



Tate Modern has been successfully transformed from a redundant power station into one of London's top visitor attractions.

Conversion: Reveal the history of a place

Most places benefit from a presumption in favour of retaining buildings and open spaces of quality and stitching them into new development. To quote Austin: *“What is needed is continuity... historic preservation is not sentimentality but a psychological necessity. We must learn to cherish history and preserve worthy old buildings... we must learn how to preserve them, not as pathetic museum pieces, but by giving them new uses”* (Austin et al after Huxtable, 1988).



The canal basin provides focus for new mixed use quarter



Mill buildings have been converted into a mix of offices and high quality flats

Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire: <i>Creating new futures</i>	
Location	Sowerby Bridge town centre
Area	15,000m ²
Project	Change of use of five redundant mill buildings to provide housing, canoe club, workshops, retail units, offices, a hotel/restaurant and a museum/visitor centre.
Details	In 1984 the five mills that dominated the town were all closed. Some had experienced fires and the rest were all but derelict. Since then the mill town has been undergoing a process of regeneration. The whole town needed to adapt and change as its core use and industry had gone, taking with it a number of subsidiary businesses. The first phase of the redevelopment was opened in 1985. This was an international standard canoe slalom course on the River Calder. This is novel in terms of its town centre location and has proved to be popular with spectators. One of the town's most prominent redundant buildings was Carlton Mill, a listed five-storey structure. The regeneration work carried out by Allen Tod Architects has made the building sound while creating a mix of uses within it. Similarly, another of the town's listed buildings known as the Salt Warehouse has been refurbished for office suites and facilities for the Sea Scouts. Sowerby Bridge as a whole is a good example of how not only buildings but whole towns can reinvent themselves and evolve through time if their basic structure allows it.
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