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This bang happened seven years before *Escape* director John Carpenter and crew showed up. It was a few blocks away, in a onetime Irish ghetto. The ghetto was Kerry Patch. Kerry Patch was home to a line of Irish fight clubs. But at the knock down, it was Pruitt - Igoe. The Irish had left, the fight clubs moved on.

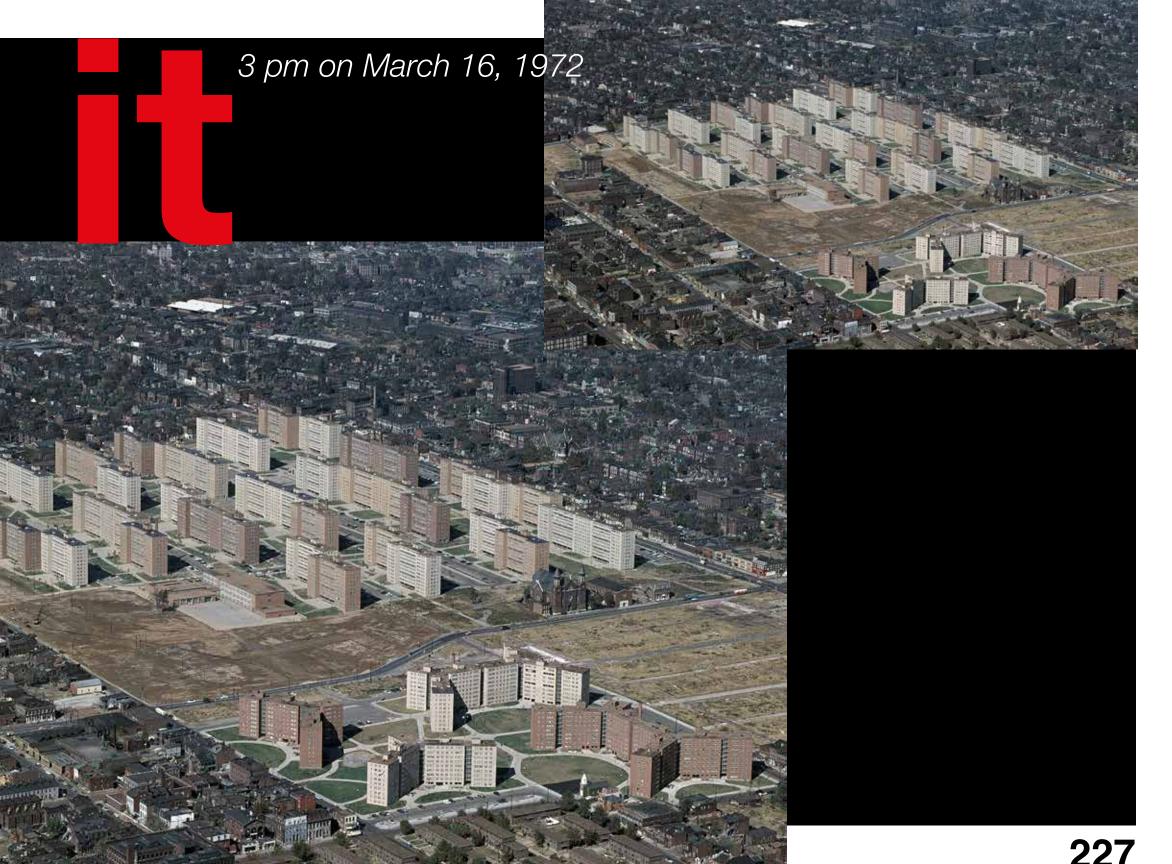
Pruitt- Igoe was a clutch of buildings, a public housing complex. It opened in 1954. It was acclaimed then. When Pruitt- Igoe fell in March 1972, it was debris before they blew it up. For a lot of "the big-thinkers," the demolition of Pruitt- Igoe's is the line in the sand. It's fall marks the fall. It's Mayday. It's the end of Modernism, and it starts the dive through a postmodern looking glass. It's when maps get messy, really messy.

The architect of Pruitt - Igoe was Minoru Yamasaki. Yamasaki was also the architect for the World Trade Towers.

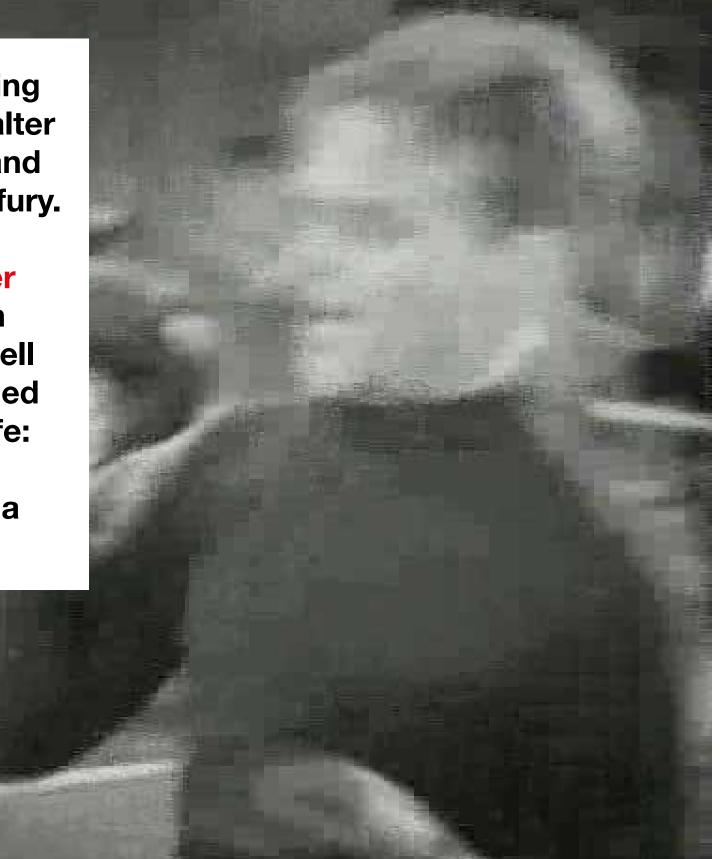
When "Escape From New York" was released in 1981, it was described this way.

"Escape from New York" is a 1981 American science fiction action film directed by John Carpenter. The film is set in the near future in a crime-ridden United States that has converted Manhattan Island in New York City into a maximum security prison.

But none of the press releases said it was filmed near a Yamasaki fall down. Or that the story line involved a highjacked plane that flew into a skyscraper. But then why would they? Two generations of obits in journals, books, films, documentaries, exhibitions missed it. Bungled it. All that copy about modernism, and what started precisely at 3 pm on March 16, 1972, got it wrong. That bigbang hype ignored those fight clubs. Maybe it made sense back then, forty years ago - a wink in time. But now we're in the ring with something super-sized. Technology hovers. We need a better myth. Need to track down the fight clubs that shadowed the fall.



After a decade of pursuing **Peter Ramus, Father Walter** Ong continued to map and write with a polymath's fury. In 1979 he gave a series of talks, "The Messenger Lectures." They were on contest and ideas. Cornell **University Press published** them as "Fighting for Life: Contest, Sexuality, and Consciousness." It was a collar's fight manual.



Contest is a part of human life everywhere that human life is found.

Contest has been a major factor in organic evolution and it turns out to have been a major, and organic seemingly essential, factor in intellectual development.

Contest operates in many sectors of life-in politics, in sports, in commerce, in the adversary procedures of jurisprudence, to name only a few obvious sectors. The present study concerns itself principally with contest in sectors closer to conscious-ness as such, that is, with contest as it has entered into the constitution and management of knowledge itself,

There are of course structural elements in contest, as is well known to those who watch football games, especially on television, with the analytic playbacks from various angles. Indeed, although it does not consist of structures, contest generates and thrives on structures. Even more, if the conclusions of this book are correct, it generates intellectual structures, the structures that make science itself.

Intellectual combat made public many intellectual issues otherwise hidden or obscure, and clarified them. It made accessible publicly apprehensible truth. The potential of intellectual contest to disclose truth lay at the root of Socratic dialogue and lies at the root of the adversary procedure that still prevails in law to this day. The result of individual contest is thus felt outside of the individual contestants in others, in knowledge uttered (that is, etymologically, "outered"), knowledge shared.

The present work contends that contest has been and seemingly will remain a constituent of human existence, if in constantly adjusting forms, from the biological base of this existence to its noetic peaks. Contest comes to human kind out of the race's distant evolutionary past and enters even into the intimacies and ecstasies of self-consciousness.

In the human lifeworld, contest catches up some of the lowest dynamics and some of the highest. It is a genetically advantageous factor in organic evolution, indeed in the large an absolutely indispensable factor, one that is the product of natural selection, and thus part of humankind's genetic heritage, linking us to lower forms of life and them to us. But it is also at the same time an element in humankind's intellectual development, our development of abstract thought, of noetic distance, and, even beyond that, in the development of the identity of individual human persons, male and female, in finding one's own person, in saying "I."

Contest is not only a part of humankind's past but also a part of the future evolution of consciousness itself. How it will serve the future remains to be seen.

Pruitt-Igoe

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Pruitt-Igoe was a large urban housing project first occupied in 1954^[2] in the U.S. city of St. Louis, Missouri. iving conditions in Pruitt-Igoe began to decline soon after its completion in 1956.^[3] By the late 1960s, the complex had become internationally infamous for its poverty, crime, and segregation. Its 33 buildings were demolished with explosives in the mid-1970s.[4] and the project has become an icon of urban renewal and public-policy planning failure

The complex was designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki who also designed the World Trade Center towers and the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport main terminal.

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History

During the 1940s and 1950s, the city of St. Louis was overcrowded, with housing conditions in some areas

resembling "something out of a Charles Dickens novel" [5] Its housing stock had deteriorated between the 1920s and the 1940s, and more than 85,000 families lived in 19th entury tenements. An official survey from 1947 found that

33,000 homes had communal toilets.^[5] Middle-class. predominantly white, residents were leaving the city, and heir former residences became occupied by low-income families. Black (north) and white (south) slums of the old city were segregated and expanding, threatening to engulf

April 1972. The second, widely televised demolition of a Pruitt-Igoe building that followed the March 16 demolition.[1]

the city center.^[6] To save central properties from an imminent loss of value, city authorities settled on redevelopment of the "inner ring" around the central business district.^[6] Decay was so profound there that gentrification of existing real estate was considered impractical.^[5]

In 1947, St. Louis planners proposed to replace DeSoto-Carr, a run-down black neighborhood, with new two- and three-story residential blocks and a public park ^[7] The plan did not materialize: instead. Democratic mayor Joseph Darst, elected in 1949, and Republican state leaders favored clearing the slums and replacing them with high-rise, high-density public housing. They reasoned that the new projects would help the city through increased revenues, new parks, playgrounds and shopping space.^[5] Darst stated in

We must rebuild, open up and clean up the hearts of our cities. The fact that slums were created with all the intrinsic evils was everybody's fault. Now it is everybody's responsibility to repair the damage.[8]

In 1948, voters rejected the proposal for a municipal loan to finance the change, but soon the situation was changed with the Housing Act of 1949 and Missouri state laws that provided co-financing of public housing projects. The approach taken by Darst, urban renewal, was shared by the Harry S. Truman administration and fellow mayors of other cities overwhelmed by industrial workers recruited during the war.[3] Specifically, St. Louis Land Clearance and Redevelopment Authority was authorized to acquire and demolish the slums of the inner ring and then sell the land at reduced prices to private developers, fostering middle-class return and business growth. Another agency, St. Louis Housing Authority, had to clear land to construct public housing for the former slum dwellers.[6]

By 1950, St. Louis had received a federal commitment under the Housing Act of 1949^[9] to finance 5.800 public housing units.^[6] The first large public housing in St. Louis, Cochran Gardens, was completed in 1953 and intended for low-income whites. It contained 704 units in 12 high-rise buildings^[3] and was followed by Pruitt-Jooe, Darst-Webbe and Vaughn, Pruitt-Jooe was intended for young middle-class white and black tenants, segregated into different buildings, Darst-Webbe for low-income white tenants. Missouri public

housing remained racially segregated until 1956.[10]

Design and construction

In 1950, the city commissioned the firm of Leinweber, Yamasaki & Hellmuth to design Pruitt-Igoe, a new complex named for St. Louisans Wendell O. Pruitt, an African-American fighter pilot in World War II, and William L. Igoe, a former U.S. Congressman. Originally, the city planned two partitions: Captain W. O. Pruitt Homes for the black residents, and William L. Igoe Apartments for whites.[11] The site was bound by Cass Avenue on the north. North Jefferson Avenue on the west, Carr Street on the south, and North 20th Street on the east.[6]

The project was designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki who would later design New York's World Trade Center, It was Yamasaki's first large independent job, performed under supervision and constraints imposed by the federal authorities. The initial proposal provided a mix of high-rise, mid-rise and walk-up buildings. It was acceptable to St. Louis authorities, but exceeded the federal cost limits imposed by the PHA; the agency intervened and imposed a uniform building height at 11 floors.^{[6][11]} Shortages of materials caused by the Korean War and tensions in the Congress further tightened PHA controls.^[6]

In 1951, an Architectural Forum article titled "Slum Surgery in St. Louis" praised Yamasaki's original proposal as "the best high apartment" of the year.[12] Overall density was set at a moderate level of 50 units



The Pruitt-Jooe complex was composed of 33 buildings of 11 stories each, located on 57 acres^[5] of the Near North Side of St. Louis, Missouri, The four large branching structures in the foreground were the Vaughan Public Housing Complex (also demolished). Also pictured is the Pruitt School (the four-story building near the center of the photo) and St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, both of which still stand.

appliances.[10] "Skip-stop" elevators stopped only at the first, fourth, seventh, and tenth floors, forcing residents to use stairs in an attempt to lessen congestion. The same "anchor floors" were equipped with large communal corridors, laundry rooms, communal rooms and garbage chutes.[13]

Despite federal cost-cutting regulations, Pruitt-Igoe initially cost \$36 million.^[15] 60% above national average for public housing.^[10] Conservatives attributed cost overruns to inflated unionized labor wages and the steamfitters union influence that led to installation of an expensive heating system;[10] overruns on the beating system caused a chain of arbitrary cost cuts in other vital parts of the building.^[11]

be "an oasis in the desert" compared to the extremely poor quality of housing they had occupied previously, and considered it to be safe. Some referred to the apartments as "poor man's penthouses".[16]

Despite poor build quality, material suppliers cited Pruitt-Igoe in their advertisements, capitalizing on the national exposure of the project.[8]

Decay

housing in the state. In 1957, occupancy of Pruitt-Igoe peaked at 91%, after which it began to decline.[14] Sources differ on how quickly depopulation occurred according to Ramroth, vacancy rose to one-third capacity by 1965;[15] according to Newman, after a

was nearly abandoned and had deteriorated into a destructive".[17]



An observer could see straight through the buildings of Pruitt-Igoe due to the large number of broken windows

Residents cite a lack of maintenance almost from the very beginning, including the regular breakdown of

elevators, as being a primary cause of the deterioration of the project.^[16] Local authorities cited a lack of funding to pay for the workforce necessary for proper upkeep of the buildings.[16] In addition, ventilation was poor, and centralized air conditioning nonexistent.^[10] The stairwells and corridors attracted muggers.^[10] The project's parking and recreation facilities were inadequate; playgrounds were added only after tenants petitioned for their installation.

In 1971, Pruitt-Igoe housed only six hundred people in seventeen buildings; the other sixteen buildings were boarded up.[18] Meanwhile, adjacent Carr Village, a low-rise area with a similar demographic makeup, remained fully occupied and trouble-free throughout the construction, occupancy and decline of Pruitt-Igoe [19]

Despite decay of the public areas and gang violence, Pruitt-Igoe contained isolated pockets of relative wellbeing throughout its worst years. Apartments clustered around small, two-family landings with tenants working to maintain and clear their common areas were often relatively successful. When corridors were

shared by 20 families and staircases by hundreds, public spaces immediately fell into disrepair.^[19] When the number of residents per public space rose above a certain level, none would identify with these "no man's land[s]" - places where it was "impossible to feel ... to tell resident from intruder".[19] The inhabitants of Pruitt-Igoe organized an active tenant association, bringing about community enterprises. One such example was the creation of craft rooms; these rooms allowed the women of the Pruitt-Igoe to congregate, socialize, and create ornaments, quilts, and statues for sale.

Demolition

In 1968, the federal Department of Housing began encouraging the remaining residents to leave Pruitt-Igoe,^[20] In December 1971, state and federal authorities agreed to demolish two of the Pruitt-Igoe building with explosives. They hoped that a gradual reduction in population and building density could improve the

situation; by this time, Pruitt-Igoe had consumed \$57 million, an investment that could not be abandoned at once.[15] Authorities considered different scenarios and techniques to rehabilitate Pruitt-Igoe, including conversion to a low-rise neighborhood by collapsing the towers down to four floors and undertaking a "horizontal" reorganization of their layout [15][21]

After months of preparation, the first building was demolished with an explosive detonation at 3 p.m., on March 16, 1972.^[15] The second one went down April 22, 1972.^[15] After more implosions on July 15, the first stage of demolition was over. As the government scrapped rehabilitation plans, the rest of the Pruittgoe blocks were imploded during the following three years; and the site was finally cleared in 1976 with the demolition of the last block

Today, the Pruitt-Jgoe site is about half-covered by Gateway Middle School and Gateway Elementary School, combined magnet schools based in science and technology, as well as Pruitt Military Academy, a military-themed magnet middle school, All schools are within the St. Louis Public School district. The other half of the Pruitt-Igoe site is made up of oak and hickory woodland. The Pruitt-Igoe electrical substation is located in the center of this area. The former DeSoto-Carr slums around the Pruitt-Igoe have also been torn down and replaced with low-density, single-family housing.

Legacy

Explanations for the failure of Pruitt-Igoe are complex. It is often presented as an architectural failure.^[22] But while it is often claimed to have won an award, it never did. The same architects also designed Cochran Gardens elsewhere in St. Louis, which did; the two projects may have been confused over time.^[2]

Other critics cite social factors including economic decline of St. Louis, white flight into suburbs, lack of tenants who were employed, and politicized local opposition to government housing projects as factors playing a role in the project's decline. Pruitt-Igoe has become a frequently used textbook case in

architecture, sociology and politics, "a truism of the environment and behavior literature".[23] A noted study of the families who lived in the complex was published in book form in 1970 by Harvard sociologist Lee Rainwater, titled Behind Ghetto Walls: Black Families in a Federal Slum

Controversy over the project remains, based mostly on racial and social-class perspectives. Housing projects of similar architectural design were successful in New York, but St. Louis's fragmented political culture and declining urban core contributed to the project's failure. This was elaborated upon in the Harvard University study on public housing in American cities, and in reports by actual residents. During the Nixon dministration. Pruitt-Igoe was widely publicized as a failure of government involvement in urban renewal and the destruction of the buildings was dramatized in the media to show the American public that government intervention in social problems only leads to waste, and to justify cutbacks on social and economic "equalization" programs. Wealthy St. Louisans had also objected strongly to the artificial racial integration, and the resulting decrease in property values.

The Pruitt-Igoe housing project was one of the first demolitions of modernist architecture; postmodern architectural historian Charles Jencks called its destruction "the day Modern architecture died." [14][24] Its failure is often seen as a direct indictment of the society-changing aspirations of the International school of architecture. Jencks used Pruitt-Igoe as an example of modernists' intentions running contrary to real-world

social development, [25] though others argue that location, population density, cost constraints, and even specific number of floors were imposed by the federal and state authorities and therefore the failure of the project cannot be attributed entirely to architectural factors.[26]

Footage of the demolition of Pruitt-Igoe was notably incorporated into the film Kovaanisaatsi,^[14]

Gallerv



Overview

Artist's conception of Pruitt-Igoe communal



Carr Square, across the street from Pruitt-

See also

Coordinates: 38°38'32.24"N 90°12'33.95"W

the largest in the country.[10] The apartments were deliberately small, with undersized kitcher

Nevertheless, Pruitt-Igoe was initially seen as a breakthrough in urban renewal.^[8] Residents considered it to

A 1956 Missouri court decision desegregated public certain point occupancy never rose above 60%.[13] All

authors agree that by the end of the 1960s, Pruitt-Igoe decaving, dangerous, crime-infested neighborhood; its architect lamented: "I never thought people were that



As completed in 1955, Pruitt-Igoe consisted of 33 11-story apartment buildings on a 57-acre (23 ha) site.^[14] on St. Louis's lower north side. The complex totaled 2.870 apartments, one of

per acre (higher than in downtown slums^[6]). yet, according to the planning principles of Le orbusier and the International Congresses of Modern Architects, residents were raised up to 1 floors above ground in an attempt to save the rounds and ground floor space for communal activity.[13] Architectural Forum praised the lavout as "vertical neighborhoods for poor

eople".[8] Each row of buildings was supposed to be flanked by a "river of trees",[13] developing a Harland Bartholomew concept.[11

- Cabrini–Green, in Chicago, USA
- Robert Taylor Homes, in Chicago, USA
- Glenny Drive Apartments, in Buffalo, New York, USA Regent Park in Toronto Canada
- St. James Town, in Toronto, Canada
- Lees Avenue, in Ottawa, Canada
 Habitations Jeanne-Mance, in Montreal, Canada
- Ballymun Flats, in Dublin, Ireland
- Roundshaw Estate, Wallington, Sutton, Surrey Red Road Flats, in Glasgow, Scotland
- Avlesbury Estate, in London, England
- Robin Hood Gardens, in Poplar, London, England
- Bijlmermeer, in Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Conjunto Urbano Nonoalco Tlatelolco, in Ciudad de Mexico. Mexico.
- Cidade de Deus, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Panel house, in various former communist countrie Cité Radieuse and Ville Contemporaine (in French) – Le Corbusier's modernist scheme for urban
- Father Panik Village in Bridgeport, Connecticut
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External links

 Pruitt-Igoe Photographs collections (http://tirhino1.umsl.edu/whmc/view.php? description_get=Pruitt+Igoe) at the University of Missouri-St.

Wikimedia Commons has media related to Pruitt-Igoe.

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pruitt-Igoe&oldid=655416104"

Categories: History of St. Louis, Missouri | Public housing in St. Louis, Missouri Residential buildings completed in 1955 Buildings and structures demolished in 1972 Demolished buildings and structures in Missouri | Public housing in the United States Urban decay in the United States

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they got Wrohe



"Here and the second se

* **"beautiful"** is what Jimmy Cagney said to Pat O'Brien after O'Brien cold cocked him in the ring.

*The Irish Are Us, 1935 Warner Bros.