

PRESS RELEASE

6 AUGUST 2008



THE REBIRTH OF TOXTETH STREET

AN EXHIBITION TO ILLUSTRATE AN ALTERNATIVE TO DEMOLITION

**Strawberry Duck Pub, 76 Crabtree Lane, Manchester M11 4GU
Friday 29 August, 2008 12pm to 6pm**

Communities are fragile things – they take many years to grow and develop. But they can be destroyed in days ...

Toxteth Street forms the spine of an area of modest but attractive terraced housing in the Openshaw district of east Manchester. Currently over 500 houses in the area are scheduled for demolition to make way for a new housing development. These will be replaced with a new development which holds little relationship to the existing community.

Although a compulsory purchase inquiry in September will decide east Manchester's fate, SAVE has joined forces with local residents to fight the plans and to propose an alternative solution. To help prove this point we have commissioned Mark Hines Architects, a young practice specialising in sustainable design and remodelling existing buildings, to produce a number of schemes which refurbish, enlarge and improve the existing homes. The plans offer a variety of living accommodation with private outdoor space and an invigorated streetscape that illustrates the flexibility of the existing Victorian buildings. In addition the proposals exploit the embodied energy in the existing houses and combine sustainable measures with high levels of energy efficiency.

SAVE is pleased to announce this small exhibition, showcasing some of the proposals for refurbishing the Toxteth Street terraces. If you are interested to find out how this community can be saved from the bulldozers, please come along ...and bring your friends.

A petition to the council demanding refurbishment not demolition will also be available for signing.

Notes to editors:

SAVE Britain's Heritage has been one of the strongest critics of the demolitions proposed as part of the government's Housing Market Renewal (Pathfinder) Initiative. SAVE's hard-hitting report on Pathfinder, published in 2006, highlighted the devastating effects of these clearances on both the communities and the architectural cohesion of towns and cities. SAVE has also drawn attention to wastefulness of demolition. SAVE's position has been vindicated by a report by the Commons Committee of Public Accounts published in June 2008. The report warns of '...a risk that demolition sites, rather than newly built houses, will be the Programme's legacy' and concludes that 'the needs of those who wish to remain in an area should not be overlooked in developing more mixed and sustainable communities.'

SAVE Britain's Heritage has been campaigning for historic buildings since its formation in 1975 by a group of architects, journalists and planners. It is a strong, independent voice in conservation, free to respond rapidly to emergencies and to speak out loud for the historic built environment.

For further information contact:

William Palin (Secretary), SAVE Britain's Heritage, 70 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EJ
Tel: 020 7253 3500. Email: office@savebritainsheritage.org. www.savebritainsheritage.org

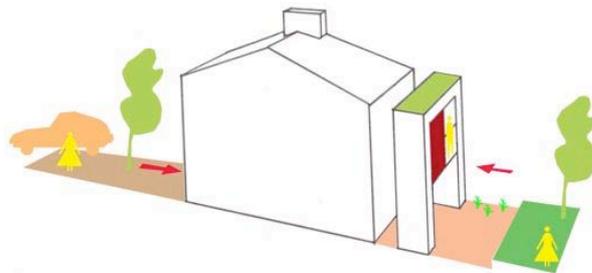
Mark Hines Architects is a young architectural practice specialising in sustainable new design and the sensitive remodelling of existing buildings. They have specialist skills in working with historic buildings, and their extension, adaptation and repair. Mark Hines Architects are currently completing the design of a new community pavilion in nearby Ashton under Lyne, which will be one of the largest straw bale buildings yet constructed in the United Kingdom. Mark Hines was previously a director of MacCormac Jamieson Prichard architects and was the responsible for the conservation and remodelling of the BBC's Broadcasting House.

Mark Hines can be contacted at:

E: markhines@markhines.co.uk T: 020 3217 2050 M: 07816 492337 www.markhines.co.uk



An Existing Toxteth Street terraced house



A proposed 'prefab hemp overcoat'



How the terraces could be adapted and extended



A possible rear yard perspective