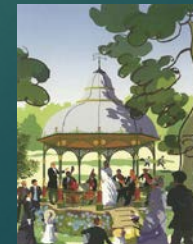


Function & funding for park architecture

PAUL RABBITS – HEAD OF PARKS, OPEN SPACES & PROJECTS, WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

BANDSTAND GEEK



WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL

Contents

- ▶ Defining Park Architecture – “Parkitecture”
- ▶ Assets or liabilities?
- ▶ Fanciful vs Functional? Can we afford it?
- ▶ Finding functions – innovations
- ▶ Finding funding
- ▶ The future?

Defining park architecture

“Parkitecture”

- ▶ Buildings
- ▶ Fountains
- ▶ Bandstands
- ▶ Conservatories and Palm Houses
- ▶ Lidos and Paddling Pools
- ▶ Memorials
- ▶ Statues
- ▶ Furniture & Features (seats, shelters, gates, follies, clocks, bridges)
- ▶ Public art

Defining park architecture

“Parkitecture” functions

- ▶ Features as either being needed for maintenance, those intended for park users, and those that simply were there to commemorate. They include buildings (from royal palaces, mansions, museums, park lodges, palm houses and conservatories, refreshment rooms, cafes and pavilions); to structures such as pagodas, bandstands, shelters, paddling pools and lidos; to features there to educate and stimulate such as drinking fountains and clocks; and finally the plethora of landscape features including gates, statues, memorials, benches and bridges. *Parks historian Hazel Conway*
- ▶ ‘Parkitecture – the basic ingredients of what makes a great park, from the benches we sit on to the bandstands we play on. They are the essence of what gives parks a sense of place’ *Parks historian from Watford*

Defining park architecture

“Parkitecture” functions

- ▶ Our public parks are testament to so many and the heritage within is often significantly undervalued. The landscapes themselves are wonderful, but the ingredients that make up these great parks – their parkitecture – makes them magnificent parks.

Defining park architecture Buildings



Kensington Palace



Danson Park, Bexley

Defining park architecture

Buildings



Defining park architecture Buildings



Abbey Park, Leicester



Ventnor Park, Isle of Wight

Defining park architecture

Buildings



Eden Bridge Gardens, Carlisle

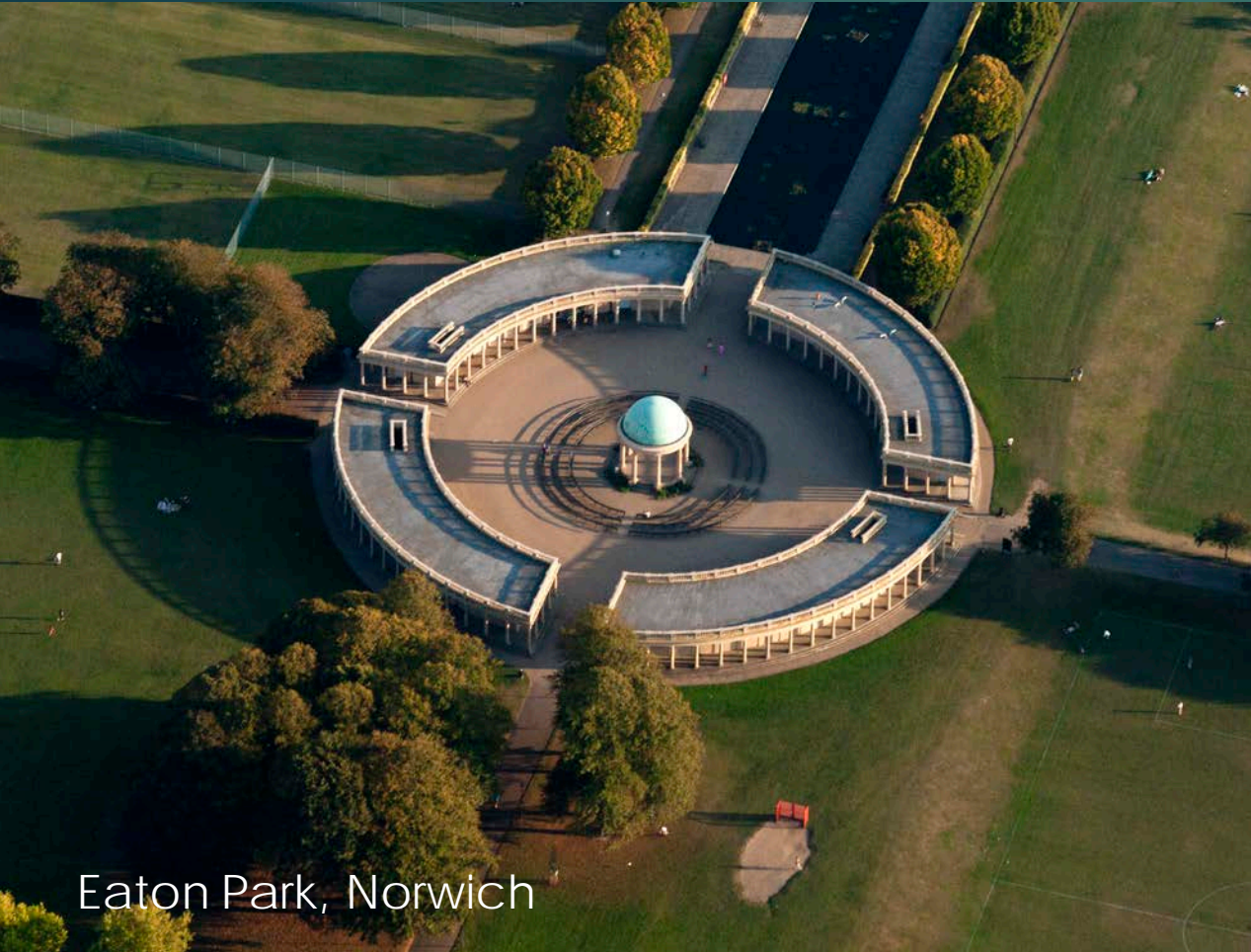


Wardown Park, Luton

Defining park architecture Buildings



Defining park architecture Buildings



Eaton Park, Norwich



Valley Gardens, Harrogate

Defining park architecture

Fountains



Victoria Park, London



Hedgemoor Park, Bath

Defining park architecture

Fountains



Defining park architecture

Fountains



Paisley Gardens, Glasgow



Beacon Park, Lichfield

Defining park architecture

Bandstands



Defining park architecture

Bandstands



Priory Gardens, Great Malvern



Handsworth Park, Birmingham

Defining park architecture Conservatories and Palm Houses



Corporation Park, Blackburn

Defining park architecture Conservatories and Palm Houses



West Park, Wolverhampton



Botanical Gardens, Sheffield

Defining park architecture Lidos and Paddling Pools



Tooting Bec Lido, London

Defining park architecture Lidos and Paddling Pools



Tooting Bec Lido



Hyde Park, Serpentine Lido

Defining park architecture

Memorials



Defining park architecture Memorials



West Smethwick Park, West Bromwich

Defining park architecture Memorials



Victoria Park, Leicester



Wilton Lodge Park, Hawick

Defining park architecture

Statues



Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



Victoria Park, London



Roundhay Park, Leeds

Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



Mewsbrook Park, Littlehampton

Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



Preston Park, Brighton



Forbury Gardens, Reading

Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



West Smethwick Park, West Bromwich



The Embankment Gardens, Bedford

Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



Albert Park, Middlesbrough



Battersea Park, London

Defining park architecture Furniture & Features



Alexandra Park, Oldham



Queen's Park, Loughborough

Defining park architecture

Public art



Assets or liabilities?

“Park buildings are a maintenance liability and can attract vandalism. They can also be visually intrusive and will be reduced to a minimum needed, consistent with the effective management of the parks. Where listed buildings exist they will, if possible, be found a long term use. Other buildings will be progressively eliminated”.

Extract from a local authority report in 1995

An asset or a liability?



An asset or a liability?



Weston Park, Sheffield



Fanciful or functional?

Can we really afford it?

- ▶ Often fanciful BUT often functional – eg park lodges
 - Tudor
 - Gothic Revival
 - Picturesque
 - Classical
 - High Victorian Gothic
 - English Vernacular Revival

The first building the park visitor encountered were houses for Park Keepers and Superintendents and their style reflected current tastes in architecture. BUT now they have all gone... what do we do with such buildings in parks?

Fanciful or functional?

Can we really afford it?

- ▶ New uses needed
- ▶ Many features empty, disused or derelict
- ▶ Often listed or within parks on the EH Register
- ▶ Cost restrictive
- ▶ New uses - are they sustainable?
- ▶ Difficult to convert
- ▶ Prone to vandalism or vulnerable

Fanciful or functional? Can we really afford it?



Finding functions – innovations

Stewart Park, Middlesbrough

Derelict Stable Block converted to:-

Café

Education Room

Askham Bryan College Campus



Finding functions – innovations

Caldecott Park, Rugby

Toolshed Café - toolshed
to café!!



Finding functions – innovations

Jephson Gardens,
Leamington Spa

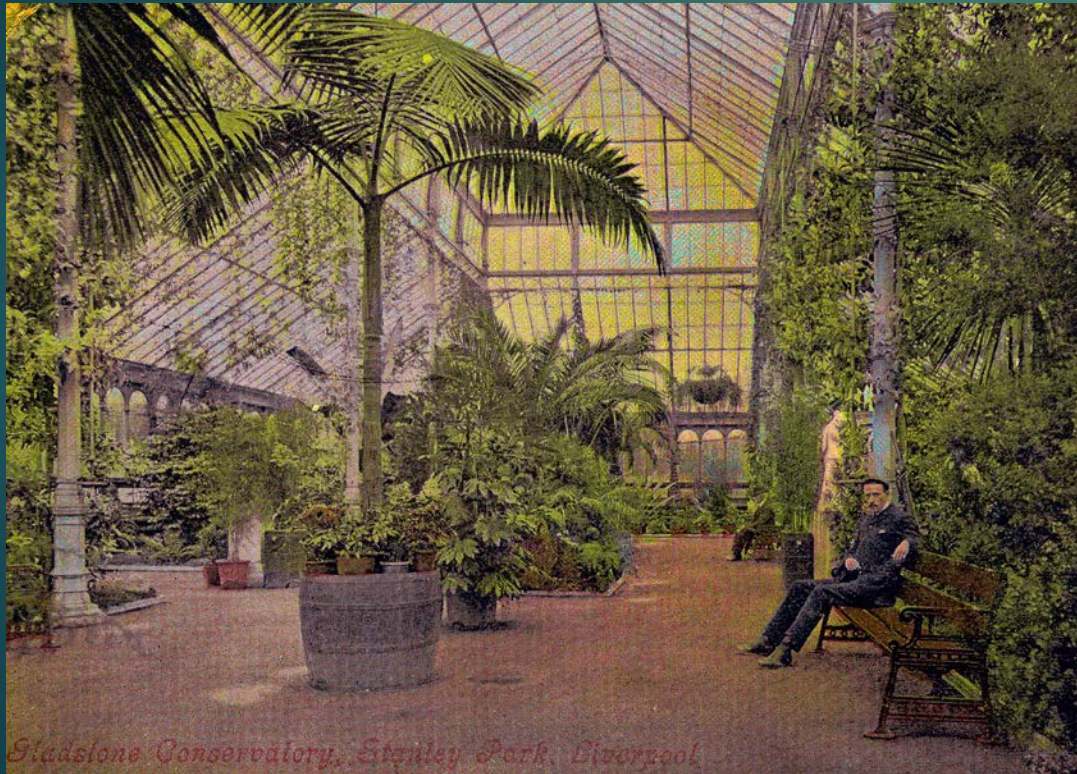
Aviary to café



Finding functions – innovations

Stanley Park, Liverpool

Palmhouse to dereliction



Finding functions – innovations

Stanley Park, Liverpool

To Isla Gladstone Centre – conferences, café, restaurant, conference centre, wedding venue



Finding functions – innovations

Stanley Park, Liverpool

Bandstand to wedding venue



Finding functions – innovations

Cassiobury Park, Watford

Restored and relocated back in the park

- Yoga
- Morris Dancers
- Brass
- Folk to rock



Finding functions – innovations

Walsall Arboretum, Walsall

Store sheds to Visitor centre, exhibition space, café and offices



Finding functions – innovations

Greenhead Park,
Huddersfield

Conservatory to....



Finding functions – innovations

Greenhead Park,
Huddersfield

..... Café facility and visitor
centre



Finding functions – innovations

Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd

Lido facility to dereliction.....



Finding functions – innovations

Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd

..... and what to do with it?
Lido and leisure centre



Finding functions – innovations

Priory Park, Dudley

Dull pavilion to new park centre



Finding functions – innovations

Grosvenor Park, Chester
Lodge extended to incorporate a café



Finding functions – innovations

Lordship Recreation Ground, Haringey

Old toilet block to bike hire and repair shop,
café facility and to rear a bandstand shell



Finding functions – innovations

Forbury Gardens, Reading

Old toilet block to café
facility and toilets



Finding functions – innovations

Eaton Park , Norwich

The Rotunda

Café

Changing rooms

Toilets

Friends of Eaton Park

Norwich Parks Tennis

Eaton Park Run



Finding functions – innovations

Albion Square, Hackney

Gardener's hut

Uses?



Finding funding

- ▶ Heritage Lottery Fund
- ▶ Landfill Communities Funds (Veolia, Biffa, WREN)
- ▶ Historic England
- ▶ Historic Scotland
- ▶ Cadw
- ▶ Architectural Heritage Fund

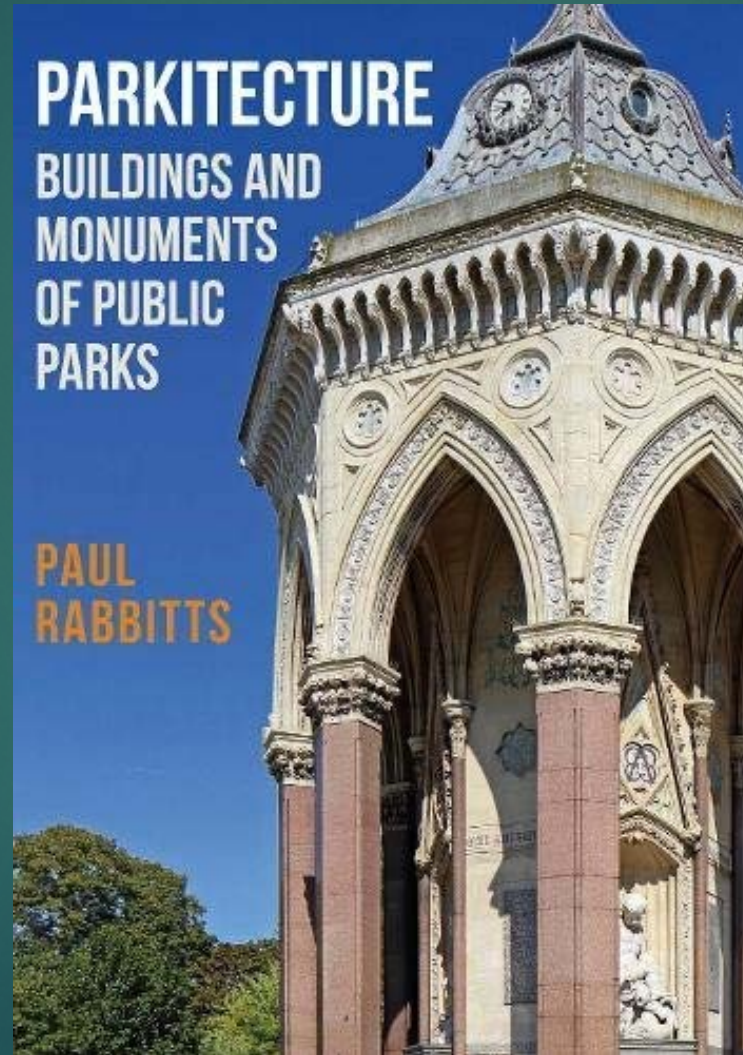
Saving the funding

- ▶ Heritage Lottery Fund
- ▶ <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/protect-heritage-lottery-funding-for-parks>
- ▶ CLOSING 22nd MARCH – YOU HAVE 2 DAYS – PLEASE SIGN IT!!!!

The future? Parkitecture of the future?



Shameless plug



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