

IMAGINE...

...the clouds of World War II lift and a dream emerges of our future. It is not enough to simply patch up the damage, we will make a bold statement. Victorian architecture will be swept aside. The 'Fine City' of Norwich will take its place in the new world.

New shapes are striding across the horizon. Concrete is the new king. The car is the future. Free flowing arterial highways will transport customers to pedestrianised squares and bustling shops. Their cars will disappear into unobtrusive, multi-level facilities.

Who can resist the lure of a self-service shopping experience, enhanced by outdoor dining, trees, water features and art!

Such was the City Council's 1945 Plan for Norwich, a 50-year project which envisioned two new ring roads and a 75 ft viaduct soaring over Bracondale (see below).

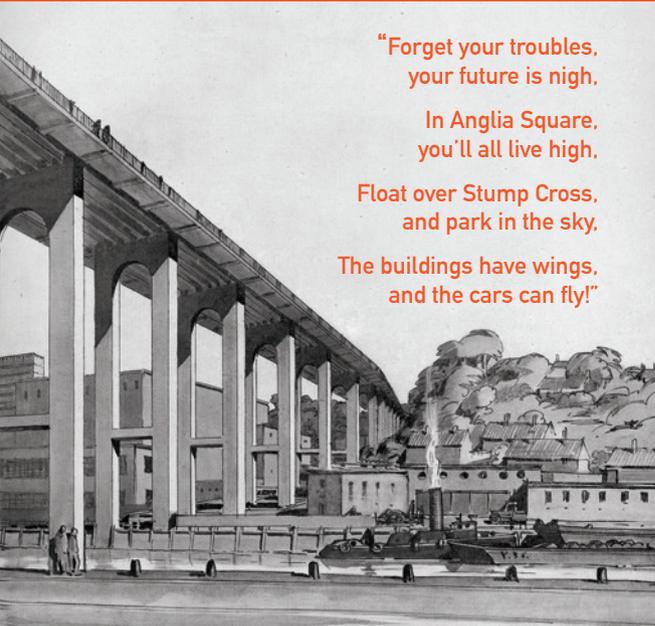
Sound familiar? These heady promises planted the seed for Magdalen's concrete flyover, and their echoes can be heard in all those successive plans for our own Anglia Square...

"Forget your troubles,
your future is nigh.

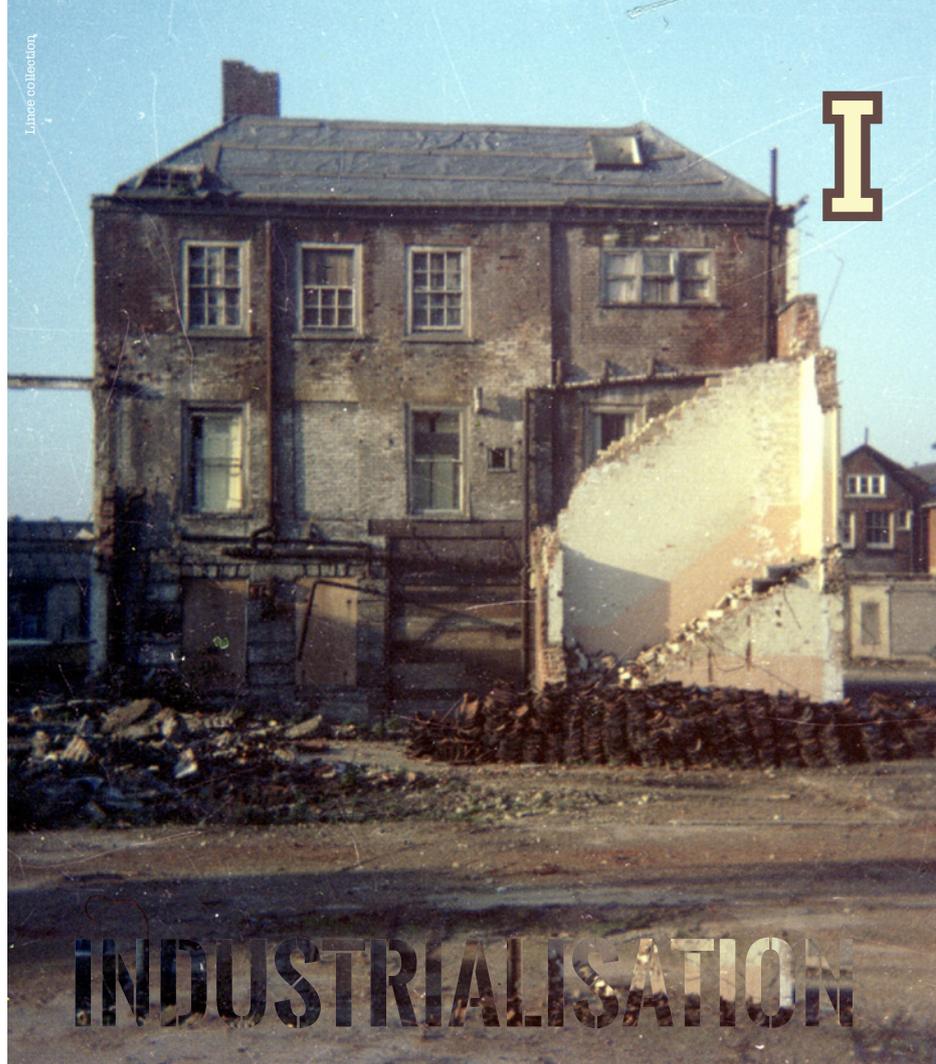
In Anglia Square,
you'll all live high.

Float over Stump Cross,
and park in the sky.

The buildings have wings,
and the cars can fly!"



Lyrics from "The Developer's Dream"
Anglia Square: A Love Story by The Common Lot, July 2019.



This building at 65 Pitt Street was just one of a number of fine Georgian houses originally lining the street - it was once a fashionable place to live.

Then as the north city centre industrialised during the 19th century and the bigwigs moved out, the houses became offices and were extended backwards, with ugly factory buildings covering the former gardens lying between Pitt Street and St George's Street.

Here is a last glimpse of the exposed rear of the house just before it was flattened around 1970.

Its rubble probably remains to this day within the heap flanking a wasteland of rough car parking occupying the same space, with Anglia Square close by.