



Wythenshawe's Forum

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During the last thirty years or so hundreds of Cheshire's agricultural acres have been "developed" into a "satellite" community which now provides homes for those 100,000 people who have been "over-spilled" from the parental planet of Manchester. Hitherto, the Wythenshawe community has had few cultural and recreational amenities, but in the recently opened Forum the City Council has provided facilities for a variety of leisure activities: there are two multi-purpose halls, one very large (144 ft. by 72 ft.) and one more intimate (60 ft. by 36 ft.) both with flat floors; two swimming pools, a sports hall, a lending library, a restaurant, three bars, a promenade, a small lounge and—

most notable from our point of view—a theatre. There is a car park large enough to accommodate over 1,200 cars.

The composite structure is rather disconcertingly anonymous and there has been a curious reluctance to exhibit informative signs. With dogged persistence one may find a main entrance, not easily distinguished from the rest of the glass in the 100 yards of frontage. There are no wall or window displays of posters, play-bills or photographs: no illuminated signs save for the simple lofty announcement of "Forum": no illuminated canopy or other attempt to create a magnetic attraction, a welcoming gaiety. This main entrance fronts a vast area of something like 3,500 square yards,