

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the page, framing a central white area. The shapes are composed of triangles and polygons, some with thin white outlines.

A VISION

BY SIMON ARMITAGE

A VISION

The future was a beautiful place, once.
Remember the full-blown balsa-wood town
on public display in the Civic Hall.

The ring-bound sketches, artists' impressions,

blueprints of smoked glass and tubular steel,
board-game suburbs, modes of transportation
like fairground rides or executive toys.
Cities like dreams, cantilevered by light.

And people like us at the bottle-bank
next to the cycle-path, or dog-walking
over tended strips of fuzzy-felt grass,
or model drivers, motoring home in

electric cars, or after the late show -
strolling the boulevard. They were the plans,
all underwritten in the neat left-hand
of architects – a true, legible script.

I pulled that future out of the north wind
at the landfill site, stamped with today's date,
riding the air with other such futures,
all un-lived in and now fully extinct.

SUMMARY

- Vision- something we can literally see, ideas about future, something that is perfect.
- Future- itself is a vision, myth, it exists in our imagination
expected to happen in the next moment
in our dream, in our thoughts
its something visionary.
- There was a time when we used to dream about a beautiful future.

- ▶ Opening line challenges the title.
- ▶ Future-thinking ahead
- ▶ Was-past tense
- ▶ Looking at the future from the past. -plays with tenses.
- ▶ It was a beautiful place
- ▶ Grim mood, they've seen things perfect actually, but they are no longer same.
- ▶ Once- Clearly make us feel that something is gone, is different

? What kind of vision he has for the future?

Something that is sleek, technological, images of industry

- Smoked glass,
- tubular steel,
- people like us at bottle-bank, next to the cycle path, or dog-walking over strips of fuzz-felt grass,
- electric cars, model drivers.
- Strolling the boulevard

- ▶ Perfect mix of modern & environment and technology & environment.
- ▶ Remember he is looking at like a model.
- ▶ Imagine that changes in your local area, you'll be able to look at 3D drawings or models. (Plans)
- ▶ Active, model drivers-the best.
- ▶ Sense of ideal
- ▶ Board -game: games, really fun & exciting but actually something that can be dropped quickly or people change from.
- ▶ Executive Toys-you loved it as a child but no longer play with. (business,offices,rich)
- ▶ Fairground rides.
- ▶ Dreams
- ▶ Sketches- pencil
- ▶ Blue prints- can be rubbed down & started again(plans drawn all be changed or adopted)
- ▶ Balsa wood-light weight, not reliable, easily broken

- ▶ Conclusion that something you cannot rely on, and is not real, not permanent but temporary.
- ▶ We have the perfect idea of what they can be (visions of future)-for future communities.

(But don't often come to reality)

- Despondent-lack of hope
- Cynical-distrust of human sincerity or integrity
- Sarcastic/ironic
- Solemn-serious and respectful
- Out of the north wind- look what happened to those plans, they just become today's rubbish
- It was flapping around the rubbish
- Stamped with today's date- it was set for today, but in reality it's nothing like it. (stamped is violent)-community is nothing like that-crushed
- With other such futures- all these plans have become rubbish, there's a lack of hope. (real sense of pessimism)

- ▶ Now fully extinct- ironic when we consider that we are making animals,etc. extinct ourselves.(we are making those things extinct)
- ▶ Message.
 - what the perfect world would look like: pretty, healthy, environment friendly
 - how things which showed the look for the new town were all temporary-nothing last.