

# 'Our House, in the Middle of out Street'

Truman, Reuben<sup>a1</sup>  
(a) reubentruman@gmail.com

## Emotive Architecture

Assis Rosa, Ricardo<sup>b1</sup>  
(b) rassisrosa@brookes.ac.uk

(1) School of Architecture, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, OX3 0BP

### Introduction

Over the past half millennium, social housing has faced of neglect, in part due to this socio-economical classes have been driven apart.

#### This has been caused by;

- Social housing development regulation standards staying the same.
- Humanistic desires from a home developing beyond the current minimal standard.
- Living in a society that now place greater value on our mental and emotional state.



Architecture being our Connection to our Surroundings

We now yearn for something much more than just a roof over our heads, we now desire:

- A mind and body engagement from our surroundings.
- A personable interpretation of our daily surroundings.



Architecture being our Connection to our Surroundings

The definition of what brings joy to our lives is an ever-changing construct, made evident when looking at the changing understanding of what defines 'quality of life' throughout history.

### Methods

- 1 Understanding of what emotive architecture is, who is producing it and how it is produced.
- 2 Understanding the history of social housing, informed from a first hand interview with Paul Karakusevic
- 3 Proving that there is a need to apply emotive architecture to social housing schemes, using case studies showing both positive and negative social housing schemes.
- 4 Comparing secondary qualitative data from interviews from residents who live in said social housing schemes.
- 5 This research began depicting the profound work of Neave Brown such as Fleet and Alexandria Road.

OXFORD  
BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY

### Results

This body of research has led to the understanding that architecture is a "messy and inconsistent practice" (Allen and Kipnis, 2009),

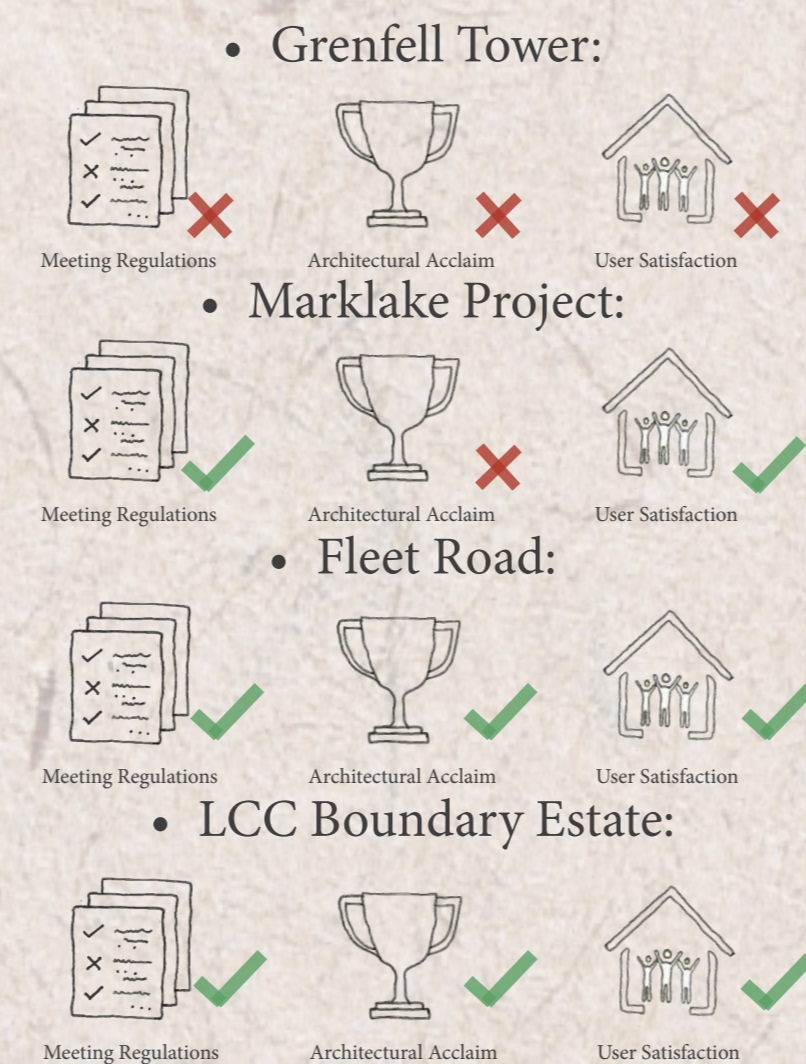
#### It must conform to:

- Multiple of regulations.
  - Planning
  - User Needs
  - Client Needs
  - Build-ability

Following the understanding of emotive architecture there was an analysis of different social housing schemes.

- **Understanding** the architects design intents how this is reflected in the end scheme.
- **Comparing** this with the opinions of said schemes by; those who lived in them and the review of said schemes from other architects who are seen as experts in the design of social housing.

#### Analysed Schemes and Results:



After the review of these case studies, it is made clear that further regulations need to be put into place.

However, if more regulations are put in place then the practice of architecture would become more so convoluted.

#### The regulation must be:



#### The regulation would read as follows;

*"A narrative/theme stemming from site and social response"*

*"The implementation of the narrative/theme, relating throughout the design process"*

This would allow a project to follow an overarching theme, consolidating a final goal of the project.

A brief manifesto would be given out as guidelines as to how this new regulation would integrate its self into the design process.

### Conclusion

In doing this research, it has led to a conclusion that architecture no matter what can indeed stimulate an emotional engagement with our surroundings. It is an architect's job to curate this, determining what they see fit after fully immersing themselves in a project.

Introducing the idea of 'emotive' has enabled a realisation that social housing should be centred around the residents who will one day live in the developments as well as the local vernacular.

High quality and meaningful Social housing is achievable, even with its lesser funding. Social housing project shouldn't be shied away from by architects merely due to its investment, there should be a drive to accomplish a final project that has a meaningful investment in specific qualities that can evoke these emotive qualities in social housing.

***We must strive to move forward as a whole [society], not just as a fraction of our selves.***



Architecture being our Connection to our Surroundings

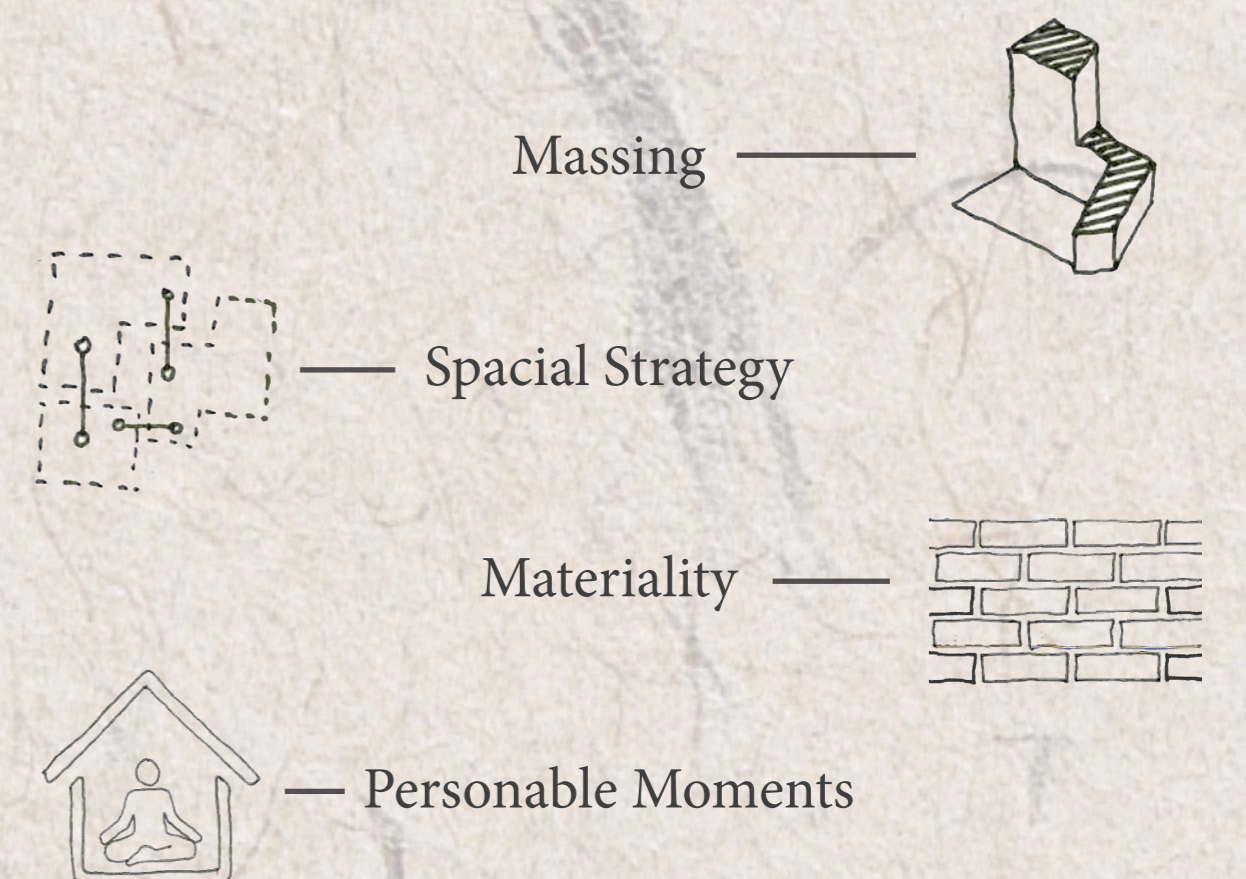


Desire for Emotionally Stimulating Social Housing

### Manifesto

The manifesto would focus around 4 main themes that occur during the design stages.

#### These qualities being;



Specifically these 4 stages as they are the most adaptable and relevant to the users once they begin to occupy the new development or regenerated social housing schemes.

### Literture Cited

- Allen, S. and Kipnis, J. (2009). Practice architecture, technique and representation. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Karakusevic, P. (2019). Social Housing at Karakusevic-Carson Architects.
- Pallasmaa, J. (2012). The Eyes of the skin. Chichester, West Sussex U.K.: Wiley.
- Vesely, D. (2006). Architecture in the age of divided representation. Cambridge (Mass.): MIT Press, p.70.