

Karina Nimmerfall

Indirect Interviews with Women

Edition Camera Austria

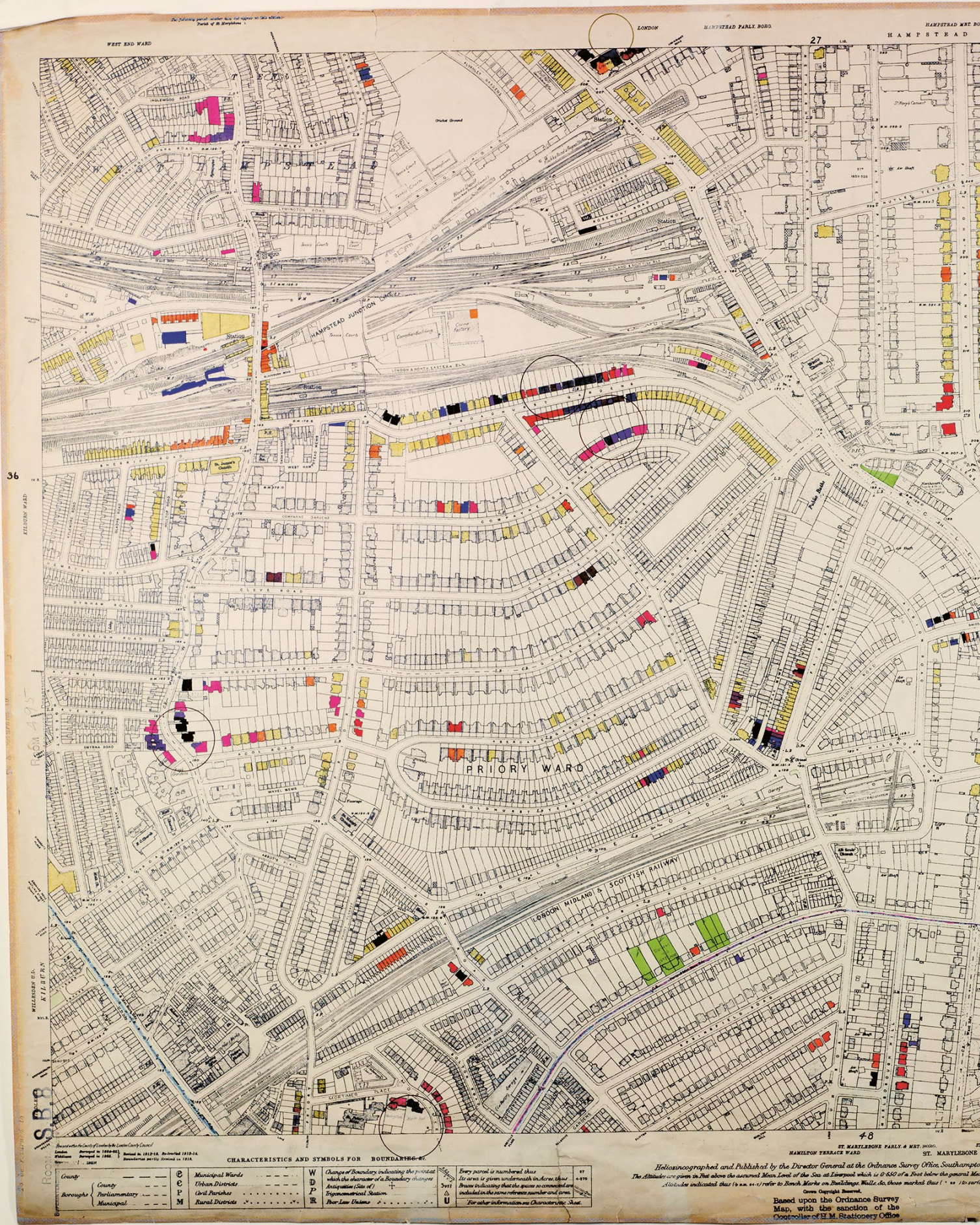
For her project “Indirect Interviews with Women,” Karina Nimmerfall researched material from the Mass Observation Archive at the University of Sussex and selected interviews conducted in 1941 — during the period of the London bombings — with women about their respective living situation, their wishes and hopes for the time after the war. She juxtaposes these — edited — interviews with present-day photographs captured in the same neighborhoods where the interviews had been held. Employing different indices — language and image — past visions of a future are contrasted with this very future, which can now hardly be associated with the words. Inasmuch as the project is based on extensive research, it essentially involves a precisely calculated gap. The assemblages in “Indirect Interviews with Women” are not occupied with explaining; they span time and space as contradictions, as a collision, as a conflict that cannot be resolved. Citing Bertolt Brecht, one could say that the effect of Nimmerfall’s work, like that of any assemblage, rests in submerging the message that it supposedly conveys in crisis. But which (or whose) crisis does this imply?

Für ihr Projekt »Indirect Interviews with Women« hat Karina Nimmerfall im Mass Observation Archive der Universität Sussex recherchiert und Interviews ausgewählt, die im Jahr 1941 – während der Bombardierung Londons – mit Frauen über deren Lebenssituation, ihre Wünsche und Hoffnungen für die Zeit nach dem Krieg geführt wurden. Diesen – redigierten – Interviews stellt sie Fotografien gegenüber, die in jenen Stadtteilen aufgenommen wurden, in denen auch die Interviews stattfanden. In unterschiedlichen Registern – Sprache und Bild – werden vergangene Zukunftsvorstellungen einer Gegenwart gegenübergestellt, die sich kaum aus jenen ableiten lässt. Sosehr das Projekt auf einer umfangreichen Recherche beruht, besteht es im Wesentlichen aus einer wohlkalkulierten Leerstelle. Die Montagen in »Indirect Interviews with Women« erklären nicht, sie spannen Zeit und Raum als Widersprüche auf, als eine Kollision, als einen Konflikt, der nicht aufgelöst werden kann. Mit Bertolt Brecht könnte man davon sprechen, dass die Wirkung Nimmerfalls Arbeit, wie die jeder Montage, darin besteht, die Botschaft, die sie vermeintlich transportiert, in eine Krise zu stürzen. Um welche, um wessen Krise aber handelt es sich?

Indirect Interviews with Women

Karina Nimmerfall

Indirect Interviews with Women



36
WEST END WARD

36
HAMPSTEAD WARD

36
PRIORY WARD

36
HAMPSTEAD WARD

CHARACTERISTICS AND SYMBOLS FOR BOUNDARIES			
County	City	Urban District	Rural District
Parliamentary	City	Urban District	Rural District
Municipal	City	Urban District	Rural District
County	City	Urban District	Rural District
Parliamentary	City	Urban District	Rural District
Municipal	City	Urban District	Rural District

Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map, with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

A. Old Houses, Streatham





Streatham
12.3.41

Semi-detached house, fairly large suburban type.

F 45 B

I. General Attitude

A. Political

Orthodox, expect for minor points of criticism

B. Domestic

House very well kept – furniture etc. all polished.

Owms house. Keeps maid.

Inv. "Do you like housework?"

F 45 "No, I hate sight of it." (laughs)

Inv. "Do you think you will be doing any spring-cleaning this year or not?"

F 45 "Well, now that the sun's shining, I feel I'd better."

Inv. "But you aren't looking forward to it with any enthusiasm?"

F 45 "Goodness gracious, I should think not." (laughs)

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Inv. "Would you rather have a house that you could run yourself, or have domestic help?"

F 45 "Oh, domestic help every time."

III. Attitude to Present Home

Inv. "How long have you lived here?"

F 45 "Eleven years"

Inv. "Do you like it?"

F 45 "I like it very much. I love the front elevation."

Inv. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Inv. "What are the things you would look for, in choosing a house?"

F 45 "I would choose one with a south aspect—back or front, I don't mind which—and one fairly easy to run."

Inv. Of all the houses that you have lived in, which did you like best?

F 45 "This one. Where we are now."

IV. Attitude to After the War

A. Personal

Inv. "Would you like to live in the town or the country, if you could choose?"

F 45 "I prefer the suburbs, I wouldn't like town in the winter."

Inv. "What sort of house would you like best to live in?"

F 45 "Well, I like this one. What I mind most really is the garden. I'm terribly keen on gardening—flowers, vegetables, everything."

Inv. "Would you rather own or rent your home?"

F 45 "Well, I never regretted buying this house. On the other hand, I wouldn't know what to do with it, if we had to leave. But I'm very fond of my home, you know. I go out to other people's houses—you know, visiting—and some of them I admire, and I think they are very lovely. But I'm always pleased to get back to my own, you know. I'm very, very fond of my home."

B. General

Inv. "Have you any ideas about how our towns should be rebuilt after the war?"

F 45 "I wouldn't have these modern buildings. I think the old buildings are lovely—Westminster Bridge and the houses of Parliament. It is a shame to spoil them with modern surroundings... I think the Suntrap Houses are also nice."

K N 12.10.2016 12:35

Comment [1]: Inv. C.F.

K N 12.10.2016 12:36

Comment [2]: Transcript:

SxMOA1/2/1/2/F

Indirect interviews with women,

February 1941

K N 2.9.2016 18:16

Moved (insertion) [1]

K N 13.10.2016 12:02

Comment [3]: Missing: Information

about subject

K N 2.9.2016 18:16

Moved up [1]: Semidetached house,

fairly large suburban type, very well

kept – furniture etc. all polishedOwms

house. Keeps maid.

K N 12.10.2016 12:36

Comment [4]: redacted

K N 13.10.2016 10:18

Comment [5]: Missing: II. Background

of Subject

K N 2.9.2016 18:39

Comment [6]: If bombed out, then the

one recently lost

K N 13.10.2016 10:18

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K N 12.10.2016 12:36

Comment [7]: redacted

BJL 12.10.2016 15:32

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BJL 12.10.2016 15:33

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Comment [8]: redacted

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K N 12.10.2016 17:53

Comment [9]:
How do you think England should be

rebuilt after the war? (Press for

suggestions and ideas)

K N 12.10.2016 12:36

Comment [10]: redacted

BJL 12.10.2016 15:37

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K N 12.10.2016 17:55

Comment [11]: Missing: V. Attitude to

Bombing



A. Old Houses, Notting Hill





Uxbridge Street
19.1.41

Terrace house; three floors; basement living accommodation. Close to slightly-damaged Coronet Cinema, Notting Hill Gate.

F 40 C

C

1. **Inv.** "How many people live in this house, or your part of it, if it isn't all yours?"
F 40 "Well, I've got two here. Three with myself—and the baby as well. It's all mine."
2. **Inv.** "How many rooms have you got?"
F 40 "Six"
3. **Inv.** "Do you own this house?"
F 40 "No."
Inv. "What do you think of your landlord?"
F 40 "Well, take him on the whole, he's not bad under the conditions."
4. **Inv.** "After the war is over would you rather live in a flat or a house, if you had the choice?"
F 40 "Oh, a house, of course. But it all depends if that meant in London or out of London."
5. **Inv.** "Have you heard of the ideas of having communal kitchens in blocks of flats?"
F 40 "No."
Inv. (explains the idea) "What do you think of the idea?"
F 40 "Well, I shouldn't think it was a bad idea, really. It all depends what class of folks you get—whether they'd agree to it or not."
6. **Inv.** "What is your chief objection to the place you live in now?"
F 40 "Well, there's only this fire (a big old-fashioned metal range). It burns such a lot of coal and gives out no heat. And there's no bathroom—that's the main thing, I suppose. And we could easily have one."
7. **Inv.** "Do you think the government should try to plan the way houses are rebuilt after the war or should they leave it to the people who rebuild the houses?"
F 40 "No. I should imagine the government have got better ideas."
8. **Inv.** "If the government do try to plan the way the houses are rebuilt, do you think they will make a success of it or not?"
F 40 "Well, it's hard to say, really, isn't it? If the landlords build them in this old style again, it's not worth it, is it? They've got to be modernised."
9. **Inv.** "If you had your choice, what changes would you make in the sort of place you live in after the war is over?"
F 40 "I should like to live just outside London—not exactly in London."
10. **Inv.** "How far do you think your wishes about this will be satisfied?"
F 40 "Don't know what to say to that."

Lena 2.4.2017 21:59
Comment [1]: IMG 1129
K N 4.4.2017 12:29
Deleted: G.H. 19.1.41W.S .
K N 10.4.2017 18:06
Comment [2]: Transcript: SxMOA/1/2/1/2/G Assorted preliminary interviews, January – February 1941
K N 4.4.2017 12:38
Comment [3]: Missing: Housing Questionnaire sections A1-8 and B 1-5
K N 4.4.2017 18:24
Comment [4]: Missing: Description of subject
K N 8.4.2017 14:34
Comment [5]: IMG 1134
K N 4.4.2017 12:43
Comment [6]: Missing: 3.b) Are you glad or sorry you own it?
K N 2.4.2017 22:02
Deleted: 3a
K N 2.4.2017 22:03
Deleted: b –
K N 2.4.2017 22:03
Deleted: c
K N 2.4.2017 22:06
Deleted: 5a
BJL 8.4.2017 15:31
Deleted: (Inv explains idea)
K N 2.4.2017 22:07
Deleted: b
BJL 8.4.2017 15:32
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BJL 8.4.2017 15:32
Deleted: G
BJL 8.4.2017 15:33
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BJL 8.4.2017 15:33
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BJL 8.4.2017 15:33
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K N 8.4.2017 14:17
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PAGES 28-33 ARE NOT SHOWN

A. Old Houses, Kilburn



Jverson Road

29.3.41

Three rooms and kitchen. No bathroom. Lavatory outside in the yard.

Ground floor, very dark, windows all opening onto a blank wall next door. Rooms all built running into one another.

F 50 C

C

1. Inv. "What made you choose this rather than any other house in the district?"
F 50 "My son lives here really. It's his house, and when his wife and the little girl were evacuated, I came to look after him. He had to have somebody."
Inv. "What do you think are the most important things to look for, when choosing a house?"
F 50 "A place to cook, hot water, and a bath. Those are the three essentials."

2. Inv. "Do you like this house?"
F 50 "I don't like it at all."
Inv. "What are the things you dislike about it?"
F 50 "It's all cockeyed. (laughs) It's dark. There is no hot water, no bathroom. The rooms are all wrong. The front room is too large, and the back room is too small. There are no cupboards, and the kitchen is looking out on to the back, in the wrong place."
Inv. "What kind of house would you really like to live in, if you could choose?"
F 50 "I would like a house and a little garden. Just a little house, with a front room, a kitchen, and a couple of bedrooms. And the garden. There is nothing like a garden, I think, don't you? One is nearer to God in a garden than anywhere else on earth. What I would really like, of course, would be a small farm in the country, where I could just keep to myself and have a few friends. One feels, I think, that one wants to produce something from the ground. There is nothing like it—to produce something from the ground, to give delight to others. When my children were young, I always used to encourage them to grow things in pots, in window boxes, wherever they could. It gives them a feeling for growing things."

3. Inv. "Would you rather live in a house or a flat?"
F 50 "A house."

4. Inv. "Would you rather own or rent your home?"
F 50 "Well, what is the use of owning a house at my age? I'm sorry I didn't when I first got married. My husband wanted to, but I rather put him off it."

5. Inv. "Do you like this neighbourhood?"
F 50 "No. Well, it's not bad in many ways."
Inv. "What are the things you like about it?"
F 50 "Hampstead is very healthy."
Inv. "What are the things you dislike about it?"
F 50 "I would rather be in the country. I don't understand the London people. They say they don't like the country in the winter. Rain. Snow. They don't understand. the country is beautiful in any weather. People here want to go next door to do their shopping, next door to the cinema. I'm not like that."

6. Inv. "How do you feel about housework?"
F 50 "I like it."
Inv. "Which parts do you like best?"
F 50 "Running things in general."

7. Inv. "Do you find this an easy or difficult house to run?"
F 50 "Very difficult."
Inv. "What do you find particularly difficult about it?"
F 50 "Well, it goes straight back. If you want to have tea in the front room, say, you have to carry everything all the way, from the back. So much walking. Oh, and the collar. The sink for the collar is so shallow that when you turn the tap on, it all flies up and drowns you."
Inv. "What kind of house do you think is easiest to run?"
F 50 "A nice, compact little house, with everything close together."

8. Inv. "How do you feel about your kitchen?"
F 50 "I don't like it at all. I don't like the stove. The stooping to the stove upsets me. I don't like the window, and it's all so dark, and there is a step down to the pantry and the scullery."

Lena 12.10.2016 17:29
Comment [1]: IMG_1080
K N 10.12.2017 17:30
Comment [2]: # redacted
K N 10.12.2017 18:13
Comment [3]: Transcript: SxMOA1/2/1/2/C Interviews in Stepney and Kilburn
K N 10.12.2017 18:03
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K N 30.12.2017 12:21
Moved down [1]: F 50 C .
K N 14.1.2018 20:45
Comment [4]: Deleted: Housing Questionnaire section A – B.
K N 30.12.2017 12:22
Deleted: B .
K N 10.12.2017 17:33
Comment [5]: 4. General description of house and family. 5. General description of kitchen
K N 10.12.2017 18:04
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K N 30.12.2017 12:21
Moved (insertion) [1]
BJL 20.12.2017 19:45
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BJL 7.1.2018 11:52
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BJL 7.1.2018 11:53
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K N 10.12.2017 17:40
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BJL 20.12.2017 19:51
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K N 10.12.2017 17:48
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..... C.F. .
Lena 10.12.2017 17:29
Comment [6]: IMG_1082
K N 10.12.2017 17:49
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BJL 7.1.2018 11:55
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BJL 20.12.2017 19:53
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Inv. "What kind of kitchen would you really like to have?"
F 50 "A nice stove, high enough to work at comfortably. Plenty of light. Plenty of hot water."

9. Inv. "Do you go out to work?"
F 50 "No."

10. Inv. "Have you any ideas about our how our towns and houses should be rebuilt, after the war?"
F 50 "I think all the slums should be done away. Everything rickety and detrimental should be done away. I think they should make the chance for children and invalids to all be outside of London. No one else is really well in London. They could do it. There are ways and means. And they should build the houses with more thought for the housewife."

12. Inv. "What do you think Kilburn will be like, after the war, as far as money is concerned?"
F 50 "Oh, I hope I shan't be stuck in Kilburn as long as that."

K N 10.12.2017 17:55
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BJL 20.12.2017 19:54
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K N 30.12.2017 19:36
Comment [7]: Missing: Question #11



Iverson Road
26.2.41

F 35 D
Husband employed as shoe-mender's assistant. 4 children, ages 3 – 10. Two eldest boys evacuated.

I. General Attitude

A. Political

Rather vaguely, anti-government – “They don’t bother about the working class” sort of attitude. Not crystallised at all, does not belong to any political party. Belongs to Tenant’s Defence League.

B. Domestic

Inv. “Do you enjoy house work?”
F 35 “Oh yes, I’m very fond of it, I always have been.”
Inv. “You like to do it all yourself, even if you could get anyone else to help?”
F 35 “Oh yes, much rather.”
Inv. “Cooking? Do you like that?”
F 35 “Oh yes, I like all of it.”
Inv. “Are you going to do any spring cleaning this year, or aren’t you going to bother?”
F 35 “Well, I’ve been away six months, I haven’t been back long. No, I don’t think I’ll bother. We can’t get any repairs done. The landlord won’t do a thing. (F 35 shows Inv. some peeling wall-paper, and dampness coming through the ceiling, etc. “Takes the heart out of you doesn’t it? What’s the use bothering with cleaning, with all the boards and the paper like that. You don’t have no heart for it.”)
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

III. Attitude to Present Home

Inv. “How long have you lived here?”
F 35 “Five years.”
Inv. “How do you like it?”
F 35 “Well, we can’t get no repairs done. Our landlord is the meanest devil. He’s a Jew. All he’s done, just the paint work, just what he had to do by law, and he didn’t do that until we were all onto him.
Inv. “What things do you like about it?”
F 35 “Well, it’s a good busy place, round here. I like a busy place. I don’t care to be too quiet.

IV. Attitude to After the War

A. Personal

Inv. “Where would you like to live, if you could choose?”
F 35 “I’d like to have a little place of my own, just a little place – nothing posh. I’d like to have a nice little kitchen to live in, with a scullery next to it, and two bedrooms, two nice little bedrooms. And a garden for the children. That’s what I’d like. They came round just before the war got bad, about the Queensbury Estate, they were going to find us a little place out there. They took all the particulars and everything. But we’ve heard nothing more about it. I was ever so disappointed. A little house of our own out there, with a garden. I suppose it was the war getting bad.
Inv. “How would you like to live in one of those blocks of flats where they have communal meals and kitchens and so on?”
F 35 “No, I wouldn’t like that. I wouldn’t like no kind of flats, it’s not healthy for children. There’s the woman upstairs, five little kiddies, and never a breath of air all day they get. There’s nowhere for them to go out, you see. No, I don’t think flats are nice. I don’t think it’s healthy to have the lavatory indoors. All these places here have the lavatory indoors.

B. General

F 35 “I think they ought to build houses for the working people. Little houses, not this flat business. People with small children ought to come first.

- Lena 12.10.2016 17:21
Comment [1]: IMG_0698
K N 12.10.2016 12:21
Comment [2]: Transcript:
SxMOA1/2/1/2/F
Indirect interviews with women
February 1941
K N 13.10.2016 10:21
Deleted: C.F.26.2.41 .
K N 13.10.2016 12:03
Comment [3]: Missing: Obs. of house

K N 12.10.2016 12:29
Comment [4]: Talk about war and the news for this

BJL 12.10.2016 15:19
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K N 11.10.2016 17:03
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BJL 12.10.2016 15:20
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K N 12.10.2016 18:01
Comment [5]: Missing: II. Background of Subject
K N 12.10.2016 17:21
Comment [6]: redacted
K N 12.10.2016 12:18
Comment [7]: If bombed out, then the one recently lost
BJL 12.10.2016 15:21
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K N 12.10.2016 17:23
Comment [8]: IMG_0699
BJL 12.10.2016 15:22
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K N 11.10.2016 16:58
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BJL 12.10.2016 15:23
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BJL 12.10.2016 15:25
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BJL 12.10.2016 15:25
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K N 12.10.2016 12:19
Comment [9]: How do you think England should be rebuilt after the war? (Press for suggestions and ideas)
K N 11.10.2016 17:00
Deleted: [1]
K N 12.10.2016 17:56
Comment [10]: Missing: V. Attitude to Bombing

PAGES 38-94 ARE NOT SHOWN



B. Garden Cities, Letchworth

PAGES 95-96 ARE NOT SHOWN



Letchworth

12.5.42

Two-bedroom house with a small front, and a medium-sized back garden. Both are well-kept. There is a bathroom in the house, which is not in the kitchen, as in so many Letchworth houses.

F 70 C

Cheery, sweet old lady, nicely dressed. She lives alone—with her sister—on a pension. She has been living in the house for more than twenty years. The house reflects her personality, and has a pleasant, bright interior, with flowers.

1. Inv. "Do you like this house?"

F 70 "Yes, I do. It is so compact, and just suitable for my sister and me. I can think of no sort of house that I would prefer to live in, other than my present one."

Inv. "What are the things you like about it?"

F 70 "I like the kitchen. It suits our small family. The two windows are very pleasant. It's our living room."

Inv. "What are the things you dislike about it?"

F 70 "The only trouble is that there is no proper scullery, only a corner of the kitchen. The working-classes like children to wash in the scullery, but it's not nice when it's in your dining room."

Inv. "Can you think of any alterations that would make you like it better?"

F 70 "It would be nice to have a seperate scullery to keep the gas stove, and sink in."

Inv. "What kind of house would you really like to live in, if you could choose?"

F 70 "I can think of no sort of house that she and I would prefer to live in other than my present one."

Inv. "What kind of garden would you like to have?"

F 70 "I am a garden-lover, and we take great pride in ours."

2. Inv. "Do you like this neighbourhood?"

F 70 "I like the neighbourhood very much. Letchworth is a charming district, and I especially like its sociability. I belong to the mission, and I know everybody. They are very friendly people. I wouldn't live in any other town I know."

3. Inv. "Would you rather own or rent your home?"

F 70 "I have never wanted to own. We have an ideal agent who does everything we ask for."

K N 10.4.2017 14:03

Comment [1]: Transcript: SxMOA1/2/1/7/A
Typed drafts of People's Homes

K N 8.4.2017 11:33

Comment [2]: Date

Julia 12.10.2017 13:19

Comment [3]: IMG_0871

K N 31.12.2017 13:19

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BJL 3.1.2018 13:53

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K N 15.1.2018 13:31

Comment [4]: See sections: A – G Housing Questionnaire (Autumn 1941)

K N 31.12.2017 13:00

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K N 31.12.2017 13:20

Comment [5]: Name and address redacted

BJL 3.1.2018 14:09

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K N 13.11.2017 18:14

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BJL 3.1.2018 14:10

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K N 31.12.2017 13:10

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K N 31.12.2017 13:11

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K N 31.12.2017 13:15

Deleted: she herself was thoroughly content, living in an ideal neighbourhood in an ideal house for working-class people like herself.

K N 15.1.2018 13:58

Comment [6]: Excerpt from Housing Questionnaire





C. Municipal Housing Estates, Roehampton



Roehampton
XX.XX.42

Small houses, with either two or three bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen-scully, and one or two living rooms. A small number are maisonettes, with only two rooms, and the bath in the kitchen. The houses are generally in blocks of four, eight, or twelve, with semi-detached dwellings and longer blocks. The cottages are (with few exeptions) two-storey, red-brick with dark xxxxxxxxxx grey slate roofs; stucco-roofs; or in a few cases, cream-washed over brick with dark grey slate roofs.

The front gardens vary, in size, but are large and usually laid with flower-beds, though a small number are now being used for growing vegetables. A few houses have, virtually no front garden, except for a narrow flower-bed, but in these cases there is a shared grass-verge between the fronts of the houses and the pavement.

F 50 D

C
13. Inv. "Do you or your family ever have any transport difficulties here?"
F 50 "My husband has to walk to Putney, because he has to catch the first train at 5.11 a.m. and the buses here don't start until 7 a.m. On bank holidays, he has to walk the whole way to Walham Green. The bus service is terrible here. It's all right to walk to Putney, but to carry my shopping back is difficult. But I'd sooner carry my shopping back than live in Fulham again."

Julia 12.10.2017 13:11

Comment [1]: IMG_0852

KN 18.1.2018 17:30

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KN 18.1.2018 17:17

Comment [2]: Transcript: SxMOA1/2/17/A

Typed drafts of People's Homes

BJL 15.1.2018 13:26

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KN 3.1.2018 17:36

Comment [3]: Date ?

KN 9.1.2018 13:10

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BJL 15.1.2018 14:45

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KN 9.1.2018 13:15

Comment [4]: IMG_0853

KN 9.1.2018 13:18

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BJL 11.1.2018 12:35

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KN 9.1.2018 13:11

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Julia 12.10.2017 17:36

Comment [5]: IMG_0854

BJL 11.1.2018 12:37

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KN 9.1.2018 13:11

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KN 9.1.2018 13:13

Comment [6]: Excerpt of interview based on Housing Questionnaire Section C

KN 9.1.2018 13:14

Deleted: "88. One of the most grievances of at Roehampton --- was the inadequacy of the transport services

KN 18.1.2018 17:24

Deleted: This was largely due to the fact that shopping facilities were said to be poor – only about a dozen shops now serve the whole estate – so that many housewives had to go into Hammersmith for their weekly shopping, Putney being considered too expensive. Before the war there were two bus services running the whole lengh of the estate: .



Roehampton

xx.xx.42

The Roehampton estate is the eighth largest of the L.C.C.'s sixteen inter-war cottage estates. Erected between 1921 and 1927, it occupies the site of the former Putney Park, lying up against Richmond Park. With three other large open spaces (Barnes Common, Putney Heath, Wimbledon Common) nearby, it is quite the most pleasantly situated of all the L.C.C. estates. The fact that its site was formerly a park and not farmland, gives it a park-like rather than rural atmosphere, with more trees and greenery than at either of the other estates.

F 60 C

10. Inv. "Have you any suggestions as to how our towns and houses should be rebuilt, after the war?"
F 60 "The new houses should be as labour-saving as possible. I advocate all-electric, and I would like interior-decoration materials that will wash down. This distemper comes off all over my hand, if I touch it. They don't put any size on it. I have painted around here (points near the sink) myself. I would have had stuff you can wash down yourself, and I would have had tiles halfway up the walls, and varnish up above that, in the scullery (where you have to be, everlastingly). And in the bathroom, I would like it tiled and varnished. We have it papered and varnished at present. I had that done myself, because when the war started, the council wouldn't do it. And I'd have chromium taps (one spot of wet and they're dull again), or stainless steel, like we put in ourselves."

K N 18.1.2018 17:33

Comment [1]: Deleted: 85. 9.

BJL 15.1.2018 14:47

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K N 3.1.2018 16:37

Comment [2]: Deleted: Date

K N 9.12.2017 12:15

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K N 18.1.2018 17:36

Comment [3]: IMG_0852

K N 18.1.2018 17:38

Deleted: The area of the Roehampton estate is 147 acres, and on it 5,203 people live in 1,211 houses with 4,744 rooms. This made it possible to cover the whole estates on the every-eleventh-house, interviews being made in all the main streets and practically all the closes, 17 streets in all: Crestwas, Henty Rd., Putney Park Lane, Doverhouse Rd., Hobbes Walk, Sunnymead Rd., Elmahaw Rd., Huntingfield Rd., Swinburne Rd., Gibbons Walk, Lysons Walk, The Pleasence, Greenstead Gardens, Parkstead Rd., Torwood Rd., Hawkesbury Rd, Pleasance Rd.

Julia 13.11.2017 19:04

Comment [4]: IMG_0951

K N 18.1.2018 17:38

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K N 3.1.2018 16:39

Comment [5]: Excerpt of interview based on Housing Questionnaire Section C.

K N 13.11.2017 19:00

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BJL 11.1.2018 13:09

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K N 18.1.2018 17:25

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BJL 15.1.2018 14:49

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K N 3.1.2018 16:22

Comment [6]: Transcript: SxMOA1/2/1/7/A Typed Drafts of People's Homes

K N 3.1.2018 16:44

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BJL 11.1.2018 13:16

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D. Flats, Fulham





Fulham Flats
XX.11.41

The colony of flats studied in Fulham was Fulham Court, just off Fulham Road, between Walham Green and Parsons Green. There are 369 flats in seven blocks. They belong to the Fulham Borough Council, and were built around 1932.

The flats are built of yellow brick, in seven large, austere-looking five-storey blocks. There are no lifts, and access to the three upper floors is by means of dark and narrow staircases at either end, and in the centre, of each block. On each floor, an iron balcony leads from the stairway to the front doors of about eight flats. The top storey consists of a mansard roof with one or two bedrooms for the third-floor flats.

A central road through the flats is planted with an avenue of small trees. The blocks are separated by asphalted playgrounds, where numerous children play to the accompaniment of considerable noise.

F 40 D

C

2. Inv. "Do you like this neighbourhood?"

F 40. "It's not so bad here now. We all get on, but I was moved out of rooms into Wyfold Road flats. Well, after a week I wanted to go back to my rooms, I did, honest, though I hated them really, paying 15s. 3d. for two rooms, and sharing the convenience with three other families... disgusting. But the people in the flats above me and next door! The language was awful, and the noise. They were, a rough lot, those people. I try to bring my children up respectable, but all the others there used to throw stones at them, because they wouldn't use that awfull language and didn't want to play their dirty games."

"I asked the superintendent to move me to another flat, and he did, but he said, 'You go where you're put and think yourself lucky'. They've no thought for putting good tenants together. Those new flats in the Fulham Palace Road, they've awful people, too. Why couldn't we have these, and dirty bad tenants come here? They spoil the neighbourhood for others. People up there xxxxxxxxxx own their houses. There are, two nice old ladies with their own house just by these flats, and they're always giving sweets and things to the kids, they're ever so nice to them, but these kinds are disgusting, they go doing their business down the steps of that house. It's filthy, doing their business on the doorsteps of nice houses."

K N 18.1.2018 16:21

Comment [1]: Inv. C.F.

K N 18.1.2018 16:36

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K N 18.1.2018 16:23

Comment [2]: Transcript: SxMOA1/2/1/7/A
Typed drafts of People's Homes

K N 18.1.2018 16:37

Comment [3]: For a description of the district, see under Fulham Houses (supra. pp. 41-47).

K N 30.10.2017 18:28

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BJL 10.1.2018 13:48

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BJL 10.1.2018 13:49

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Julia 13.11.2017 19:09

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K N 18.1.2018 16:28

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K N 18.1.2018 16:26

Deleted: , a feature which is much complained of (61% of the families interviewed had children):

K N 3.1.2018 13:44

Comment [5]: Excerpt of interview based on Housing Questionnaire Section C:

Julia 13.11.2017 19:09

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BJL 10.1.2018 13:54

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D. Flats, Kentish Town



York Rise,
26.2.41

F 30 B
Married, no children. Husband away on war work; works as a secretary.

I. General Attitude
A. Political
Progressive, slightly anti-government. Takes good deal of interest in affairs.
B. Domestic
Inv. "Do you like housework?"
F 30 "Not much; I'd rather have someone else to do it. I like cooking better than the rest. If I had to do one thing and not another, I would choose the cooking. I dislike washing up, the most. No, I can't say I'm a person who enjoys housework. I'd always rather tie up and count the laundry than do it myself. There are so many things I'd rather do. Really, I can't imagine myself doing anything that I needn't."
Inv. "Are you going to do anything about spring-cleaning this year?"
F 30 "No, I haven't been here long enough for it to be worth while."

II. Background of Subject
Inv. "What other places have you lived in besides this one?"
F 30 "Well, until the war, we lived in Holborn, a block of flats. Before I was married, I used to live in digs. But my real home is in South Africa. I lived there until I was twenty."
Inv. "Of all the places that you have lived in, which did you like the best?"
F 30 "Well, that's difficult to answer. I depend more on the person I am with than the material things. I liked the Holborn flat the most, because my husband was there. Otherwise it wasn't nearly as convenient as this."

III. Attitude to Present Home
Inv. "How long have you lived here?"
F 30 "Just two months."
Inv. "What made you choose to come here, rather than anywhere else?"
F 30 "The fact that there is very little bombing, and the convenient way the flats are built."
Inv. "What are the main things you find convenient about them?"
F 30 "Constant hot water. Cupboards from the kitchen into the passage outside, so that coal, milk, and the rest can be delivered without me having to be in. Attractive sunny rooms, the rooms on the premises."
Inv. "Is there anything you don't like about it?"
F 30 "Well, I'd rather be on my own, in a way. But all the conveniences are due to it being a block of flats; you can't have it both ways."
Inv. "Anything else you don't like?"
F 30 "The inside furnishings are poor. If we were disturbed by the neighbours, I wouldn't like that. But as a matter of fact, we aren't. We never hear them. No, I don't dislike it. I never thought of disliking the place where I lived." (laughs)

IV. Attitude to After the War
A. Personal
Inv. "Where would you like to live if you could choose, after the war?"
F 30 "I'd like to get a small house, with a garden—that's not because I like gardens, but we want to have children after the war, and it wouldn't do, not to have a garden for them."
Inv. "What do you think are the most important things about a house?"
F 30 "Well, for us, it must be somewhere where there is an efficient service to town."
Inv. "And the house itself?"
F 30 "Well, it must have light, large windows, and convenient cupboards. Fair sized rooms, so that you can have sofas and a dining room table, and so on, without being crowded out. And a short distance between the kitchen and dining room—preferably a hatch. I think a bungalow is nicer than two storeys, but if not, the stairs mustn't be too narrow."
B. General
F 30 I would very strongly suggest keeping open spaces in the middle of London. Widening roads wherever possible. Decentralisation—shops, hospitals, theatres, and so on should be on the outskirts."

- KN 12.10.2016 12:20

Comment [1]: Transcript: SxMOA1/2/1/2/F
Indirect interviews with women
February 1941
- KN 12.10.2016 11:55

Comment [2]: ?
- Lena 12.10.2016 17:36

Comment [3]: IMG_0702
- KN 4.9.2016 13:22

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- KN 13.10.2016 12:04

Comment [4]: Missing: Obs. of house
- KN 4.9.2016 13:23

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- KN 12.10.2016 11:57

Comment [5]: Talk about war and the news for this
- KN 4.9.2016 13:29

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- BJL 12.10.2016 15:42

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- KN 12.10.2016 11:58

Comment [6]: If bombed out, then the one recently lost
- KN 12.10.2016 17:36

Comment [7]: IMG_0703
- BJL 12.10.2016 15:44

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- KN 12.10.2016 17:45

Comment [8]: IMG_0704
- KN 12.10.2016 12:20

Comment [9]: How do you think England should be rebuilt after the war? (Press for suggestions and ideas)
- KN 13.10.2016 09:13

Comment [10]: Missing: V. Attitude to Bombing



D. Flats, Stepney



Ocean Street
9.6.41

Block of flats, built as part of a housing scheme. Three rooms, with inside bathroom and lavatory. Communal balconies running the length of the building. Allotment garden.

F 35 C

Cheerful, good-humoured woman with fair curly hair, which she obviously takes care of. She takes great pride in the house, and keeps it very neat and clean. Most of the furniture looks almost new, and she keeps it beautifully dusted and polished.

C

- Inv. "What made you choose this rather than any other house in the district?"
F 35 "It was larger than others."
- Inv. "Do you like this house?"
F 35 "I don't know."
Inv. "What are the things you dislike about it?"
F 35 "It is too compact. You can hear everyone running about overhead and all round. I also don't like having so many neighbours, and I don't like the type of people who live in the neighbourhood."
Inv. "What kind of house would you really like to live in, if you could choose?"
F 35 "A small house."
- Inv. "Do you like to have a garden?"
F 35 "Yes."
Inv. "Do you prefer a communal garden, a private garden, grass only, or a balcony garden?"
F 35 "A private garden."
Inv. "What do you grow in your garden?"
F 35 "My husband does a bit of digging there sometimes."
- Inv. "Would you rather live in a house or a flat?"
F 35 "In a house."
- Inv. "Would you rather own or rent your home?"
F 35 "Rent. My mother owns her house, and she's all in debt, and it all needs doing up."
- Inv. "Do you like this neighbourhood?"
F 35 "No. I don't care for it at all, but I have always lived here."
Inv. "What are the things you dislike about it?"
F 45 "The people. It is so rough around here. Though not so bad, now that those little side-runnings are gone."
Inv. "What kind of neighbourhood would you really like to live in, if you could choose?"
F 35 "Here. I like Stepney. I wouldn't never go out of it."
- Inv. "How do you feel about housework?"
F 35 "I like it."
Inv. "Which parts do you like best?"
F 35 "Cleaning."
Inv. "Which parts do you like least?"
F 35 "I don't know."
- Inv. "Do you find this an easy or difficult house to run?"
F 35 "Easy."
Inv. "What are the things you find particularly easy about it?"
F 35 "The running water."
Inv. "What are the things you find particularly difficult about it?"
F 35 "There are no fires in the bedrooms. Last year when one of the children was ill, I had to move him into the living room, as there was nowhere else warm enough. Also, the Kitcheners uses too much coal."
Inv. "What kind of house do you think is the easiest to run?"
F 35 "A place like this."
- Inv. "How do you feel about your kitchen?"
F 35 "I like it."
Inv. "What are the things you like about it?"
F 35 "It is a lovely big kitchen."
Inv. "What kind of kitchen would you really like to have, if you could choose?"
F 35 "A kitchen like this."

JM F 7.9.2017 17:53
Comment [1]: IMG_1084
K N 1.1.2018 14:00
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K N 1.1.2018 13:57
Comment [2]: Name and address redacted
BJL 3.1.2018 16:17
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K N 9.1.2018 14:22
Comment [3]: Deleted: Housing Questionnaire section A – B.
K N 1.1.2018 15:01
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JM F 7.9.2017 17:53
Comment [4]: IMG_1085
K N 18.1.2018 13:25
Comment [5]: Transcript: SxMOA1/2/D Interviews in Stepney with formal questionnaires
K N 18.1.2018 13:26
Comment [6]: Inconsistent numbering of Housing Questionnaire
K N 1.1.2018 14:05
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K N 2.1.2018 15:30
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K N 2.1.2018 15:30
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JM F 7.9.2017 17:53
Comment [7]: IMG_1086
BJL 3.1.2018 16:19
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BJL 12.1.2018 12:32
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BJL 12.1.2018 12:32
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BJL 18.1.2018 13:15
Comment [8]: Deleted: Does not like having so many neighbours, and says she does not like the type of people who live in the neighbourhood – though she remarks later on: [...]
K N 1.1.2018 14:39
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K N 1.1.2018 14:41
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K N 9.1.2018 13:28
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K N 1.1.2018 14:42
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10. Inv. "Do you go out to work?"
F 35 "No."
Inv. "Would you rather go out to work, if you could choose?"
F 35 "Yes."

11. Inv. "Have you any suggestions as to how our towns and houses should be rebuilt after the war?"
F 35 "They should be rebuilt with separate houses and gardens. Everyone should have a bathroom, for children, and a little bit of ground."

12. Inv. "What do you think Stepney will be like to live in, after the war?"
F 35 "I don't know."

13. Inv. "If you were moving, would you rather keep your present furniture or have a new lot?"
F 35 "We're still buying on it." (laughs)
Inv. "Which pieces of your furniture do you value most?"
F 35 "The bedroom suite."

JM F 7.9.2017 18:00
Comment [9]: IMG_1087
K N 3.1.2018 11:37
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Ocean Street
3.6.41

Block of flats, built as part of a housing scheme. Three rooms, with inside bathroom and lavatory. Communal balconies, running the length of the building. Allotment garden.

F 60 D

C

1. Inv. "What made you choose this rather than any other house in the district?"
F 60 "We came here for economic reasons."

2. Inv. "Do you like this house?"
F 60 "Yes, I love it. I am very pleased with the place. It's a pleasure to look out—all those nice bright curtains and the flowers, and nice respectable people, like ourselves. They put these flats up in the wrong neighborhood, that's what it was. Not the neighborhood for people like us."
Inv. "What are the things you like about it?"
F 60 "What I particularly like about the place is having the bathroom and lavatory separate."
Inv. "What kind of house would you really like to live in, if you could choose?"
F 60 "A small house. No posh place for me. I'm not one of those."

3. Inv. "Do you like to have a garden?"
F 60 "Yes. We now have a share in the flat's allotments."
Inv. "What do you grow in your garden?"
F 60 "Vegetables. We've got a bit in the yard. My husband and the boys have got turnips and radishes and potatoes—everything. Matter of fact, we're going to have a few radishes for tea this evening; the boys will fetch them up."
Inv. "What made you decide to grow that?"
F 60 "It is nice to have some of your own handy."
Inv. "Do you sit out in the garden?"
F 60 "No."
Inv. "Do your children play in the garden?"
F 60 "No."

4. Inv. "Would you rather live in a house or a flat?"
F 60 "I don't know."

5. Inv. "Would you rather own or rent your home?"
F 60 "I don't know."

6. Inv. "Do you like this neighborhood?"
F 60 "Yes. When I first came, I did not like it so much, because of the people opposite. It used to be a row of little houses then, not that nice big block. And the people! The way they used to swear, it was terrible. I've lived in Stepney all my life, but never did I hear swearing like that. The terrible words they used, the children and all. You don't dare let your children out, for fear of what they'd learn. The boys used to come in and say the most terrible words; and when I shut them up, they'd say: "But that only means he's soppyx, Mum." (laughs) "Terrible, the things they learn from the other children. And the mothers were, worse. I couldn't tell you the things I saw sometimes, looking out in the evening."
Inv. "What kind of neighborhood would you really like to live in, if you could choose?"
F 60 "I don't know."

7. Inv. "How do you feel about housework?"
F 60 "I like it."
Inv. "Which parts do you like best?"
F 60 "I don't know."
Inv. "Which parts do you like least?"
F 60 "I don't know."

8. Inv. "Do you find this an easy or difficult house to run?"
F 60 "Easy."
Inv. "What are the things you find particularly easy about it?"
F 60 "It is practical, especially the water system."
Inv. "What kind of house do you think is the easiest to run?"
F 60 "I don't know."

JM F 7.9.2017 18:46

Comment [1]: IMG 1070

K N 31.12.2017 13:30

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K N 1.1.2018 13:49

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K N 9.1.2018 13:40

Comment [2]: Inv. was struck by the fact that on the Searle House balconies there is a gorgeous array of window-boxes of every kind, producing a most cheerful effect [...]. But on the Frances Gray balconies there are practically none at all; a few radishes and half-dead marguerite being about the total. The only difference between the balconies [...] seems to be that the Searle House ones are private [...] whereas the Frances Gray ones are communal.

BJL 12.1.2018 12:55

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BJL 3.1.2018 17:54

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K N 31.12.2017 16:24

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Comment [3]: Name and address redacted

K N 18.1.2018 14:10

Comment [4]: Transcript: SxMOA1/2/D Interviews in Stepney with formal questionnaires

K N 9.1.2018 14:21

Comment [5]: Deleted: Housing Questionnaire section A – B

JM F 7.9.2017 18:46

Comment [6]: IMG 1071

K N 31.12.2017 16:48

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JM F 7.9.2017 18:54

Comment [7]: IMG 1072

BJL 3.1.2018 18:05

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BJL 12.1.2018 12:59

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Comment [8]: Deleted: What are the things you like about it? People

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BJL 3.1.2018 18:08

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BJL 3.1.2018 18:09

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9. **Inv.** "How do you feel about your kitchen?"
F 60 "I like it."
Inv. "What are the things you like about it?"
F 60 "It is very convenient."
Inv. "What kind of kitchen would you really like to have, if you could choose?"
F 60 "A kitchen like this."

KN 31.12.2017 16:55
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KN 31.12.2017 16:55
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JM F 7.9.2017 17:59
Comment [9]: IMG_1073

10. **Inv.** "Do you go out to work?"
F 60 "No."
Inv. "Would you rather go out to work or not, if you could choose?"
F 60 "No."

11. **Inv.** "Have you any suggestions as to how our towns and houses should be rebuilt, after the war?"
F 60 "With nice blocks of flats."

KN 31.12.2017 16:59
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12. **Inv.** "What do you think Stepney will be like to live in, after the war?"
F 60 "I don't know."

13. **Inv.** "If you were moving, would you rather keep your present furniture or have a new lot?"
F 60 "I would like to have new furniture."
Inv. "Which pieces of your furniture do you value most?"
F 60 "Only got a few chairs, a table, these cooking utensils. I think my cooking utensils—can't do without them, can you?"

KN 18.1.2018 13:54
Comment [10]: Inconsistent numbering of Housing Questionnaire
KN 31.12.2017 17:01
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BJL 3.1.2018 18:11
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BJL 12.1.2018 13:03
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Everything Is Evidence
Alles ist Hinweis

Ben Highmore

Karina Nimmerfall is a visual artist and professor of cross-disciplinary artistic-media practice and theory in the Institute of Art and Art Theory at the University of Cologne (DE). She explores in particular the relationship between architecture, urban space, and media, as well as their conditions within cultural, political, and ideological representations. She has participated in numerous exhibitions, including MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles (US); Kunsthaus, Graz (AT); BAWAG Contemporary, Vienna (AT); Kasseler Kunstverein, Kassel (DE); Göteborgs Konsthall, Gothenburg (SE); Landesgalerie Linz (AT); Bukarest Biennale 3, Bucharest (RO); and the 8th Havana Biennale (CU).

Ben Highmore is Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of Sussex (GB). He is currently working on a book about taste and shopping in the last third of the twentieth century. His most recent books are *The Art of Brutalism: Rescuing Hope from Catastrophe in 1950s Britain* (Yale University Press) and *Cultural Feelings: Mood, Mediation, and Cultural Politics* (Routledge, both published 2017). Previous books include *The Great Indoors: At Home in the Modern British House* (Profile Books, 2014) and *Ordinary Lives: Studies in the Everyday* (Routledge, 2011).

Karina Nimmerfall ist bildende Künstlerin und Professorin für disziplinüberschreitende künstlerisch-mediale Praxis und Theorie am Institut für Kunst und Kunsttheorie der Universität zu Köln (DE). Sie arbeitet vor allem zum Verhältnis von Architektur, urbanem Raum und Medien sowie deren Bedingungen innerhalb von kulturellen, politischen und ideologischen Repräsentationen; zahlreiche Ausstellungen und Ausstellungsbeteiligungen, unter anderem MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles (US); Kunsthaus, Graz (AT); BAWAG Contemporary, Wien (AT); Kasseler Kunstverein (DE); Göteborgs Konsthall, Göteborg (SE); Landesgalerie Linz (AT); Bukarest Biennale 3 (RO) und 8. Havanna Biennale (CU).

Ben Highmore ist Professor für Cultural Studies an der Universität Sussex (GB). Derzeit arbeitet er an einer Publikation über Geschmack und Shopping im letzten Drittel des 20. Jahrhunderts. Zuletzt veröffentlichte er *The Art of Brutalism: Rescuing Hope from Catastrophe in 1950s Britain* (Yale University Press) und *Cultural Feelings: Mood, Mediation, and Cultural Politics* (Routledge, beide 2017). Vergangene Publikationen sind unter anderem *The Great Indoors: At Home in the Modern British House* (Profile Books, 2014) und *Ordinary Lives: Studies in the Everyday* (Routledge, 2011).



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Karina Nimmerfall
Indirect Interviews with Women

Erscheint anlässlich der gleichnamigen Ausstellung /
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The London County Council Bomb Damage Maps (1939 – 1945).
Detail aus Karte 37 / Detail of map 37, Kilburn (Ausschnitt / Part), Belsize Park;
Detail aus Karte 64 / Detail of map 64, Stepney, Limehouse.
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