



The French Connection

The Sceaux Gardens Estate and the promise and peril of bringing
L'Esprit Nouveau to south London

Stephen Lovejoy, LSBU / Southwark Council



Sceaux Gardens Estate, Camberwell (Photo by author)



“The most interesting housing scheme to have come from a Metropolitan Borough Architect’s Department and compares very favourably with the best of recent LCC work”

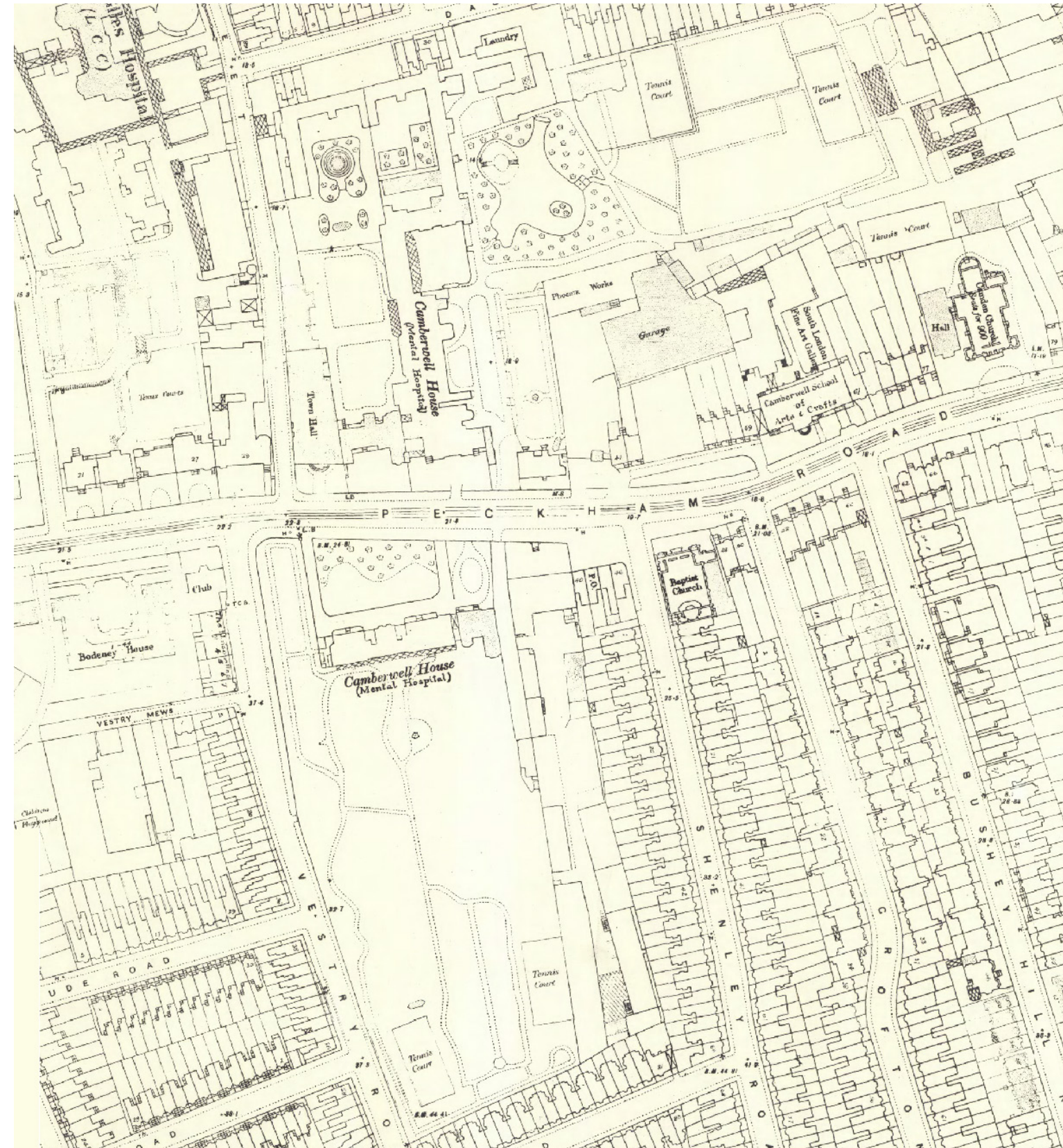
- ARCHITECT’S JOURNAL (1960)



Homes in Camberwell (The Changing Face of Camberwell, 1963)



Waterloo Square (The Changing Face of Camberwell, 1963)



Camberwell House Mental Health Hospital site (OS map 1936-52)



Left: Southwark Council Registry Offices, Right: Lucas Gardens (Photos by author)



Left: Becontree, Dagenham (© Glyn Baker, CC BY-SA 2.0), Right: Glebe Estate, Camberwell (Photo by Author)



Unité d'Habitation, Marseille by Le Corbusier (© Denis Esakov, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)



Left: Alton West Estate, Wandsworth; Top right: Bentham Road Estate, Hackney;
Bottom right: Loughborough Road Estate, Lambeth (All - © Prof. Miles Glendinning CC BY 4.0)



Left: Ville de Sceaux ('Ville de Sceaux', 1954), Right: Parc de Sceaux (© Guihem Vellut CC BY 2.0)



Sceaux Gardens estate blocks (Photo by author)



15-storey Lakanal Block (Photo by author)



Left: Waterloo Square interior, Right: Lakanal House interior (The Changing Face of Camberwell, 1963)



Internal corridor, Lakanal House (The Changing Face of Camberwell, 1963)



Left: View from Lugard Road terraced home; Right: View from window of Lakanal flat
(The Changing Face of Camberwell, 1963)



Ground floor, Marie Curie House (Photo by author)



Sceaux Gardens Estate (Photo by author)




The Aylesbury Estate, built 1967-77 (© Reading Tom CC BY 2.0)



Lakanal House Fire, 2009 (© Peter Gasston CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)



Sceaux Gardens behind construction work (The Changing Face of Camberwell, 1963)



“The first industrial revolution covered the ground with asphalt and bricks. The second is uncovering the ground and discovering the sky.””

- THE CHANGING FACE OF CAMBERWELL (1963)

References

- Architects Journal, (1959) *14-Storey Flats at Sceaux Gardens, Camberwell* Architects Journal; May 21, 1959; 129, 3351; p767
- Architects Journal, (1960) *Housing at Sceaux Gardens*, Architects Journal; Jan 7, 1960; 131,3377; p23-34
- Architects Journal, (1964) *AA; Camberwell's housing schemes*, Architects Journal; Aug 26, 1964; 140, 9; p476
- Boast, M. (2000) *The Story of Camberwell*. London: The London Borough of Southwark
- Boughton, J. (2019) *Municipal Dreams: The Rise and Fall of Council Housing*. London: Verso.
- Bullock, N. (2002) *Building the Post-War World*. London: Routledge
- *The Changing Face of Camberwell* (1963) Directed by: Winifred Crum Ewing, Place of distribution: Mandsom Films.
- Le Corbusier (1927) *Towards a New Architecture*. Translated by Frederick Etchells. London: J. Rodker, 1931.
- Lefebvre, H. (1991) *The Production of Space*. Translated by D. Nicholson-Smith Oxford: Blackwell
- Pevsner, N., Cherry, B. (2002). *London 2: South*. United Kingdom: Yale University Press.
- Jacobs, J. (1961) *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* S.L.: The Bodley Head Ltd
- South London Observer (1959) *Observer Portrait Gallery; No. 58 - Mr. F. O. Hayes*, South London Observer, Feb 26, 1959
- *Ville de Sceaux* (1954) Directed by: Michael Essex-Lopresti, Place of distribution: South London Film Society
- Webb, S. (2009) *Interim Report: Fire at Lakanal, Sceaux Garden Estate, Camberwell*