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Architectural Nous: How York Wrote its Identity Through Architecture During the 1951 Festival of Britain

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Architectural Nous: How the City of York Wrote Their Identity through Architecture, During the 1951 Festival of Britain

Reading Architecture
Stirling University
December 5th-6th 2015
Caterina Benincasa-Sharman, University Huddersfield
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Some of the most desirable living accommodation in the city.

A housewives dream.

York’s own ‘Ideal Home’ Exhibition.
FESTIVAL FLATS
PARAGON STREET
NOS. 2, 4 & 6
Ventilated larder
Fitted wardrobes
Linen cupboards
Integral clothes rack
Central heating
Constant hot water
Heated towel rails
Gas poker compliant
TV and Telephone ready
Turning for cars
Coal stores accessed internally for older clients
Flowerbeds for older persons flats
Play space for children
Balcony
Cycle & pram storage
Drying yard
Laundry room space for three machines
Workshop – two benches with room to fix a bicycle
The Luckiest Tenants in York!
The Communal Laundry in the Festival Flats, Paragon Street, York, is fitted with a
BENDIX AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC WASHER
Supplied and Installed by your Local Service Dealers
Challengers of Davygate
[The Festival has raised York’s] prestige as a city of art and culture, and given [us] some right to claim to be once again the artistic and social capital of the north.

Councillor Rymer, Yorkshire Evening press July 25\textsuperscript{th} 1951 p.5 & Yorkshire Evening press May 3\textsuperscript{rd} 1951 p.2
In York you see an almost perfect expression of the conception of the Festival of Britain. You had a perfect setting, but it required foresight, courage and imagination to produce a gem ... not a collection of events, but a coordinated theme connecting the city’s historical associations and architectural treasures.

Lord Ismay, Director General, F.O.B in ‘York Festival is Unsurpassable’, n.d Arthur Rymer