

# Exploring the Magnificent Post-War Modernist Architecture in the North of England



Post-war modernism revolutionized architecture, leaving an indelible mark on cities across the world. The North of England, with its rich industrial heritage, embraced this architectural movement wholeheartedly. This article takes you on a captivating journey through the most notable post-war modernist buildings in the region, each reflecting the spirit of reinvention and progress that defined the era.

## **1. Iconic Masterpieces: The University of Sheffield's Arts Tower**

The Arts Tower stands tall, a prominent symbol of post-war modernism in Sheffield. Designed by architects Gollins, Melvin, and Ward, this grand structure boasts an impressive 20 stories and was completed in 1966. The tower's sleek,

exposed concrete facade and its innovative structural design make it a must-see for enthusiasts of the genre.



## **Brutal North: Post-War Modernist Architecture in the North of England** by Simon Phipps (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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## **2. A Concrete Marvel: Manchester's Wythenshawe**

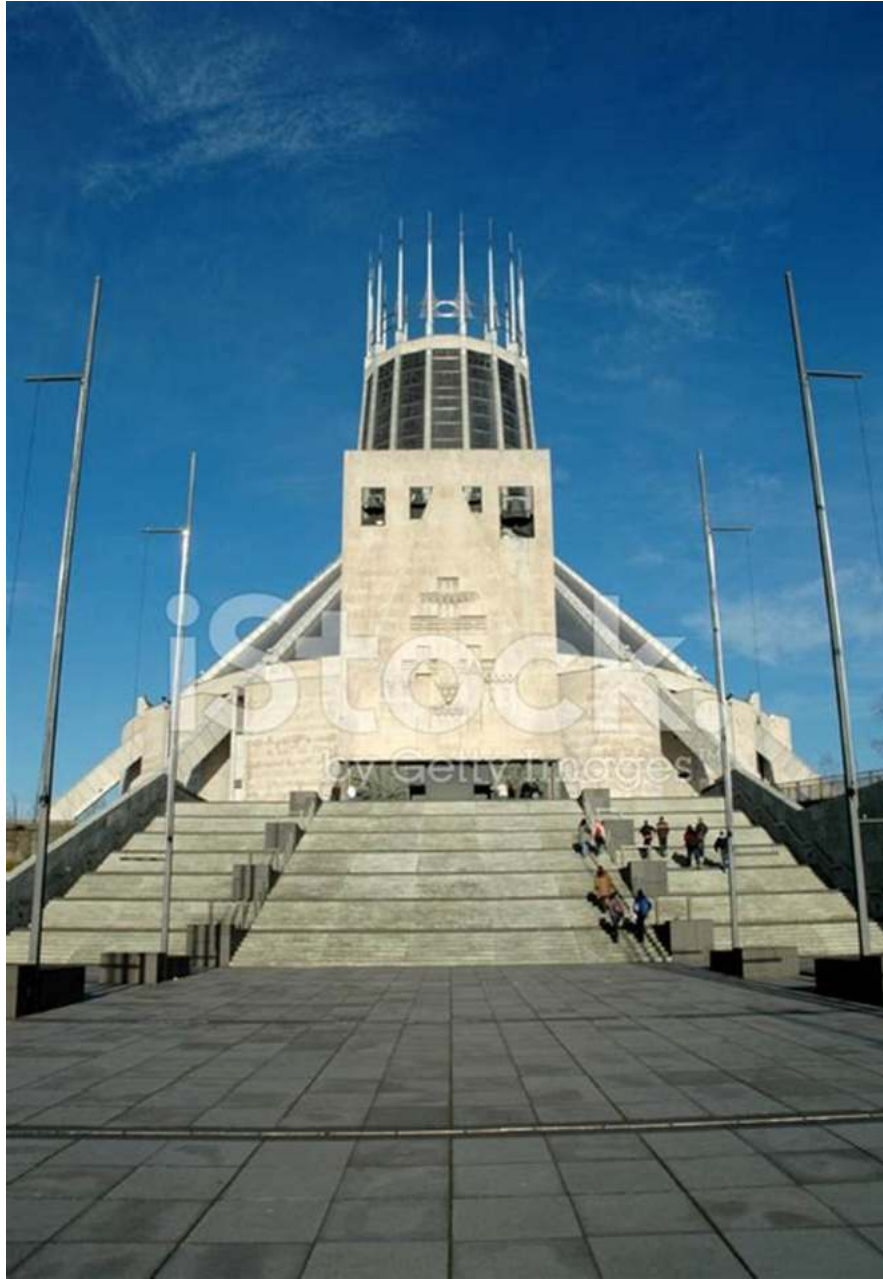
The Wythenshawe housing estate in Manchester showcases the triumphs and challenges of post-war urban planning. With its striking Brutalist architecture, the estate was constructed between the 1940s and 1970s. Its unconventional design, employing vast expanses of exposed concrete, reflects the ideal of creating functional and affordable housing on a large scale.



### **3. A Futuristic Cathedral: Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King**

Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral, designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd, is a remarkable example of modernist ecclesiastical architecture. Rising majestically, this breathtaking structure challenges traditional notions of cathedral design. With its unique circular form and impressive stained glass, it exudes a sense of awe-inspiring modernity.





#### **4. Hulme Estate: An Urban Utopia Reimagined**

The Hulme estate in Manchester unveiled a bold vision of social housing and urban planning. Built in the 1960s, this renovation project aimed to create a self-contained community with a mix of low-rise and high-rise buildings. Although the original design met with controversy, it represents an essential part of the region's architectural legacy.



## **5. Brave New World: Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary**

The Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle showcases the imagination and ingenuity of post-war modernism. Its striking facade adorned with zigzag patterns and abstract sculptures captures attention, hinting at the excitement and optimism that the era stood for. This imposing medical facility is a testament to architectural excellence outside the traditional norms.



The post-war modernist architecture in the North of England has left an enduring legacy, defining the region's urban landscape. Each building mentioned in this article represents a different facet of this architectural movement, showcasing innovative design, functional urban planning, and a break from traditional norms.

By exploring these iconic landmarks, we gain a deeper understanding of the ambition, creativity, and vision that characterized the post-war modernist era. These structures continue to inspire and captivate visitors, opening up new possibilities for architectural expression and challenging perceptions of what is possible. Post-war modernist architecture in the North of England remains an important chapter in the history of architectural development, warranting appreciation and celebration.



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**BRUTAL NORTH is the first photographic exploration of modernist and Brutalist architecture across the North of England.**

During the post-war years the North of England saw the building of some of the most aspirational, enlightened and successful modernist architecture in the world. For the first time, a single photographic book captures those buildings, in all their power and progressive ambition.

Over the last few years acclaimed photographer Simon Phipps has travelled and sought out the publicly commissioned architecture of the post-war North. From Newcastle's Byker Wall Estate, voted the best neighbourhood in the UK, to the extraordinary Park Hill Estate in Sheffield, from Preston's sweeping bus station and Liverpool's Royal Insurance Building, these structures have seen off threats to their survival and are rightly celebrated for the imprint they leave upon the skyline and the cultural life of their cities.

This inspiring invitation to explore northern modernism includes maps and detailed information about all the architecture photographed.

‘Captures the most aspirational and enlightened architecture of the north’s postwar years.’ Guardian

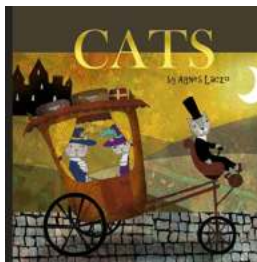


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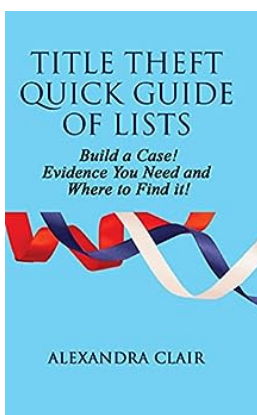
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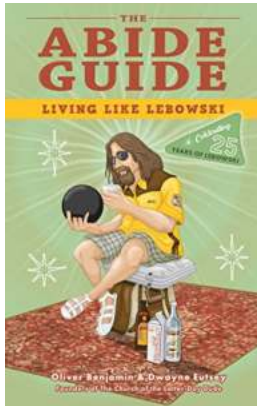
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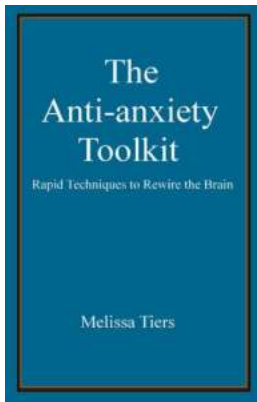
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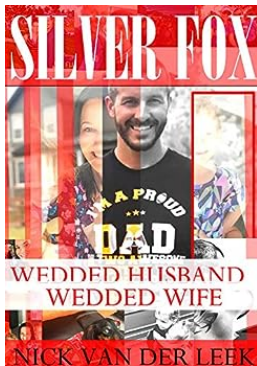
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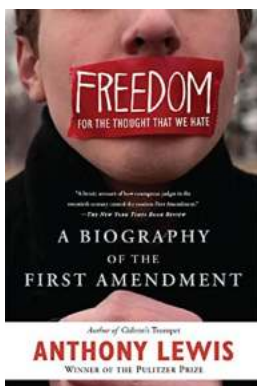
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