

27 March 1984

From Victor Pasmore to Gary Philipson Peterlee Development Corporation

Dear Gary

Many thanks for your letter of March 21st and information about the Easington Council's decision in respect to the Pavilion. The closing of the steps and upper storey to public access was in fact also my suggestion, but the 'Gardens of Babylon' on the roof completely outshines my imagination. However, the irony is that this romantic idea, whether corny or not, does maintain the intended function of the Pavilion – to provide an aesthetic centre to the housing environment around the lake and nearby; so I have no option but to accept.

But what worries me much more is the added intention to “close up the relevant gaps and render them to match the remainder of the structure”. Without clarification as to what this will mean precisely I must object in advance to what could amount to vandalism worse than anything hooligans can do in the form of graffiti. Planting flowers and shrubs, etc., on the top will certainly camouflage the architecture for those who dislike it, but they are removable; closing the spatial gaps, on the other hand, will destroy it altogether and cause irreparable damage. Unless Councillor Joan Maslin succeeds in blowing it up the Pavilion will outlive the present District Council a very long time, so perhaps allowance should be made for future generations who may wish to retrieve the original.

The spatial gaps are an essential feature of the Pavilion's architecture. The sculpture was designed to form a semi-transparent bridge over the lake which people can see through; but close the spatial gaps and it will become a solid concrete blockade.

Yes, certainly I would be grateful if you will pass on what I have said here to the District Council.

So very nice to hear from you again and I hope we will be able to meet again before too long. Meanwhile

Regards

Victor