



## Brutal Utopias (National Trust Guidebooks)

*Joseph Watson*

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“It is only a generation ago that we were pulling down nineteenth-century monuments under the battle cry of ‘Victorian Monstrosities’. Now we are in danger of doing the same to Brutalism.” This souvenir guidebook accompanies Brutal Utopias, a National Trust project to open, explore and celebrate some of the most iconic architecture of the 1960s. Temporarily opening the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery, Park Hill flats in Sheffield and the University of East Anglia, the Trust will lead tours of these sites to celebrate the best of Brutalism and interpret what happened next. The guidebook explores Brutalism and the rise and fall of its main construction material - concrete - before considering the utopian visions of each of the three locations, their subsequent reception, and their possible futures. This strikingly-illustrated publication also includes an interview by Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, and Dennis Crompton, one of its architects. Love it or not, Brutalism was the dominant post-war architectural movement that sought to offer the best of design to the masses through public housing schemes, new universities and venues for the arts and education that were accessible to all. 50 years on, Brutal Utopias reconsiders that moment.



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