CAITLIN MASLEY
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Caitlin Masley plans and builds utopias. Inching out in all directions like spilled oil, her social building projects find themselves touching many invisible areas at once and seeping through their normally fixed boundaries: town planning, architecture, advertising, retail, commercial distribution, sanitation, public art, housing, education, logistics,...

Masley’s work mirrors contemporary planner’s visions of new social equities, closed hierarchies and fixed imperatives in the constitution of the built environment. As much a rummaging through (a series of proposals and counter proposals), as a critique of controlling dynamics, her work draws on the relationship of the retail park to the kitchen as much as on the social housing projects of the forties and sixties or on the planned garden suburbs of the turn of the century.

Masley’s work maps the social shifts that produce and reproduce our urban lives, points to their contradictions and builds ideas. Although it lies within a great tradition of utopian planners, her work does not become conclusive or concrete. This is paper architecture, and however much paper is now as tensile as steel, for her, building and unbuilding remain the same.

—Simon Grennan, excerpted from Caitlin Masley, a catalogue from an exhibition at Viewpoint Photography Gallery, Salford, England