“Conflicts of Taste and Values in an Elite London Suburb”

Richard Webber
Kings College London, UK
Sources for study of Highgate “village”

1: Participant observation
2: Qualitative interviews
3: Planning disputes
4: Local archives
Alpha Territory:
Transforming capital into self-esteem
The disruption of existing elites

1: Territorial displacement
2: Disregard of real or “imagined” communities
3: Disdain for established signifiers of status
Highgate : Alpha Territory in a historical context
The mansions of the Highgate ridge
Patronage
Critical analysis and Reform
The “celebrity quarter”
The deterioration and revival of the grand houses
Planning appeals create evidence of conflicting values
Witanhurst: owner Andrej Guriev
Athlone House: a would be trophy house
Physical manifestation: tear down and rebuild
Challenge 1: sense of “elective belonging”
Challenge 2: rejection of historic aesthetic values
Challenge 3: devaluation of a natural setting
Intrinsic qualities of ‘new’ Alpha Territory

“Intolerance of blemishes”
Re-emergence of the super rich
Sources of wealth

• 1914
  - Sunlight Soap
  - Guinness
  - Charringtons

• 2014
  - Photograph of a building
  - Photograph of a building
  - Photograph of a sign
  - Photograph of a building
Servicing
Leisure

Domini Crosfield

Alisher Uzmanov
Lady Crosfield’s tennis tournament
If a Tip or Two for Fishing.

If a tip or two for fishing,
As a novice you would glean,
And you’re feverishly wishing
You may not return home “clean”;

If you mean to do your duty
And are full of frenzied zeal,
Ere you set out for the booty,
Well equipped with rod and creel,

Just a hint, or a suggestion,
May assist thy gentle art,
And save many a cruel question
If the saumons will not dart:

First, the patience of a stoic,
You have got to cultivate,
And a cheerfulness heroic
No ill fortune shall abate,

If the blustering, wild, wet weather
Leave you soaking and bedraggled,
As you splash through swamp and heather,
The epitome of Elective Belonging?

The Highgate Literary and Scientific Institute vs Highgate Society Annual Quiz

Round 8
Music, art and literature

1. What do the following have in common: Bear, Hen, Oxford, Clock, Military
2. What is Tosca’s first name

3. What is the name of Edgar Rice Burroughs' hero
4. Which 1900 Elgar oratorio is based on a poem by Cardinal Newman
5. From which Shakespeare play is the quotation “Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown”
6. In which city is the Whitworth Art gallery
7. Which female entertainer did a celebrated banana dance
8. Which house did Ibsen’s heroine “Nora” leave
“Conflicts of Taste and Values in an Elite London Suburb”

Richard Webber
Kings College London, UK