



WRITING PLACE: *Dangerous Spaces*

RESPONDING TO
ABANDONED,
EMPTY PLACES

Abandoned apartment, Detroit



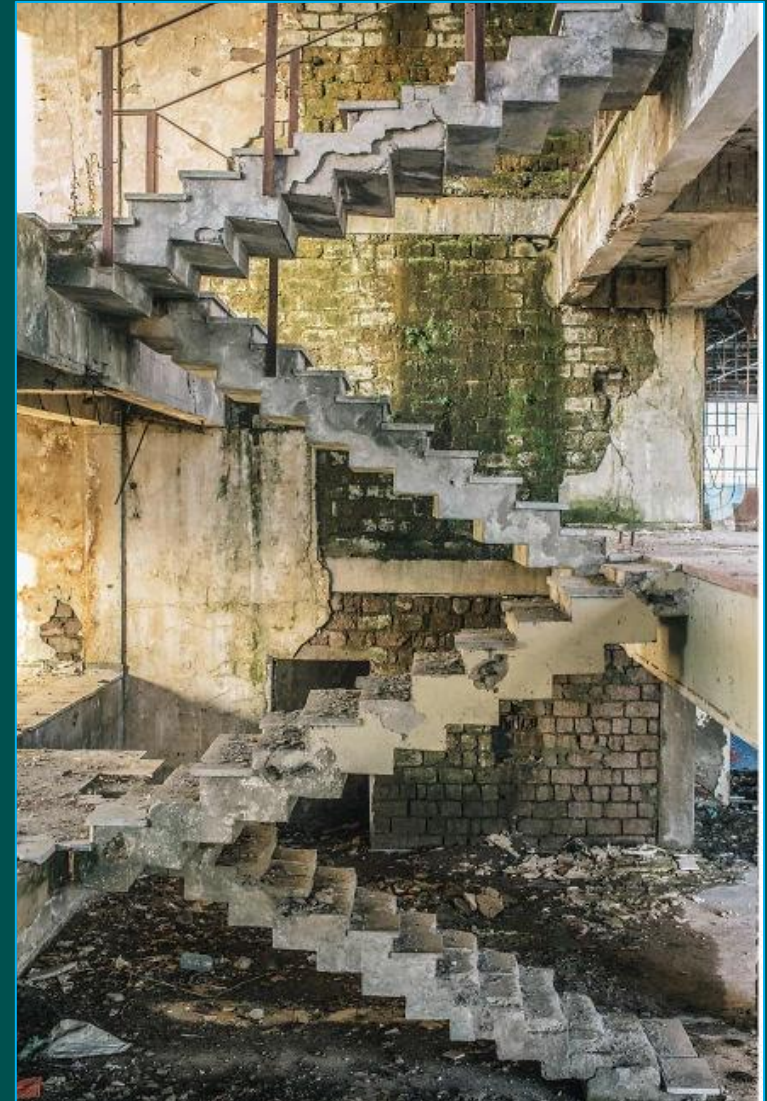
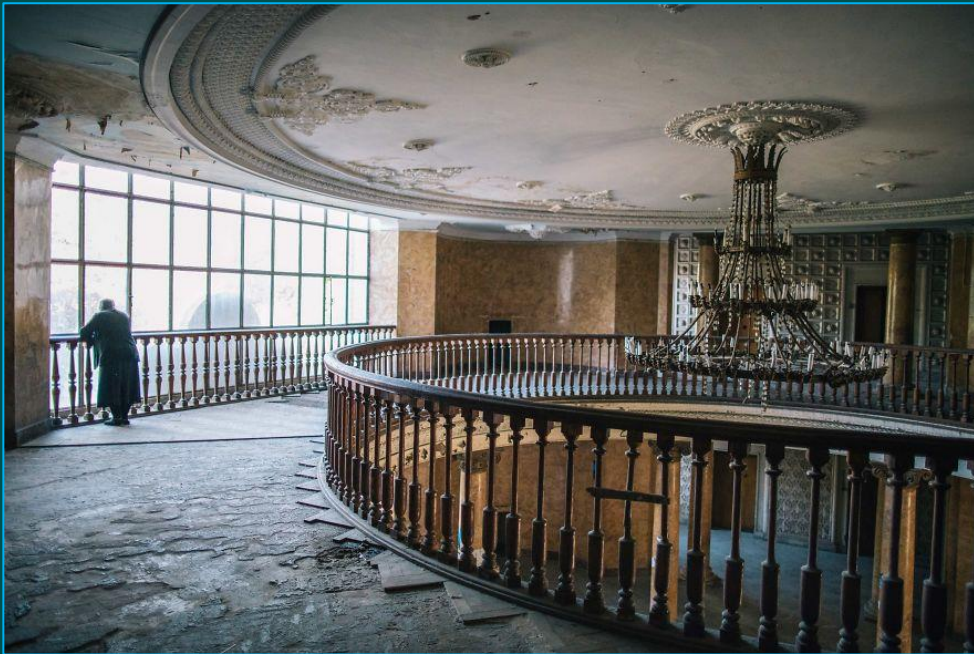
GLASGOW: AN EMPTY M8

Picture: John Devlin

Whereas confined places threaten and endanger through imprisonment, the places we are looking at today have had people *removed from them* they are inhabited by ghosts – of the past (the faded glories of the Soviet Sanatoria; the busy factories and culture of Detroit; the dead forgotten in abandoned mausolea) or just of past ‘normality’ (empty places). All such places are saturated with images and memories of the past, reminding us of our own impermanence

DESERTED SOVIET SANATORIUM 1:

interiors & stairs going nowhere





DESERTED SOVIET SANATORIUM 2:

exteriors &
entrances leading
nowhere



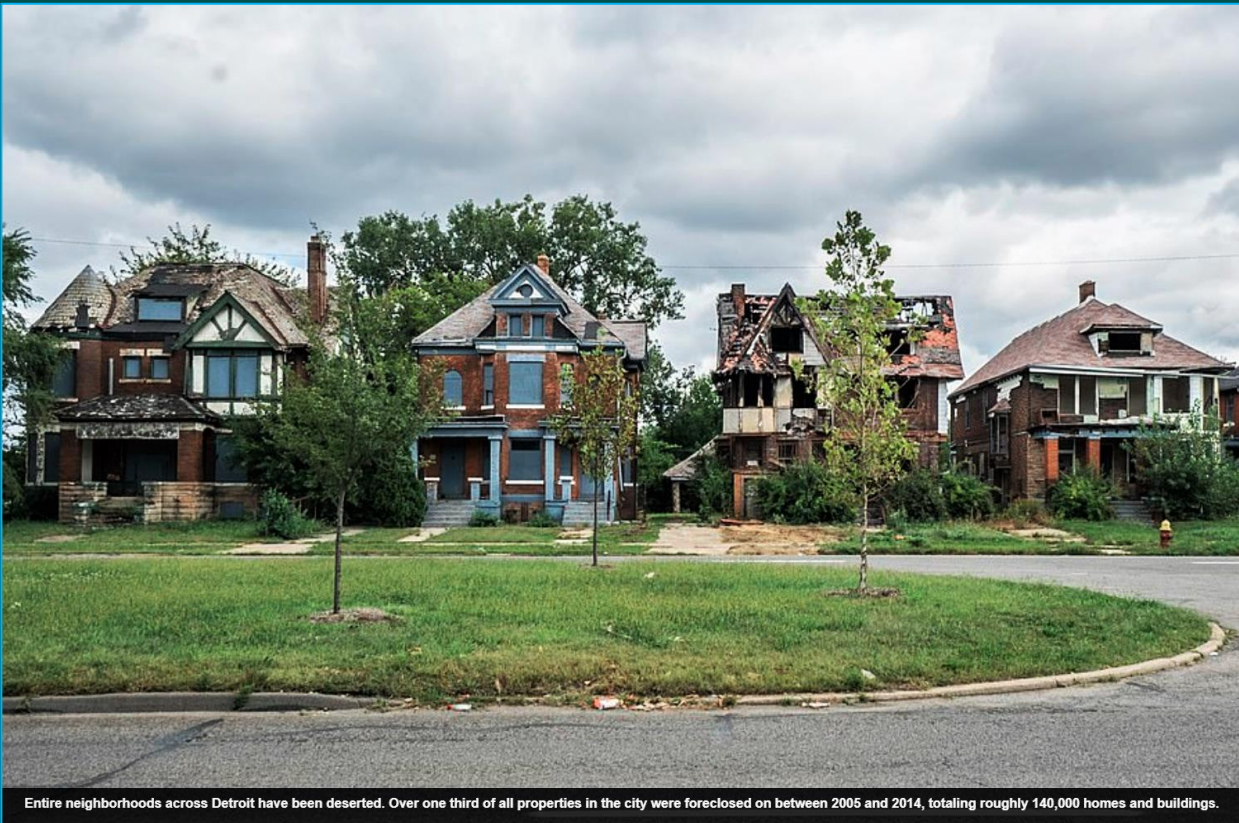
Facade of a sanatorium building: hundreds of displaced Abkhazia people living in makeshift shelters.

Almost 10,000 people from the breakaway Georgian region of Abkhazia have lived in derelict abandoned sanatoria for the past 25 years.

The government offered these buildings as temporary housing to people fleeing the 1992-93 war.

They are still there.

ABANDONED BUILDINGS IN DETROIT 1: exteriors



Entire neighborhoods across Detroit have been deserted. Over one third of all properties in the city were foreclosed on between 2005 and 2014, totaling roughly 140,000 homes and buildings.



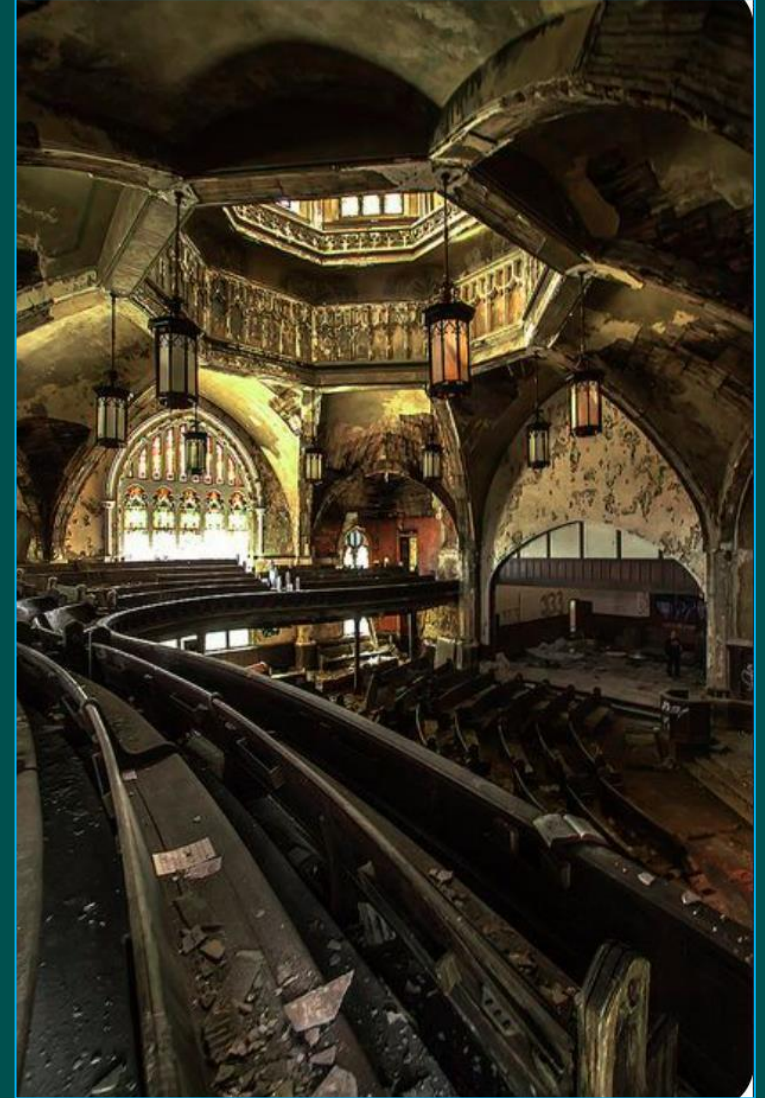
Factories, offices and homes

ABANDONED BUILDINGS IN DETROIT 2:

interiors



Public Library
and Theatre



ABANDONING THE DEAD



Roger Williams Mausoleum, Cranston, near Boston

The Roger Williams Park Mausoleum - a three-story stone building with compartmented walls in which to hold caskets. Although official interment records for the mausoleum no longer exist, it is estimated that over 500 bodies were placed within the structure.

Condemned by the city of Cranston for being “dangerous and unsafe” in 2005, the structure was locked, fenced off and posted with “no trespassing” signs.

Over the past 17 years, time has taken its toll. Different estimates have been placed on the cost of removing bodies. Because the building is contaminated with asbestos and mold, and contains human remains, removal of a body necessitates Haz-Mat intervention. Some estimates state that the cost of removing one body is about \$6,000, while others say the cost to remove them all would surpass \$3 million.

EMPTY PLACES 1: interiors in the first lockdown



Oxford Circus and Finsbury
Park Shopping centre





EMPTY
PLACES 2:
exterior in the
first lockdown

Empty chairs at St. Peter's Square before the live broadcast
of Pope Francis's Sunday Angelus prayer

TASK: RESPONSE TO ABANDONED, EMPTY PLACES

- Two characters: old and young; male and female; both looking for home
- Draw on either *ONE* or combine *TWO* of the images on this powerpoint:
 1. DESERTED SANATORIA FROM THE SOVIET ERA
 2. ABANDONED BUILDINGS IN AMERICAN CITIES
 3. EMPTY PLACES UNDER THE FIRST COVID-19 LOCKDOWN
- Start with a conflict and a sense of danger
- You may include a dog
- What happens?

Aim for 500 words