

function of advertising, becoming
life on paper, in the magazines and
around. ”



photo: Stephen Carter
the new school extension meets 1970s system building

An architecture of resistance?

Architecture has become rather like film projects in Hollywood, helping to talk up a idea or an operator, enticing finance, vouchsafing the reality of a project before it has really happened. One area of architecture that had, until recently, escaped absorption into this media merry-go-round was the work of local authorities. As long as they had control over their own funds, local authorities had concentrated on an architecture of use, whose prime audience had been their own constituencies. There is of course a long history of municipal symbolism in architecture. It expressed itself in completed buildings whose function was the purpose and justification of their existence: in their physical presence and use they delivered the intended improvement in living standards, and in so doing delivered an ongoing commentary about the quality of political and social life.

However, ever since local authorities have had to compete with each other for central government money, and find funding partners from the private sector, they have had to learn quickly the art of selling themselves through their projects. The rapid succession of Millennium or Lottery schemes and urban regeneration proposals creates a virtual environment that can only with difficulty be related to real conditions

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Both trained at North London University and the Polytechnic of Central London (now Westminster University), albeit at separate times. They worked together for Tower Hamlets Council on the featured projects and other schemes. They have been editors of 'A3 Times', and have organised highly regarded exhibitions on Eric Mendelsohn and Hans Scharoun. Golzari has also been teaching for several years at the Oxford School.