

## Tolmers Square—a Phyrnic victory?



Tolmers Square, London NW1, one of the most controversial inner city developments of the last decade, was formally opened recently by local MP Frank Dobson.

The outcome of over 20 years of campaigning by community groups, squatters, Labour Party activists and others was that Camden Council bought 2.4 hectares of land owned by office developer Stock Conversion and Investment Trusts, and have carried out a mixed integrated development of



Left, Frank Dobson opens Tolmers Square; and right, the ex-squatters gather on the site of their demolished homes.

247 new or rehabilitated houses plus shopping and leisure facilities and 200 000 sq ft of offices leased by Greycoat. Several Georgian and Victorian streets formerly earmarked for demolition have been saved, although Tolmers Square itself has been replaced by a new square with offices on one side and housing on the other.

'There are people who virtually died in the struggle over Tolmers Square,' said Frank Dobson, but he argues that

the new housing by Renton Howard Wood Levin Partnership was 'some of the loveliest in London.'

Unfortunately, although invited, only a handful of the new tenants turned up for the opening 'celebration' and were far outnumbered by uninvited ex-squatters, displaced by Camden Council to make way for the new development.

Last week The Architectural Review gave the first of its awards for interior design. Published in this month's AR, the winning schemes from Britain and abroad reflect the rich mixture of styles from which both client and designer can choose, and the ceaseless waves of fashion that they follow. The late-modern is represented by Benson & Forsyth with a flat in North London; high-tech by Eva Jiricna, also with a flat in London; post-modern classicism by Powell-Tuck & Connor with a

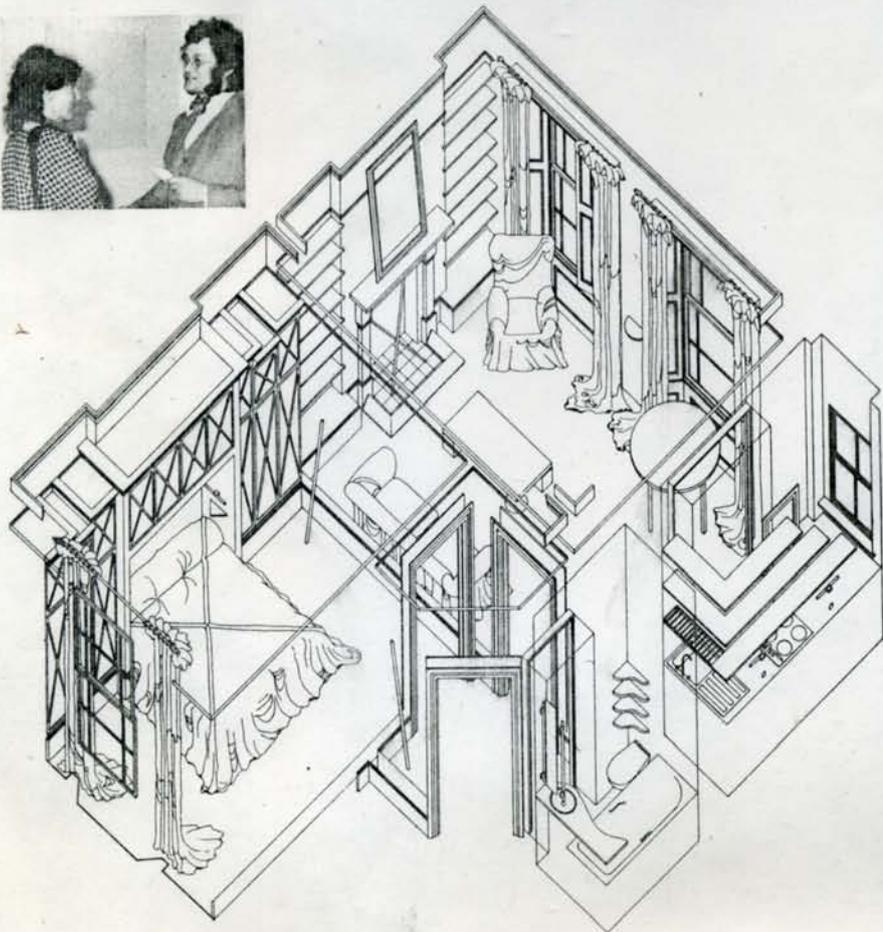
London flat for Adam Ant (shown below); neo-cubist by Rivkin/Weisman with a banking office in Manhattan and classical romantic by Abelardo Gonzalez with a hotel in Malmo, Sweden. Other prize-winners were Vignelli Associates with a scheme in Chicago, David Palterer/Alterego with a flat in Florence and Trevor Horne with a bathroom in London. The assessors were Susana Torre, Vico Magistretti, Peter Cook and AR Editor Peter Davey (left, with Eva Jiricna).

## Liverpool list

Proposals to redevelop Clayton Square in Liverpool into a £20 million shopping development to designs by the J. Seymour Harris Partnership in Birmingham have been held up following the spot-listing of several buildings in the designated redevelopment area.

Grade II listing of several buildings, including the Villiers pub in Elliott Street, was announced by the DOE last week, only days before a public inquiry was to be held into the compulsory purchase of buildings for redevelopment by Wimpey Development Holdings Ltd.

A spokesman for Wimpey's said the company was surprised at the sudden spot-listing, since it had already



Clayton Square.

committed over £3 million to the local council for the purchase of the buildings and had received support from local conservation committees.

He described the development, which received detailed planning permission in August this year, as 'a low-key shopping redevelopment on two levels, based on the existing street pattern and including an arcade'.

Members of Liverpool's Save Our City Campaign have collected a 4000 signature petition protesting against the redevelopment proposals.