

## INURA CONFERENCES 1991 - 2007

**2007 Transformation, survival and emancipation in a world city: \_regeneration or business as usual?**

\_ 17th INURA Conference \_London\_ June 25 to July 1, 2007

**2006 Global City Regions – Towards a Shareholder City**

\_ 16th INURA Conference \_Bochum / Metropolitan Area Rhine-Ruhr\_ June 29 to July 5, 2006

**2005 Contested/ing Rights. Planning Rights and the Right to the City**

\_ 15th INURA Conference \_Rome / Collevecchio\_ June 24 to 30, 2005

**2005 INURA Seminar and Workshop at the World Social Forum WSF**

\_ INURA Seminar and WSF Workshop \_Porto Alegre, Brasil\_ January 23 to 25 / 29, 2004

**2004 CREATIVE CITY**

\_ 14th INURA Conference \_Amsterdam / Egmond\_ June 13 to 19, 2004

**2003 DIVIDED CITY**

\_ 13th INURA Conference \_Berlin / Trebnitz\_ June 22 to 28, 2003\*\*

**2002 SOLIDARICITÉ**

\_ 12th INURA Conference \_Caen / Paris / Clinchamps sur Orne\_ June 17 to 22, 2002

**2001 RIGHTS AND FIGHTS**

\_ 11th INURA Conference\*\* \_Florence / La Chiara di Prumiano, Italy\_ September 24 to 29, 2001

**2000 URBAN CONTRASTS**

\_ 10th INURA Conference \_Brussels / Durbuy, Belgium\_ May 21 to 28, 2000

**1999 REGENERATION AND RENEWAL**

\_ 9th INURA Conference \_Glasgow / Durham, UK\_ July 24 to 30, 1999

**1998 DIVERSE CITY - Sustaining and Governing the Multicultural City**

\_ 8th INURA Conference \_Toronto / Huntsville, Canada\_ September 14 - 20, 1998

**Special event Tue, Sept. 15: \_Olympic Dreams - Urban Nightmares?**

\_ Public event about Toronto's bid for the Summer Olympics 2008

\_ organised by INURA Toronto and 'Bread not Circuses'

**1997 POSSIBLE URBAN WORLDS**

\_ 7th INURA Conference \_Zurich / Amden, Switzerland\_ June 16 - 21, 1997

**1996 MAKING URBAN ENVIRONMENTS: SELF-HELP AND UTOPIAS**

\_ 6th INURA conference \_Luton / Letchworth, UK\_ June 8 - 14, 1996

**1995 GROWTH/ NO-GROWTH POLICIES IN THE REGIONAL STATE: SCOPE FOR LOCAL ACTION**

\_ 5th INURA Conference \_Amsterdam / Beneden Leeuwen, Netherlands\_ June 4 - 8, 1995

**1994 CITY TERRITORY ENVIRONMENT - Research and Action for a Socio-ecological Transformation**

\_ 4th INURA Conference \_Firenze / Villa Cennina, Italy\_ May 21 - 29, 1994

**1993 DE-INDUSTRIALISATION**

\_ 3rd INURA Conference \_London / Durham UK\_ May 23 - 27

**1992 CITIES IN TRANSFORMATION IN TRANSFORMING SOCIETIES**

\_ 2nd INURA conference \_Rostock / Prerow, Germany\_ May 25 - 31, 1992

**1991 INURA - Foundation of the International Network for Urban Research and Action**

\_ 1st INURA Conference \_Zurich / Salecina, Switzerland\_ May 12 - 18, 1991

# INURA 2007

Conference London/Brighton

25 June to 1 July

**TRANSFORMATION, SURVIVAL &  
EMANCIPATION IN A WORLD CITY:  
REGENERATION OR BUSINESS AS USUAL?**



  
**nura**  
International Network for  
Urban Research and Action



# 13th INURA - October 2008 - ATHENS

As it was decided in the London assembly, the next INURA annual conference will be hosted in Athens, scheduled for 3 - 10 October 2008 (Friday to Friday).

For this purpose an enthusiastic organising team has been holding intensive meetings since July 2007. We are very motivated to work out an "alternative" approach for Athens, combining theoretical analysis and research with social and environmental urban movements, the main INURA concept after all. This intention can be summed in the phrase: **"Athens: another experience"** – if only with a purpose to paraphrase (+adjust) the official advertising campaign of the Ministry for tourism: **"Greece: the real experience"!**

A few words about the main theme of the conference:

We are approaching this year's INURA as an opportunity to reflect upon different experiences and viewpoints that relate to our specific Athenian (Greek, Southern European, Balkan, Mediterranean etc.) context. We are working on various focused approaches that will give light to different aspects of this 'reality'. Approaches that could be organised as sub-themes, to function as **informative "entry-points"** for the texts and the field trips: City and nature/ Identity and space/ Culture and cultures / Capital transformations - real estate development / Governance/ Control and security.

Athens, as other cities of Southern Europe, has developed through different forms of urban regulation and informal mechanisms of production of space.

**Those processes have been evaluated as**, on the one hand, providing a democratic redistribution of urbanised land-rent, providing access to self-owned housing to a wide range of population, and contributed for many years to social integration and social cohesion, providing space for survival strategies until today.

**On the other hand**, those mechanisms have been criticised for creating an "anti-urban" petty-bourgeois, small ownership class and a widespread ideology of land valorisation and speculation. Moreover it has produced a degraded - or even "chaotic" - urban environment, in terms of green areas, public transport, conflicting land uses etc.

This process has continued to evolve through a number of "interesting regulatory" devices, "loose" planning policy etc. – although such mechanisms are today mediated / reformed in a neoliberal political context. The absence of established planning system has evolved so to favour uncontrolled big capital speculation without democratic control and endless city-expansion to the Attika countryside.

Some of the issues occurring for INURA to reflect upon are:  
Coming to the recent years, how do globalised **wider transformations** (international capital, migration dynamics etc) **take form in such a context**.  
How can a radical approach of democratic planning be pursued?

We hope that during the 18th INURA meeting, we will have the opportunity to debate upon these and more questions.

See you in Athens!!!

**Dimitra Siatitsa Katerina Polychroniadi**



## CONTENTS

3. INTRO FROM LONDON TEAM
4. CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
5. ATTENDANCE LIST : LONDON AND BRIGHTON
6. LINKS + BOOKS
7. INTRO TO LONDON WALKS
- 8/9. IMAGES LONDON WALKS
10. ANNA LISA PERCORIELLI & GIANCARLO PABA; "LA CITTA BAMBINA"  
DANIELA WULLERS; "READING YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD"
11. JORGE PENA; "MAPPING HAVANA"
12. AGM 2007
13. INURA OFFICES
14. ISTANBUL VISIT MARCH 2008
15. ATHENS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2008
16. INURA CONFERENCES 1991 - 2007

With thanks to Ben Tranchell/ Design : Hammersmith Community Trust & Alan Rowden



## VISIT TO ISTANBUL 14th-17th March 2008

Organised by Oran

### Friday 14th March

Workshop planned to start late afternoon, after the introductory tour of the first party arrivals. This is a meeting with various official actors, where they will brief on their 'Visions of Urban Transformation in the Historical Peninsula'. The members joining the second party are expected to arrive in Istanbul at the latest early Friday afternoon, so they can join this meeting. After dinner, group will continue to discuss the presentations, and the taskforce coordinators will brief on their agendas

### Saturday 15th March

All groups will spend Saturday AM in the Sulukule area for a general orientation.

Saturday PM is planned for groups' contacts and visits outside the area. Some contacts may be shared by more than one group

On Saturday evening there will be a traditional meze dinner in Kumkapi area, where many Sulukule residents make their living as street musicians and entertainers. Observations on site.

### Sunday 16th March

Mainly to be spent with local actors inside the area. However, the agendas of different groups may vary, due to the type of work they foresee. Sunday late is time for groups' internal evaluations.

### Monday 17th March

Early morning presents a last chance for contacts in the public sector, which might not be inclined 'to cooperate outside office hours'.

Late AM and noon is reserved for the presentations of the 5 taskforces, internal discussion and evaluation.

Afternoon is time for a public discussion. General public from Istanbul will be invited.

Night will be the closing party, with the performances of Sulukule artists and musicians.



## INURA LONDON 2007

London was one of the cradles of capitalism and - as the base of the British Government and with a host of consultants and financial institutions - has played a leading role in the intensified renewal of the capitalist project in Europe and the world since the 1980s. In 2007 the UK was reflecting on the legacy of slavery and on the campaigns here to end the Atlantic slave trade 200 years ago - a trade which contributed massively to wealth accumulation in Britain and thus to some extent underpins whatever prosperity we all have now. Dealing with that legacy may help in dealing with racism today. The idea of emancipation from oppression is thus in people's thoughts.

The 17th Inura meeting focussed less on the big global processes and more on the experience of citizens in a "World City" experiencing rapid economic growth distributed very unequally. The economy is partly driven by the continuing inflation of asset values, including the values of housing and urban space. Citizens are all subject to the resulting pressures and many of our visits and discussions in London were to groups and localities fighting for survival and for decent conditions in the face of intensifying gentrification and continuing low salaries for working class people or welfare benefits which trap people in poverty or near-poverty.

A common theme is the transfer of social housing to (or towards) private ownership, either individual or corporate. Tenants are manipulated into these schemes because government money for housing improvement is conditional on their consent.

A secondary or background theme - more prominent at the retreat in Brighton - was the contradictory story of London government which combines radical and emancipatory measures for transport, global warming and some other topics with an uncritical endorsement of real-estate investment disguised as 'regeneration' and 'sustainability'. Post script: By September the effect of the USA Sub-Prime lending crisis crossed to UK. One bank in the North East - the Northern Rock - was the first to show signs of the 'Financial Turmoil' that by January 2008 required the UK Government to shore it up with over £50billion public funds. By 17 February 08 the decision is to nationalize Northern Rock with an increased commitment to over £100billion.

Michael Edwards

Claire Colomb

Mark Saunders

Claudia d'Alligna

Louanne & Chris Tranchell

Massimo Allamandola

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# Programme London 2007

## Monday 25 June

arrival: lunchtime **Rendezvous** at UCL and/or at The Square pub in Tolmers Sq  
1400h at The Square: intro to **conference programme**  
1600h **Inura Public Seminar in Wilkins Garden Room of UCL**  
evening in London.

## Tuesday 26 June: visits 10.00h

**Silwood estate and Deptford** Mark Saunders organising

**Clays Lane/ Hackney Wick/ Olympic area** Newham Community Transport

Martin Slavin & Massimo Allamandola

**King's Cross and surrounding areas** Michael Edwards

1800h King's Cross: "**Social development or business as usual?**" discussion  
Location: Cooper's Lane Tenants Hall, Purchase Street, North of British Library.

2030h Dinner at The Far Side, opposite King's Cross Thameslink station.

## Wednesday 27 June

**Elephant and Castle** Patrick Anderson / Richard Lee organising

**Kennington Park** walk by Stefan Szczelkun

**Vauxhall Bus station / Battersea + Power Station** Mark Saunders / Brian Barnes

7.00h Everyone end up at **Stockwell Studios: Inura social event.**

some movies / screenings of urban materials; delicious food.

Tube (or bus) to Stockwell (Victoria Line) .

## Thursday 28 June

1100h **17th INURA AGM** at UCL Bartlett School of Architecture

1400h Depart to Brighton, by coach; visit the sea front.

## Brighton 28 June until 1 July

University of Sussex campus at Falmer, Brighton Sussex UK

East Slope and Lloyd residence.

Seminars, presentations, discussions, report-back from London tours and walks.

Dinner at **The George vegetarian pub** in Trafalgar Street Brighton

## Friday

Breakfast; **Brighthelm Centre** near Brighton station from 10.00h to 18.00h  
presentations and discussions

## Saturday

10.00h to 18.00h; Popular anarchist centre **Cowley Club** in London Rd,  
presentations and plans for Athens 2008 and Istanbul visit

## Sunday

Departures

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# INURA AGM 2006-07

The INURA annual general meeting 2007 was held in a seminar room at the UCL Bartlett School. Who would have thought we were in a leading global city? For some of us the room's appearance and atmosphere generated memories of meetings in abandoned industrial sites in the 1980s, when we felt as urban pioneers - activists and constructive. This applied of course also to the AGM 07.

The accounts 2006 and the budget 2007 were accepted. Some uncertainty had been caused over whether INURA would continue to obtain contributions from the PONTE Foundation (which has supported INURA since its launch in 1991). Nevertheless, Richard and Philipp affirmed that they would continue to run the INURA Common Office (ICO) for another year in Zurich. Some months later, we are now happy to announce that the PONTE Foundation will continue to fund us for three more years, with Sfr. 5000.- per annum.

Nevertheless, support from members is needed in order to continue the INURA project. From 2003 to 2005 we had good results with members paying their contributions (2003: 98 members; 2004: 135; 2005: 105;) However 2006 brought a significant reduction. Even though we remind all belated members in a big membership drive at the end of each year, we had only 81 paying members in 2006, which is not a good result at all. (We still aim at having 200 paying members). In respect to the significance and high profile of INURA world wide, we are still an amazingly small group.

The ICO spends approximately 180 hours on average per year, most of it on administrative matters.

## BULLETINS

There was an extended discussion about the future form of this publication, and whether to publish the bulletins electronically, or not. There was not really full agreement at the end, but it was decided to publish the first Bulletin of the year electronically with the announcement of the conference, and information about the city to be visited. The second Bulletin would be printed and sent out to all members with reports from the conference, findings, results and actions.

## WEBSITE

The proposal of a blog was raised. ICO will install this interesting form of communication. No decision was taken as to whether the website should have a password protected section for members

## ATTENDANCE LIST

### London Only:

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## LINKS & BOOKS

1. Christian Schmid: "Reading Henri Lefebvre" Edited by Kanishka Goonewardena, Stefan Kipfer, Richard Milgrom, Christian Schmid [www.soziologie.arch.ethz.ch/team/schmid.html](http://www.soziologie.arch.ethz.ch/team/schmid.html)
2. Raffaele Paloscia: unifi  
Coordinatore del Laboratorio Città e Territorio nei paesi del Sud del Mondo  
"Landscape, Teaching, research projects": F.Zagari & S.Tischer  
(Passagio, Didattica, ricerche, progetti) ISBN 978-88-8453-6457  
[www.interlinkplus.net/moodle/file.php?file=/1/Curriculum/Profilo\\_Paloscia.doc](http://www.interlinkplus.net/moodle/file.php?file=/1/Curriculum/Profilo_Paloscia.doc)
3. "La città bambina. Esperienze di progettazione partecipata nelle scuole"  
Curatore: Paba G., Pecoriello A. L.  
ISBN 978-0060 390 301
4. Debunking Olympics myths, Delivering a usable local legacy  
<http://www.gamesmonitor.org.uk/>
5. The Land Is Ours: A landrights campaign based in Britain.  
TLIO offers support for landrights campaigns in Britain. <http://www.tlio.org.uk/>
6. Fordhall Farm, the first community owned farm in England,  
uses organic principles. <http://www.fordhallfarm.com/>
7. Labour Land Campaign for a more equitable distribution of the Land Values  
that are created by the whole community <http://www.labourland.org/>
8. Stockwell Studios Artists studios in former local hospital threatened  
by redevelopment. <http://www.stockwellstudios.org.uk/>
9. St Agnes Place Kennington Park-1969 to 2007 Londons oldest squat closed  
<http://www.urban75.org/brixton/features/st-agnes-place.html>
10. King's Cross Railway Lands Group. <http://www.kxrlg.org.uk/>
11. Winnipeg Community Centres <http://gcwcc.mb.ca/ccboundaries.htm>
12. Spectacle is an independent television production company specialising in  
documentary and community-led investigative journalism.  
<http://www.spectacle.co.uk/>
13. Switzerland an Urban Portrait  
<http://www.arch.ethz.ch/jahrbuch00/text.php?lang=en&sub=3jahr&text=basel>
14. DAU La Sapienza Roma <http://www.dau.uniroma1.it/futureofthecity/>

## MAPPING HAVANA

### Jorge Pena

This presentation described the results of the workshops held within the framework of the SeDUT project (2005-07) - a collaboration between Cuba and Switzerland in which the ETH-Zurich, the University of Applied Sciences at Rapperswil (HSR) and other Swiss institutions worked with more than eleven institutions in Havana lead by the Centre for Urban Studies of Havana at the Faculty of Architecture of CUJAE. The aim was to understand the urban structure of Havana, to develop an alternative view of the city and to reveal the embedded urban potential of Havana, by including features that had not previously been considered as relevant.

Mapping was the main tool applied in these workshops. A similar approach had been used in Switzerland: "An Urban Portrait". In Havana the same method proved to be an important tool to deal with the lack of statistical data and scarcity of information. This greatly increased the knowledge base for the Cuban experts and as a result, the character of the applied method changed: it served as a tool for knowledge integration and collective work. The method allowed for combining detailed and precise, with qualitative imprecise information.

The seminars of the SeDUT project produced a total of 14 maps on different issues and themes. The source of the information for the analysis was in most cases the individual experience of the participants; the resulting hand-drawn maps were discussed collectively.

From this analysis a new image of the city appears with at least two relevant urban configurations in an alternative structure for Havana: "The Blue Strip" and "Deep Havana"

"The Blue Strip" is the area with the high value urban space and heritage with the main components of a "city brand" for Havana:

The second, - "Deep Havana". is a huge area situated in the middle of the so called Zona Intermedia, Erratic maintenance policies privilege the development of new areas to the detriment of older districts.

Despite its peripheral social status "Deep Havana" can be seen as the mainland of Havana. Geographically it is situated in the very centre. It is the living space of a large part of the population of the Capital. It forms an integral part of the cultural and urban heritage of the city with its richness in urban typologies and identities. So within this logic "Deep Havana" is essentially the heart of Havana. The value of this area has to be seen as an important resource; as a reservoir of Havana's authenticity and a platform for future development.



## La Città Bambina ( The Child City )

Anna Lisa Pecoriello and Giancarlo Paba (Firenze)

In Brighton Anna Lisa presented her book: "La Città Bambina"  
( edited by Giancarlo Paba and Anna Lisa Pecoriello published 2006 ).

It is divided into three parts:

The first contains two theoretical essays about children and the city: different interpretations of childhood in time and space; children and public space; autonomy and competence of children; play practices.

The second part is a report on some participation workshops with children and self-build sites, which were held in schools on the outskirts of Florence.

The third part is a collection of different materials produced during the work: a handbook on the self-management of an ecological courtyard; a project for the "casa sul fiume", an environmental centre; an adventure and self-build playground on the river Arno.

This book is a "manifesto" for the child-friendly city

## Reading the City, Appreciating the Neighbourhood: The case of Linkeroever, Antwerp

Daniela Wullers, (Amsterdam)

We often talk about "disadvantaged neighbourhoods" in association with problems of poverty, crime and racism. We do not ignore or underestimate these problems, but we can supplement them with a more human, and less policy oriented approach and we can note the personal experiences and tacit survival skills of the residents. This includes the numerous behaviours that people learn to deal with their neighbourhood and with each other. This 'urban wisdom' is not only extremely reliable, since it comes from people that have real daily experiences, it is also invaluable if spatial interventions are necessary. Institutional and spatial complexity results in a growing fragmentation and separation between different policy fields, levels and the actual reality. Our approach explores this from a neighbourhood level.

Our case study deals with the Linkeroever area in Antwerp, Belgium. During a six month's study in the first half of 2007, a small international team of researchers explored the work of the network of professionals based in Linkeroever. Historic and morphological data on the neighbourhood was supplemented by a series of interviews with residents and professionals involved in the 'professional structure' of the area: teachers, pastors, community workers etc. By confronting them with their narratives on the neighbourhood we reconstructed patterns in their stories and created a better insight and appreciation of the 'pure' functioning of the neighbourhood. With this knowledge, they can better analyse their own work-behaviours and adjust their contribution to the area. The last phase of this research and training is the confrontation of the results with the municipality of Antwerp where policies for Linkeroever are made.

In my paper I explore both the scientific rationale behind our methods and the results from the ongoing Linkeroever research and training program. I also make some recommendations on the applicability of our method for other cities.

## Intro to London walks

Mark Saunders lead walks around "A tale of two estates: Silwood Estate is the "heartbreaking and shocking" one of "top-down" regeneration; the Pepys Estate is a "bottom-up" success story. These two estates are part of the one government SRB scheme (Single Regeneration Budget). Residents and community leaders helped to present and discuss the contrasting results.

The Battersea Power Station tour included the local history of 1870s co-operative homes; with 1980s first privatisations of social housing and the political scandal of changing the demographics, plus the equally scandalous vandalism and delays to the refurbishment and re-use of the iconic power station.

Massimo took a group around Clays Lane, Hackney Wick, 2012 Olympic area, Newham Community Transport: (see LINK "gamesmonitor")

Claire Colomb lead a group around Brick Lane and the fast changing Spitalfields Market on the east fringe of the City of London. Michael Edwards brought a group around the long delayed development sites of the Kings Cross area, now dominated by St Pancras Eurostar terminal and the Stratford/Olympics link.

Paul Francis introduced the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade; and current changes linked to the race relations acts and agencies

30 Tuesday, 12 February 2008 London Lite

### City&FinanceBriefing

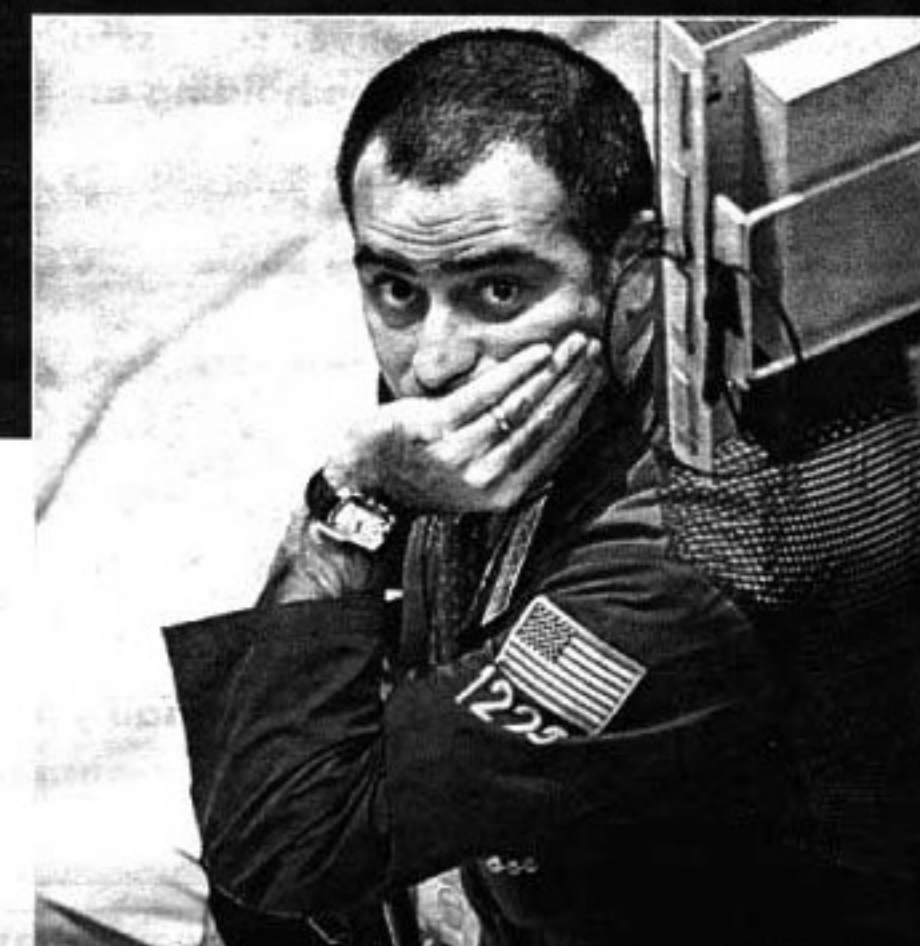
# £2,700,000,000,000

## That's how much was wiped off share prices worldwide in January

#### MONTH OF MISERY

Turkey	down 23%
China	down 21%
Russia	down 16%
India	down 16%
Paris	down 12%
London	down 9%
New York	down 6%
Jordan	up 3%
Morocco	up 10%

Source: Standard & Poor's



Market blues: a share dealer in New York takes a breather from the turmoil



# LONDON WALKS

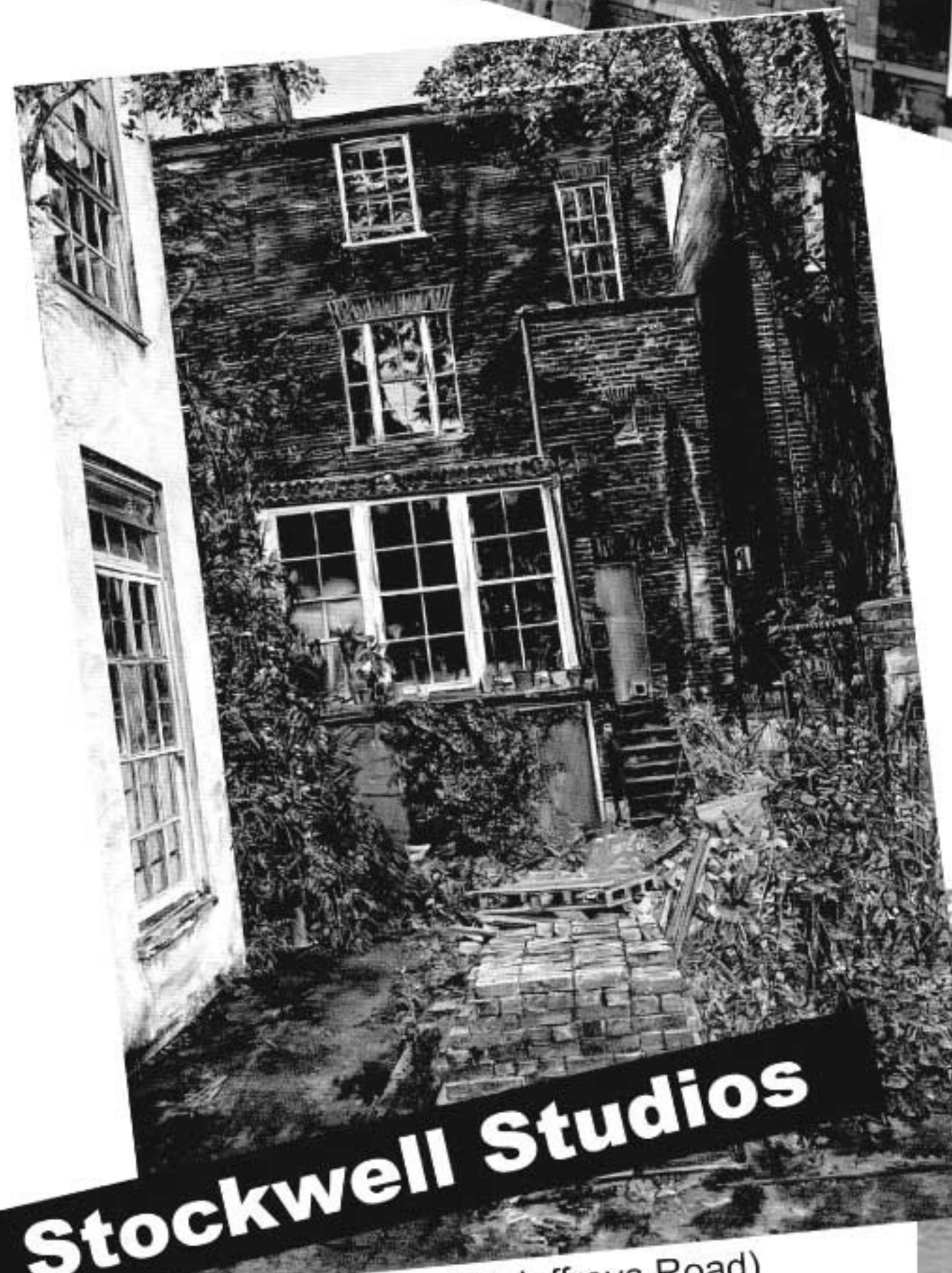


**Battersea Power Station**



**Brick Lane**

**Stratford City/ 2012 Olympics sites**

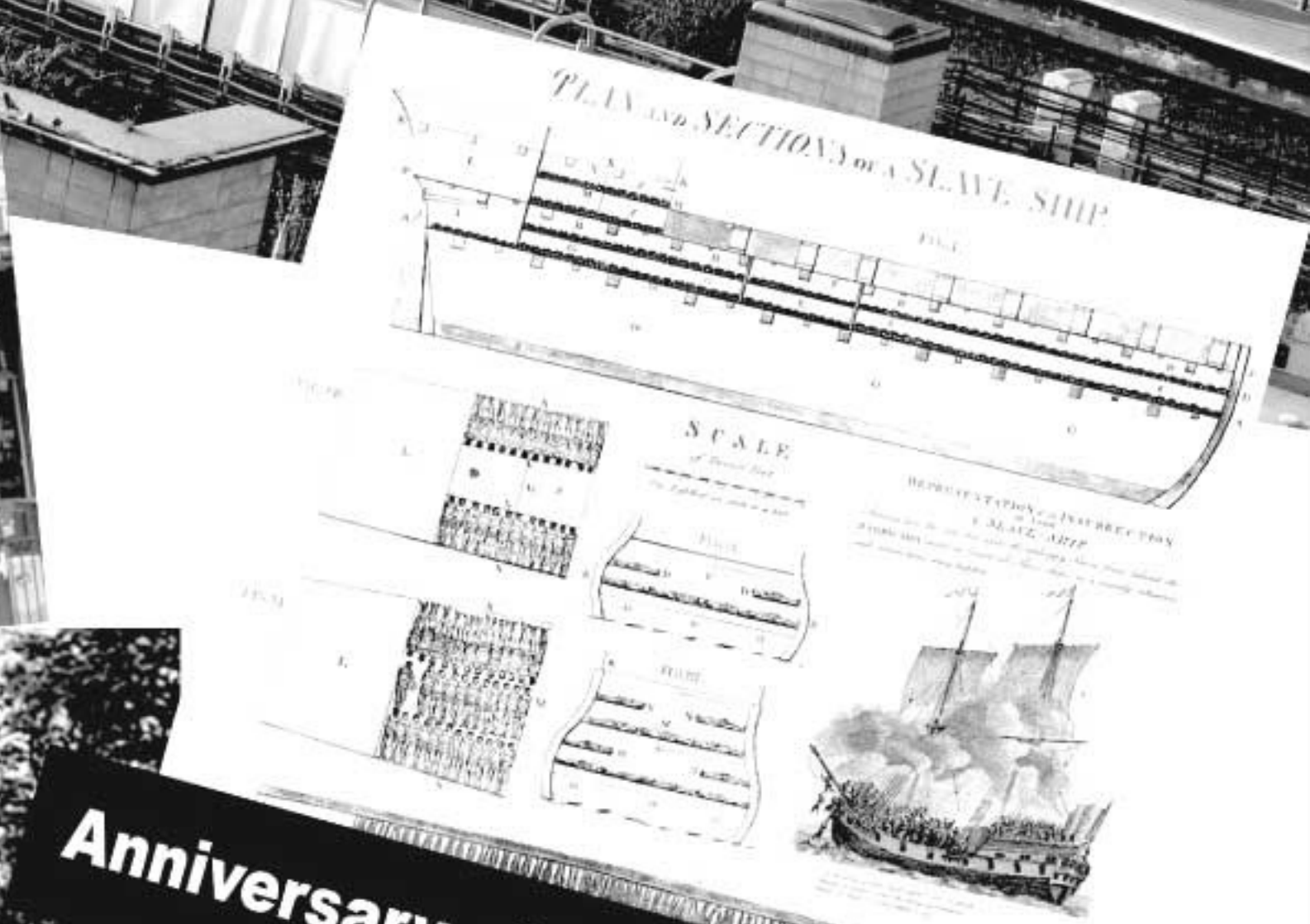


**Stockwell Studios**

The Backs (37 Jeffreys Road)  
Geoff Routh 04/05



**Spitalfields Market**



**Anniversary of Slave Trade Abolition**



**St Agnes Place**

Kennington  
Rasta Temple & Londons Longest  
running Squat, Closed 12.4.07

