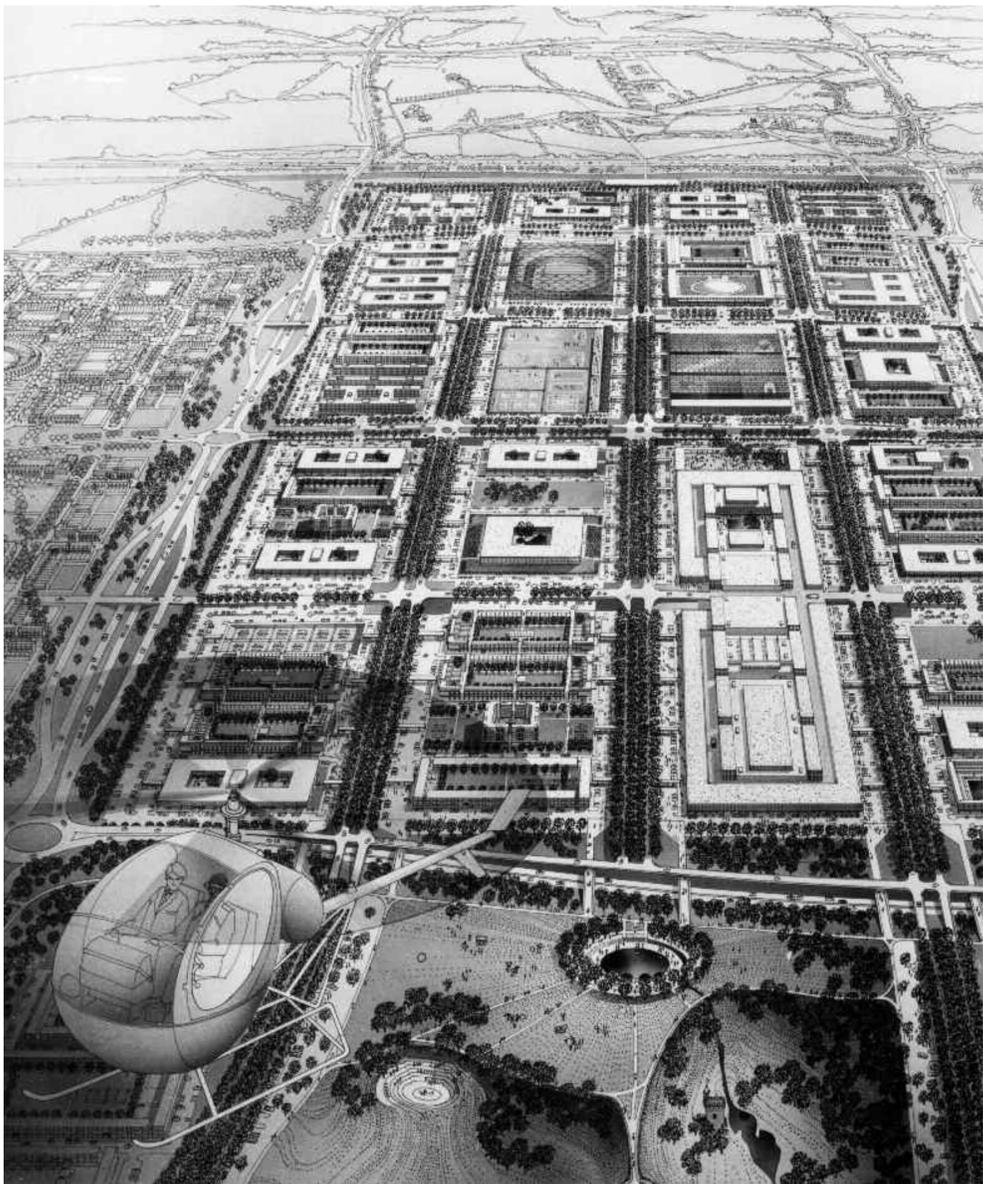


# The Interesting Architecture of Milton Keynes

## Past, Present and Future

A joint initiative between MK City Discovery Centre, Living Archive Milton Keynes and MK Forum



## Introduction

Milton Keynes is the last, most successful, and fastest growing New Town in the UK. In recent years it has become a regional centre. Architecture in Milton Keynes also moved with the times but has retained a unique style and approach found in many of the building, landscape and urban designs. Sadly, many iconic historic buildings and landscape features were lost in the pursuit of the new and 'improved'. The MK Forum asked 10 people to showcase 10 interesting architectural features of MK in 10 minutes this year. This exhibition includes some of those architectural aspects, and a few others, that were seen as interesting or unique to Milton Keynes by many of the speakers.

It is worth noting that the discipline of architecture includes many subsets such as architectural design, landscape architecture, interior architecture. The broad definition of architecture is:

*"A general term to describe buildings and other physical structures. The art and science of designing buildings and (some) non-building structures. The style of design and method of construction of buildings and other physical structures".*

MK architecture contains everything from the archaeological remains of the Bancroft Roman Villa to Medieval Bradwell Abbey, from Victorian New Bradwell to the post modernist buildings in Central MK and more...

The purpose of this exhibition is to show the different styles and areas of architecture to help us understand the function of architecture in designing and building a city, and thereby creating a sense of place for its citizens.

Architectural drawings and models were used to 'sell' the city to businesses, investors and future citizens.

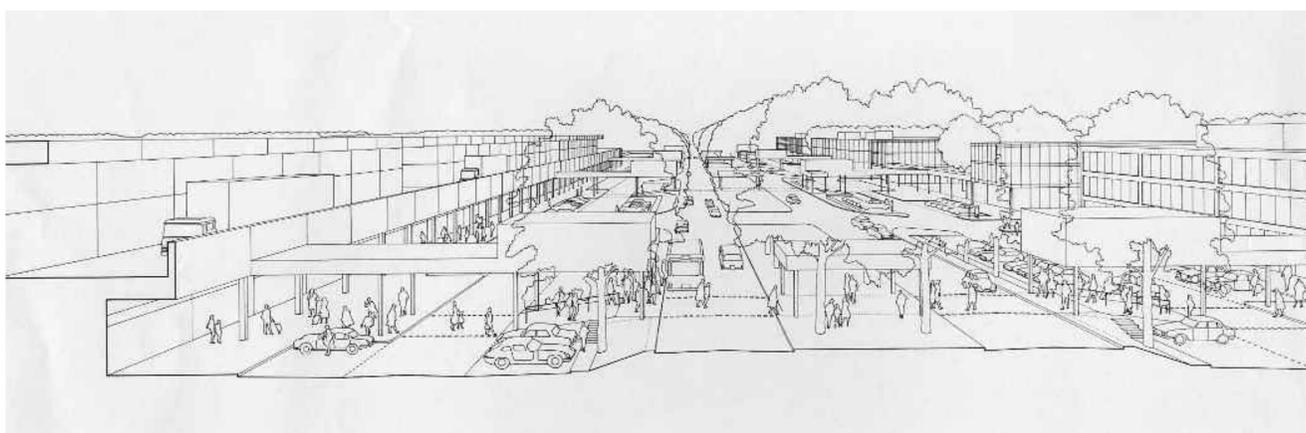


# Past: Architecture – design, drawing and planning

Concept drawings were prepared, often models were made and then it was built.

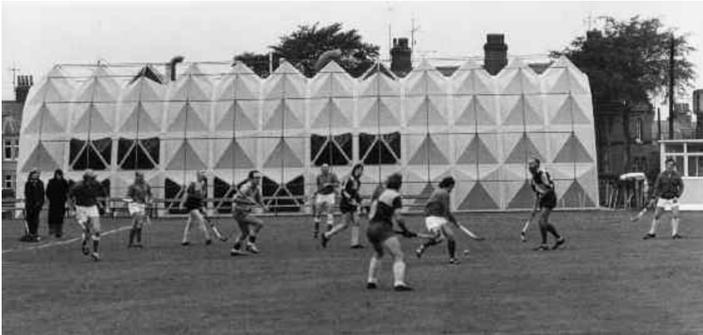


Compare the Porte Cochere drawing and model to the built reality.

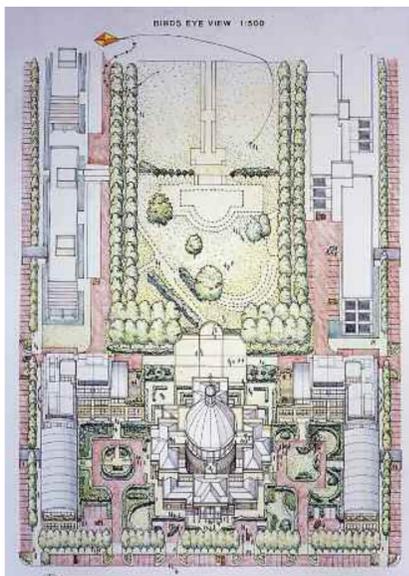


# Past: Architecture 'lost'

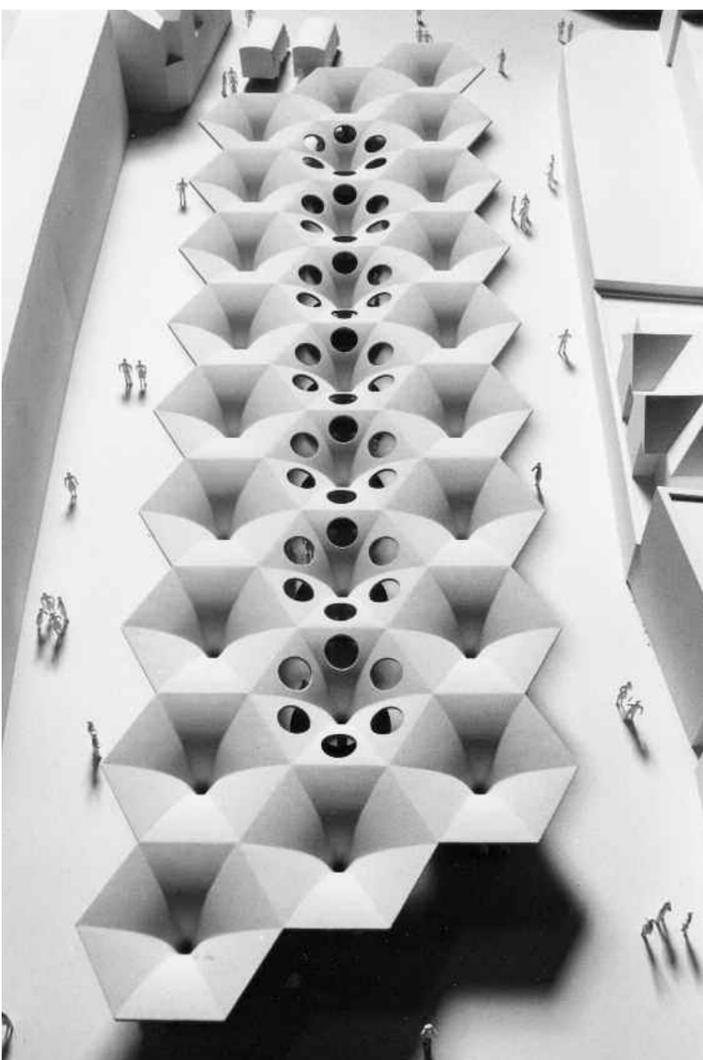
Unique buildings or landscape architecture features lost in the process of developing Milton Keynes.



*The Wolverton 'Pineapple' Sports Pavilion*



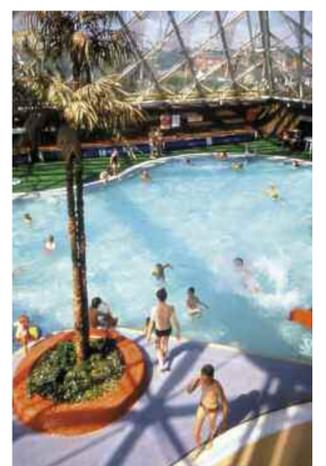
*Historic hedgerow lost for the Church in CMK*



*Bletchley Market*

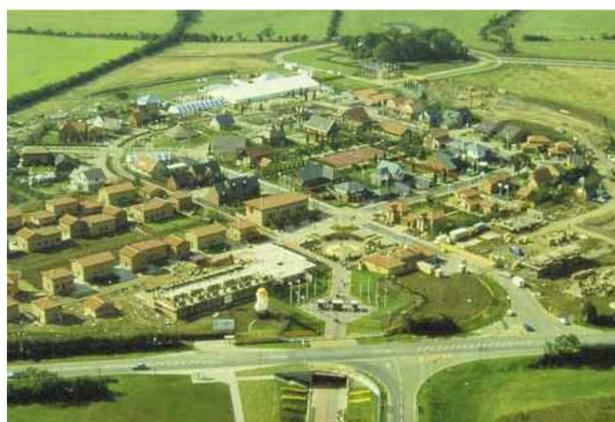


*Bletchley Leisure Centre*



# Past: Architecture 'aspiring to be futuristic'

Home World, Energy World and Future World showcasing housing in Milton Keynes at the top of building design.



# Present: Architecture that might soon be 'lost'

Architectural features that might be lost or compromised in the future planning of MK.



*The Point*



*Play areas and public open spaces*



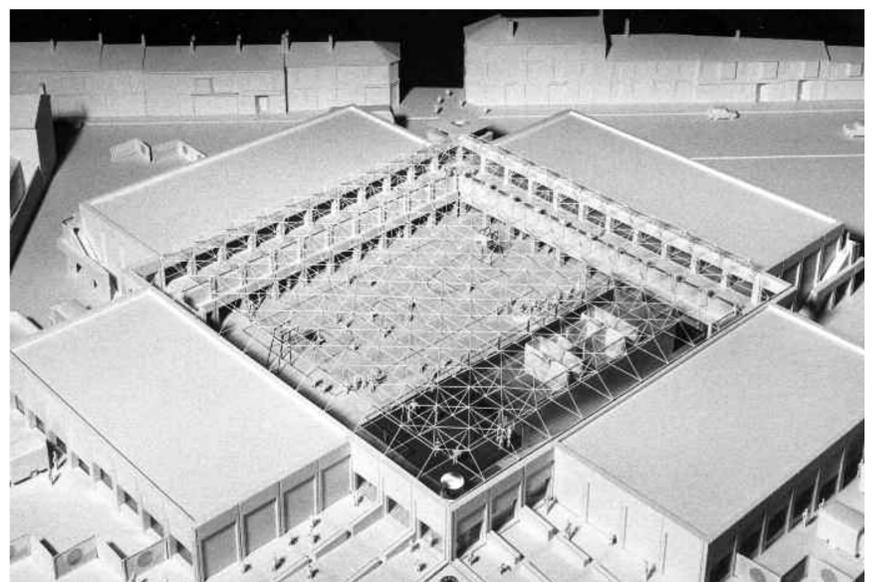
*Midsummer Place right of way*



*MK Market*



*The repeated grid road pattern*



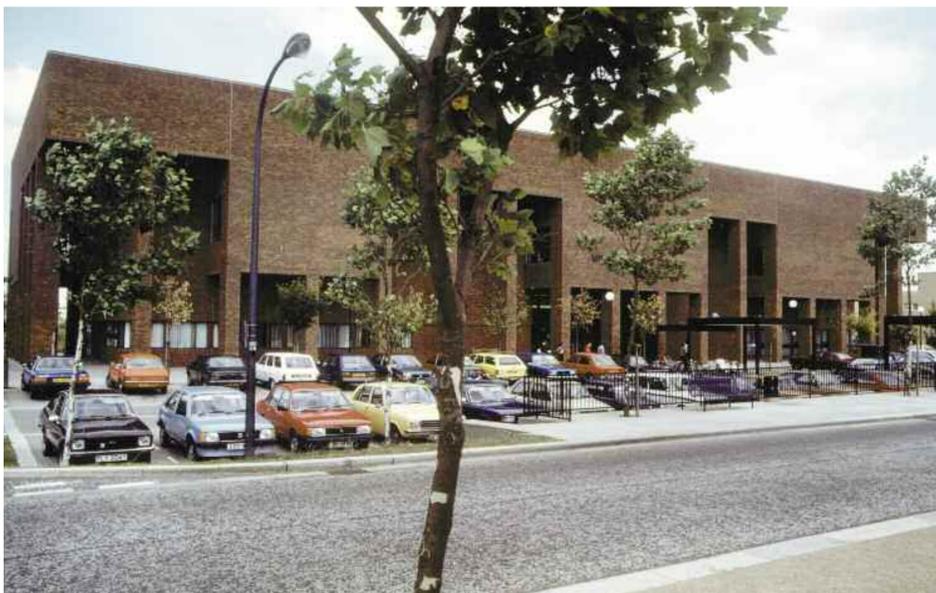
*The Agora, Wolverton*

# Present: Architecture preserved for the future

Buildings with specific architectural merit that have been Grade II listed in the last few years.



*Shopping Centre. Stuart Moss crop and Christopher Woodward, MKDC, 1975-79*



*MK Central Library. Paul Markcrow and John Sexton, Buckinghamshire County Council architect's department, 1979-81*



*Coach Station. Derek Yeadon, MKDC, 1982-83*

# Present: Architecture for community and calmness

Just a few examples of the many public buildings and spaces that provide a sense of tranquillity, peace and a 'sense-of-place' in MK – Campbell Park, the Peace Pagoda at Willen, the Church of Christ the Cornerstone, Neath Hill Centre, the Oak Chapel at the Crematorium.



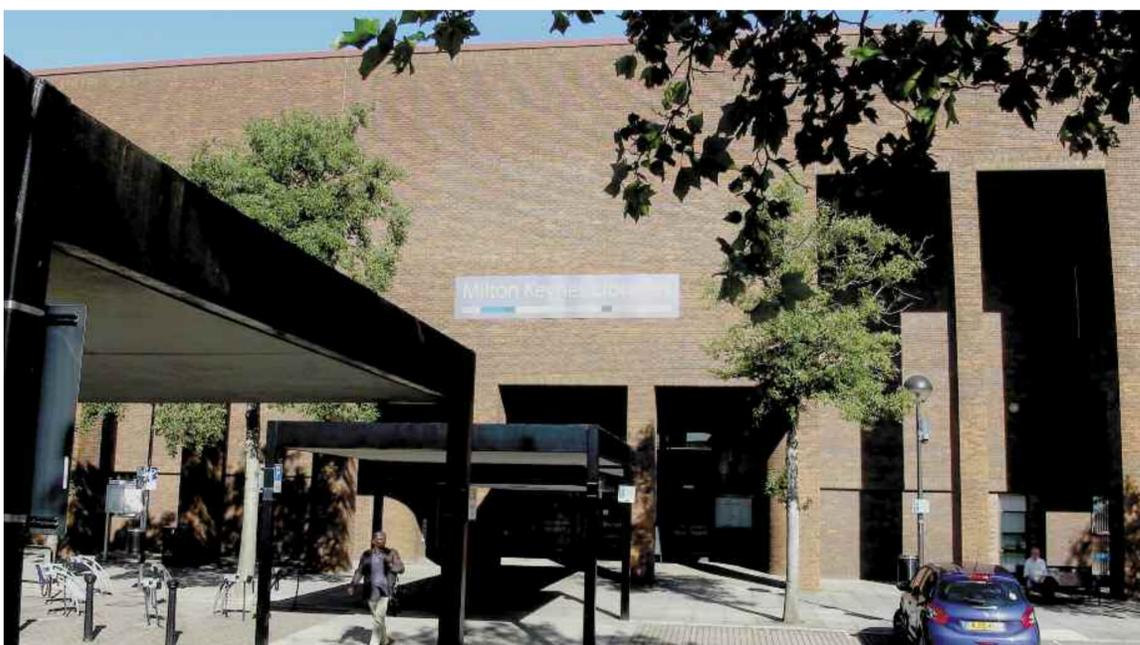
# Present: Architecture of the landscape

The landscape team under the direction of Neil Higson revised and improved many of the planting schemes for the green infrastructure and linear parks creating the 'city in the trees' feel that Milton Keynes is renowned for. With over 2 million trees and shrubs planted, it is a garden city in its own right with Redways and roads hidden amongst this green curtain.



# Past: Architecture that is unique to MK

Architectural features like the street furniture in Milton Keynes were designed to be practical yet reflect the modern feel of the city. MK is also home to some innovative structures such as the Grafton Street Aqueduct built by Edmund Nuthall Ltd in 1991, and the Xscape building in Central Milton Keynes designed by Faulkner Browns Architects in 2000. The Porte Cochere metal shelters straddling the boulevards within Central Milton Keynes are also unique to the city.



# Future: Architecture for the future

Some of the newest environmentally friendly and modern designs in MK.



*Oxley Woods, Rogers/Stirk/Harbour & Partners, 2005*



*Nifty Lift HQ, Q2 Architects, 2014*



*Milton Keynes Coach Way, John Stewart, 2008*



*Anaerobic digestion plant,  
concept image, 2014*