

# Parker and Unwin - with Paprika

The Wekerle Garden Suburb at Kispest was begun in 1910 as the Kispest Worker and Capital Clerk Settlement. Originally a long, slow tram ride from the centre of Budapest, it has, since 1979, been connected to the Soviet built underground at Hatar Ut station, a local bus ride from the heart of the suburb. Kos Karoly Ter, the central square, was appropriately named after the architect, Karoly Kos (1883-1977), a multi-talented painter, designer, architect, planner and enthusiast for the revival of rustic Transylvanian vernacular architecture.



Artisans' cottages

Four diagonal and four lateral boulevards lead into the central square. Between these are subsidiary lanes giving an overall web pattern, with none of the subtlety of the layout at Hampstead Garden Suburb. The main boulevards are tree-lined, in the continental manner, but the gabled housing groups have some affinity with the familiar types in the Artisans' Quarter of NW11. The smallest houses are linked bungalows, with generous gardens and space for individual cultivation of fruit and vegetables. As at HGS, there appear to be few shops, although there are bars. Schools and churches were built contemporary with the housing, and the Gothic-style Catholic church with its tall campanile dominates the central square. Much of the housing is still rented, and occupied by working-class residents, but here is also evidence of free-market gentrification.



Bridge link, Kos Karoly Ter

Architecturally, the central square forms an appropriate climax. The east and west sides are occupied by linked four and five storey apartment blocks, bridging over the intermediate Hungaria Ut to form a continuous frontage. It is almost as if the Temple Fortune blocks of shops and flats were to be linked across Hampstead Way. Stylistically, there is some affinity between Temple Fortune and the apartments at Kos Karoly Ter.



Design for manor house

Kos was an enthusiast for Hungarian vernacular architecture and leader of Fialok (the young architects), in the early years of the century. In 1896, the

millennial anniversary of the Magyar people was celebrated by an international exhibition in Budapest - which had become a united city. This stimulated

national consciousness and in 1900 a periodical, *Huszacak Szazad* (20th century), added progressive ideas from England and Europe to the cultural eclecticism. The young architects emerged while university students, under Odon Lechner (1845-1914), who had himself promoted a Hungarian version of the Arts and Crafts Movement, inspired by Ruskin and Morris. Kos took the innate characteristics of Transylvanian wooden architecture, and transposed them to the urban apartments of Wekerle. The massing, with turrets and modelled roofscapes, reflects mid-European characteristics which had also inspired Unwin at Hampstead Garden Suburb. Kos's style, in his sketches of Transylvanian architecture in handbooks on Folk Art published between 1907-22, has much affinity with the drawings in Unwin's *Town Planning in Practice*, published in 1909. It is quite likely that Kos would have obtained a copy, either in English, or the German edition of 1910.

Like Unwin, Kos was interested in social questions, and with Denes Gyorgyi designed a school at Varosmajor Ut in 1910-11, which included a kindergarten, day centre and teachers' flats. He also designed several buildings for the Budapest Zoo in 1911, but these have largely been demolished.

The fascination of the many continental garden suburbs, and even those further afield, lies in the way in which received ideas were re-interpreted in local cultural terms. Wekerle is an excellent example of this, and a fine achievement in its own right. Efforts are now being made to preserve its characteristics, and the restoration of the wooden bridging link between two of the major buildings on Kos Karoly Ter, a few years ago, will, hopefully, represent a first step towards more positive conservation. For visitors from HGS, it is familiar territory - literally Parker and Unwin - with paprika!

DR MERVYN MILLER



## London's undiscovered Garden Suburb

Described by Sir Peter Hall as a 'minuscule masterpiece', Brentham Garden Suburb in Ealing is one of the earliest examples of a picturesque architect-planned garden suburb designed with the health and welfare of its working-class residents in mind. It is also the first of the 'Co-partnership' estates financed by small shareholdings that for the first time gave people of modest means a stake in their homes.

Until now Brentham has escaped academic attention and is little known compared with its larger and more famous successors, Hampstead and Letchworth. Responding to what has been described as an 'important gap in the history of the garden suburb and co-partnership movements', Brentham Garden Suburb residents plan to celebrate the suburb's pioneering roots with a book, *Brentham: The Pioneer Garden Suburb 1901-2001*, for publication in advance of the Suburb's centenary in 2001. They have commissioned architectural historian Aileen Reid to research and write it, and are launching a scheme based on the

original 'Co-partnership Share' principle to raise the money for production and publication.

Hampstead Garden Suburb residents wishing to support Brentham's initiative, please fill in and send off the application below with your cheque.

I would like to be a Co-partnership Shareholder. Each individual Share entitles me to:

- One free copy of *Brentham: The Pioneer Garden Suburb* signed by the author, on publication.
- An invitation to the launch party.
- Have my name listed with other Shareholders in the book. Family Co-partnership Shareholders can have up to four names listed in the book.

Please send me:

- Individual Co-partnership Shares at £30 each  
 Family Co-partnership Shares at £45 each

For Shareholders outside the Brentham Garden Suburb area, please add £2 towards P&P.

I enclose a cheque payable to  
 The Brentham Society for £

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POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) for entry in the Shareholders' section:

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RETURN TO THE BRENTHAM SOCIETY,  
 16 NEVILLE ROAD, BRENTHAM GARDEN SUBURB,  
 EALING, LONDON W5 1NN.

## Wordsearch winner

The winner of Wordsearch on operas was Mrs Gwen Smolins of Brookland Hill. Mrs Smolins and her husband have lived on the Suburb for 16 years, having decided that it would be an ideal place for their impending retirement. Mrs Smolins was previously a Senior Lecturer in English as a Foreign Language at Roehampton Institute and she also conducted courses abroad in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia under the auspices of the British Council. Until 3 years ago she was an Inspector of British Language Schools in the UK. She has acted from time

to time as a locum in the EFL department at the HGS Institute.

She was a Brookland school governor from 1989-97 and both she and her husband still work for Homeless Action in Barnet.

Her hobbies include painting and sculpture, in which she has taken courses at the Institute. Like her husband, she is a music lover (they are both Friends of the ENO and Covent Garden) and at the age of 71 she has started piano lessons!

With such wide interests, Mrs Smolins says it will be difficult to decide how to spend her prize book token.

## WORDSEARCH

HERBS & SPICES

Cooks, gardeners, barbecue kings, may all enjoy a more mundane Wordsearch. Find and ring 20 herbs and spices which are hidden in the box of letters below. The words may read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally.

MINT has been ringed to start you off: can you find 19 more? Entries should be sent to 2 North Square NW11 7AA, and should give the name, address and telephone number of the sender. The closing date for entries is September 4. The first correct entry drawn after the closing date will receive a £20 book token.

B O R E D N A I R O C T R I S  
 A X E V S T Y N O R A M B A L  
 R N Q O B M I R E G N I G N I  
 M O U L D R E W O A P E X O G  
 O G I C R G L F M S T R E O P  
 M A N W A H L E R B E C A M S  
 A R X N T L I V A R K M L I D  
 D R O U S E D C M O N T A N E  
 R A T T U M B A S I L F O R M  
 A T P M M B R H M U C M A D Y  
 C S I E S O Q U I W A B S E H  
 R N O G J D C Q E N E O R H T  
 T R T R I L O M N E D A H T A  
 I F A V N C H I L L I C R U N  
 S M O L B A C O L E N N E F A

SHEILA McMICHAEL

## WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

The titles to the operas hidden in the box were: Carmen; Elektra; Xerxes; Fidelio; Mitridate; Manon; Oberon; Rusalka; Mignon; Stiffelio; Lulu; Faust; Attila; Turandot; Lohengrin; Alceste; Jenufa; Norma; Gloriana; Figaro



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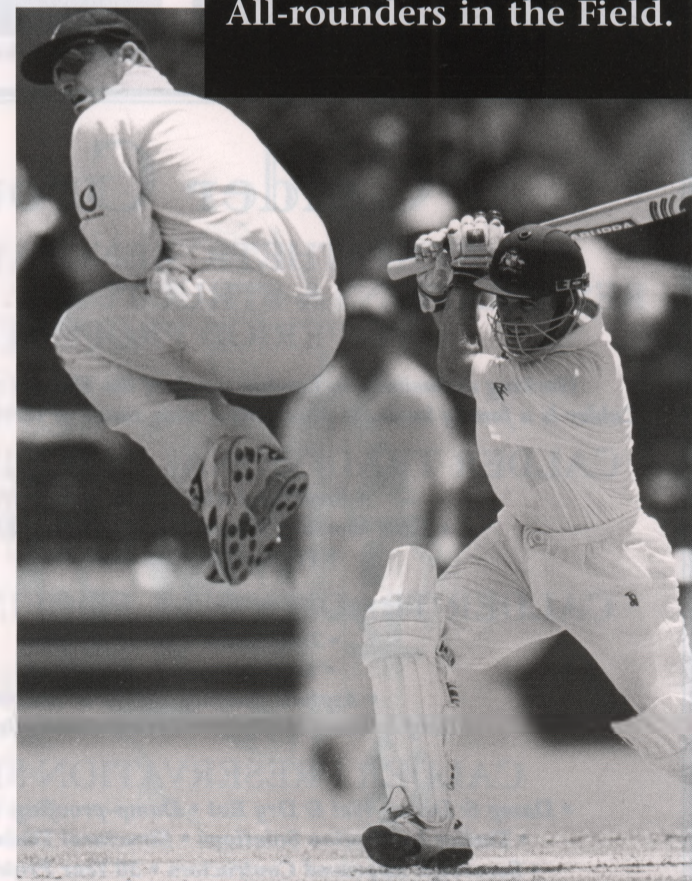
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