

ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
and
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
cordially invite you to the launch of

MAKING DYSTOPIA
THE STRANGE RISE AND SURVIVAL
OF ARCHITECTURAL BARBARISM

JAMES STEVENS CURL

VENUE

Discover Ulster-Scots Centre
1–9 Victoria Street, Belfast, BT1 3GA
Entry via Gordon Street

DATE AND TIME

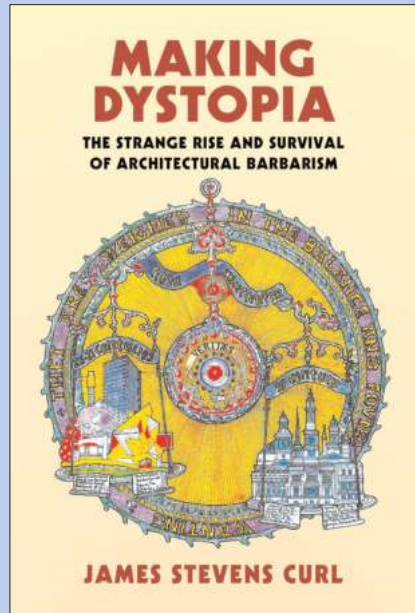
12 noon, Wednesday, 19 September 2018

EVENT PROGRAMME

The event will be introduced by
Prof. Sir George Bain

Followed by a lecture by the author
Prof. James Stevens Curl
on the subject of the book:
Making Dystopia

The programme will start promptly at 12:15pm



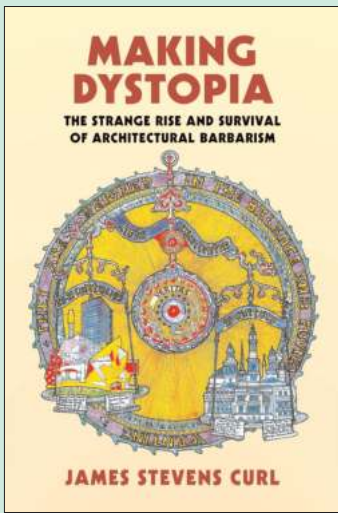
Ulster Historical Foundation

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LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
PARKING AVAILABLE IN THE VICINITY
The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre is wheelchair accessible

RSVP

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A cultural and environmental catastrophe; massive destruction, a waste of resources, alien urban landscapes, and the elimination of all decoration and choice: these are just some of the terms used by James Stevens Curl to describe the triumph of architectural Modernism, a movement that came to be almost globally accepted in the years after the First World War.

Drawing on prodigious personal research and a wealth of supporting materials, Professor Stevens Curl traces the effects of the Modernist revolution in architecture from 1918 to the present, arguing that, with each passing year, so-called 'iconic' architecture by supposed 'star' architects has become more bizarre, unsettling, and expensive, ignoring established contexts and proving to be stratospherically remote from the aspirations and needs of humanity. In the élite world of contemporary architecture, form increasingly follows finance, and in a society in which the 'haves' have more, and the 'have-nots' are ever more marginalized, he warns that contemporary architecture continues to stack up huge potential problems for the future, as housing costs spiral out of control,

resources are squandered on architectural bling, and society fractures.

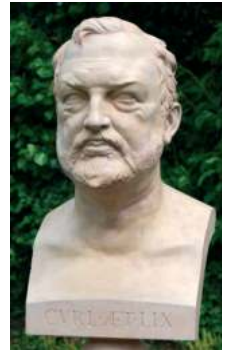
While this combative critique of the entire Modernist architectural project and its apologists will be regarded by many as highly controversial, *Making Dystopia* contains salutary warnings that we ignore at our peril and asks awkward questions to which answers are long overdue. Given the unifying later history of Modernist social housing in Britain, including exemplars such as The Crescents at Hulme, Manchester, Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham, north London, the Ledbury Estate, Peckham, south London, and culminating in the incineration of the Grenfell Tower, north Kensington, this courageous, passionate, and profoundly argued book should be read by everyone concerned with what is around us.

FORMAT: Hardback with dustjacket
PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press

ISBN: 9780198753698
DUE: 30 August 2018

PRICE: £45.00
Sold as an eBook

Professor James Stevens Curl has long established an international reputation for wit combined with compassion, thoroughness of research, sound scholarship, and lucidity of style. He has twice been Visiting Fellow at Peterhouse, University of Cambridge, and is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and a Fellow of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. In 2014 an Honorary Doctorate of Arts was conferred on him by De Montfort University in recognition of his "*distinctive contribution ... to the intellectual and cultural life of the nation and region.*" On the occasion of its annual Prizes & Medals Ceremony in 2017, the British Academy awarded him the President's Medal for "*outstanding service to the cause of the humanities and social sciences*" in his wider study of the History of Architecture, covering a vast range of periods and topics, in Britain and Ireland.



Bust of JSC by Alexander Stoddart, Sculptor-in-Ordinary to HM The Queen in Scotland

Copies of *Making Dystopia* are available at your local bookshop or preferred online retailer.
Copies ordered directly from www.oup.com/academic will receive a 30% discount.
Use the code: AAFLYG6 at checkout.