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15 Explosive Photos Of London's East End Between The 1980s And Now

By Will Noble

~3 minutes

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Trowbridge Estate, 1986

Explosive seems a good way to describe the photography of Chris Dorley-Brown.

Tower blocks crumble on the Trowbridge Estate. Jet planes lift off from City Airport. You can almost hear the thunder rumbling seemingly inches above Dalston high-rises.



The Castle, 2009

This is Chris Dorley-Brown's coffee table book, *A History of the East End* — the title very much belying the fact that there is nary a word jotted down in it. Dan Cruikshank this ain't. In Dorley-Brown's world, the pictures do the talking.





London Fields, 1987

Photo essays of London's East End have become a book genre in their own right (we've previewed a fair few ourselves), but while they sometimes have the air of amateur snaps rooted out of an attic shoebox, scanned in and couriered off to the printer's, Dorley-Brown is a pro through and through. A career that's seen him work for Time magazine, and on projects with the BBC and Museum of London (now London Museum).





Upton Park, 2016

The photographer set up a practice in 1984, focussed on projects that hone in on east London and its hospitals, social housing and architecture. You might call *A History of East London* a 'best of' compilation.



Tate Institute, Silvertown, 2016

The dynamism of these photos speaks of a place that is constantly reinventing itself; West Ham's stadium is bashed down, while their new

home, the London Stadium, is illuminated by fireworks as the 2012 Games kick off.



London City Airport, 2019

Plumes of black smoke, jet fuel and clouds of concrete dust waft through the pages: not only can you *hear* these photos, you're occasionally in danger of choking on them.





Aspire Point, Stratford, 2017

There are moments of calm, too; the drip-drip of a puddle in an emptied out section of Dagenham's Ford factory; the lapping of the Thames on the foreshore, as framed by Queenshithe arches like a live action quadriptych. These kind of photos are no less explosive; they just speak volumes in a different kind of way.

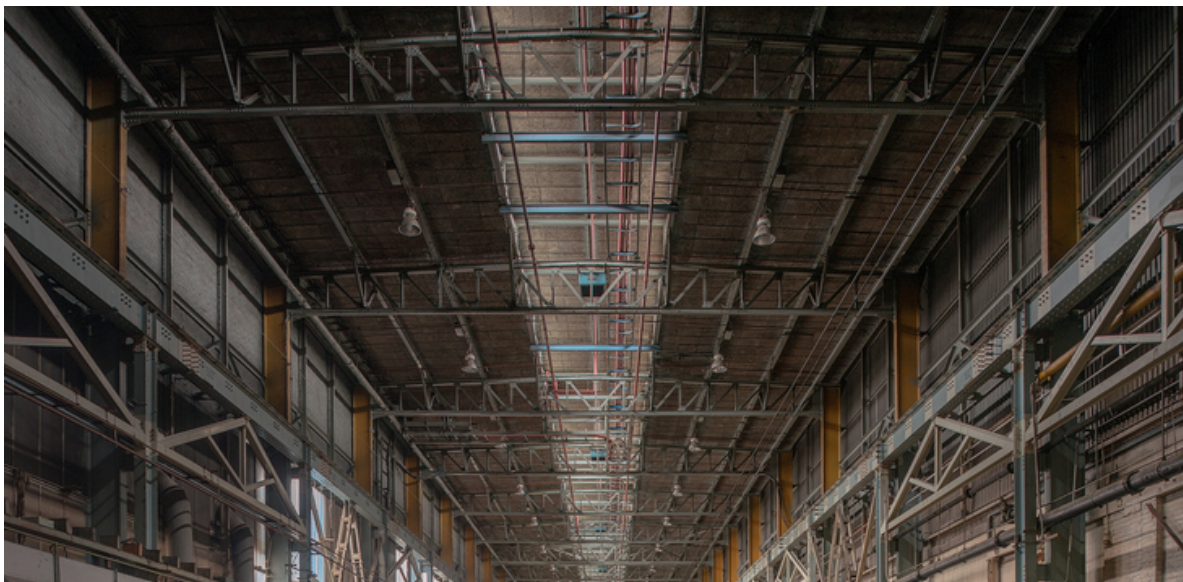


South from Dalston, 1988

At this point we might add in a quote from Dorley-Brown, except there are none in the book. And so, to follow suit with this article, the rest is pictures...



Cazenove Road, 1987

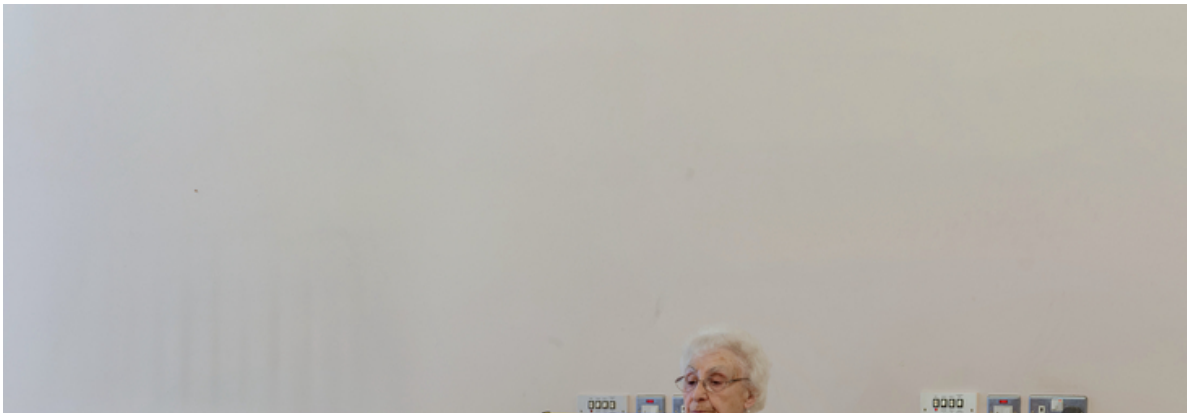




Ford Factory, 2017



Olympic Zone, 2007

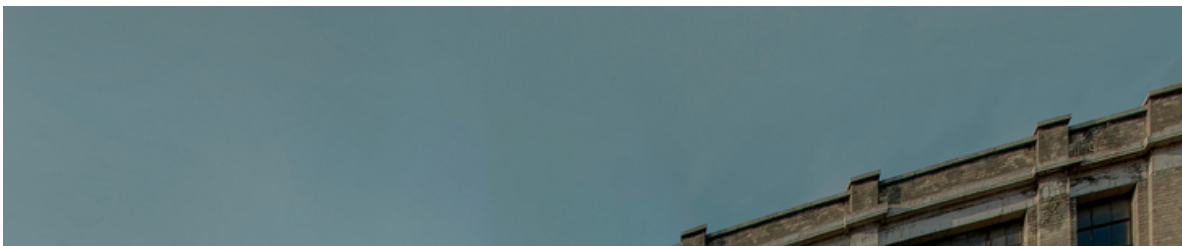




Hackney Wick, 2013



Chrip Street, 2015





Alie Street, 2009



Queenhithe, 2020

[A History of the East End](#), Chris Dorley-Brown, published by les presses

du réel

Chris Dorley Brown A History of the East End

