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des archives vivantes pour penser la ville durable aujourd'hui
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James Dunnett is an architect who trained at Cambridge and worked first for Ernö Goldfinger on his east London housing estate, and subsequently on housing for the London Borough of Camden. He has subsequently practised architecture independently while teaching and lecturing at a number of institutions such as Oxford Brookes University and the Architectural Association, where he organised an exhibition of Goldfinger's work in 1983. He has written widely about Modern architecture and urbanism, and made the English translation of Le Corbusier's book L'Art Décoratif d'Aujourd'hui. He was founding Secretary, then Chair, of DOCOMOMO-UK.

Protecting the Green City and its Landscape - the Housing Estates of Ernö Goldfinger (Protéger la ville verte et son paysage - les ensembles d'habitation d'Ernö Goldfinger) - communication en anglais.

The ideal of the green city proposed by Le Corbusier in the 1920s inspired a generation of architects, among them a young Hungarian pupil of Auguste Perret at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, Ernö Goldfinger (1902-1987). He became Secretary of the French CIAM group at the famous Athens Conference in 1933, attended by Le Corbusier, where the cardinal principles of Modern planning were defined - the 'Athens Charter'. There Goldfinger exhibited designs for a housing tower of 26 storeys with communal services, to be set in a green landscape. The next year he moved to London, having married an English art student. Thirty years later he started to build his first housing tower, also of 26 storeys and set in landscape, Balfron Tower in east London, and three years later he built a second in north west London, Trellick Tower, of 31 storeys. Both these towers are now protected ('listed'), but not the landscape in which they are set, even though, as Goldfinger said, it was to create that landscape - the open or green space outside the home - that the towers were designed as they were. Today Balfron Tower is empty, awaiting conversion from social to private housing, with total replanning of its interiors and alterations to its facades and landscape in prospect, and Trellick Tower also faces radical alteration to its setting. Goldfinger developed a theory of architecture that equated internal and external space, recognizing only differing degrees of enclosure, but the system of statutory protection in the UK does not yet recognize their equivalence - and interdependence.











