

PRESS RELEASE

RESIDENCE: An Exhibition at the London Park Hotel

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Exterior of the London Park Hotel, Elephant & Castle SE11

Opening: Friday 27 July 6–10 pm

Residence is a photographic exhibition created by a group of artists from the London College of Communication. They have produced site-responsive artwork that is imaginatively installed around the exterior of the derelict London Park Hotel.

This ex-Hotel is one of the oldest buildings in Elephant & Castle, a building that has witnessed many changes during its 110-year existence. It was originally constructed as a 'poor man's' Hotel for over 800 guests in 1897 until a major refurbishment in the 1970s converted it to an unsuccessful commercial hotel. The building was then used as an Asylum Hostel in the late 90s until it was closed in 2003 due to the horrendous social and living conditions. It has since been left neglected and derelict. It is thought that the building's architecture with its especially narrow windows was one of the primary reasons for its eventual failure. Today, the London Park Hotel remains a foreboding and haunting building that stands empty, dead, with its once grand and inviting façade now bearing ominously over the surrounding area.

The Elephant & Castle is undergoing an ambitious £1.5 Billion regeneration program lead by Southwark Council that will dramatically reshape the area over the coming years. In the course of this project the London Park Hotel is due for imminent demolition.

'**Residence**' seeks to bring life to the London Park Hotel; to create one last vibrant chapter in the building's varied history before it is no more. The photographic work will form part of the ground floor of the building and will be left on site for viewing until the last moments of its imminent demolition. The artists' work responds imaginatively to the physical, historical, and contemporary conditions of this imposing Victorian hotel and its surrounding community.



