why the local council — whose final purchase of the site seemed such a victory at the time — are effectively constrained to doing almost exactly what the devel-

opers always wanted to do, simply through the pressure of land prices and financing arrangements. But the evidence is there for others to re-interpret later, and an excellent sourcebook it will be.

*Michael Edwards*

## Catalogues

**Catalogue of books on architecture**  
*London Art Bookshop (7,8 Holland Street, London W8). 24pp. Free.*  
1 000 architectural titles of British, American, European and Japanese books currently available. The catalogue covers all aspects of architecture with the exception of technical books and books on building, town planning and landscape architecture.

**1977 catalogue: Community Technology**  
*Compendium Bookshop (234 Camden High Street, London NW1) 40pp. 35p.*  
Britain's foremost alternative bookshop have expanded their Alternative Technology book-list into a Community Technology catalogue, emphasising the social function of tools rather than their particular characteristics.

## ADVERTISEMENT NEW BOOKS

*This list of recently published books on art & architecture has been extracted by the staff of London Art Bookshop from their catalogues regularly compiled as part of their extensive information service.*

**BOWYER, J.** *Small Works Contract Documentation* 1976 cl £4.95

**CORBUSIER:** *Le Corbusier — Charlotte Perriand - Pierre Jeanneret: "La machine a s'asseoir"* b/w ills 1976 Italian text (Exhib catalogue) pb £5.00

**CRAIG, M.** *Classic Irish Houses of the Middle Size* fully ills in b/w plans & drwgs 1976 cl £11.95

**CULLINGWORTH, J.B.** *Town and Country Planning in Britain* 6th rev edn 1976 pb £4.95

**EBBAGE, S.** *Barns & Granaries in Norfolk* b/w ills, plans & maps 1976 pb £0.80

**EDITORS OF ARCHITECTURAL RECORD** *Record Houses and Apartments of 1976* b/w & col ills plans & drwgs 1976 pb £4.15

**FORBES, J. & J. ROSS** *Landscape in Towns* b/w ills maps & diags 1976 pb £1.25

**GRIFFIN:** *Walter Burley Griffin: Selected Designs* D.T.van Zenten (Ed) scale drwgs & plans 1970 cl in s.c. £19.25

**LOTUS 12 International Architectural Review: Industrial Design** b/w ills plans & diags 1976 pb £9.50

**SAARINEN:** *Eero Saarinen on his work* Rev edn b/w ills & plans 1968 cl £20.00

**SAVE THE CITY** *A Conservation Study of the City of London* D. Lloyd (Ed) b/w ills & maps 1976 pb £3.00

**VOYSEY, C.F.A.** *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects* b/w ills 1976 cl £19.00

**WOLMAN, B. & J. BURKS** *Vans: A Book of Rolling Rooms* col ills 1976 pb £4.60

**WRIGHT:** *Studies and Executed Buildings* by Frank Lloyd Wright (English / German text) fully ills 1975 cl £30.65

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