FOREWORD

Scroope journal has been, for 34 years, a crucial means of contact between the Department of Architecture at University of Cambridge and the outside world, a testament to the vitality of intellectual life happening in Scroope Terrace, our home, a slightly crumbly old terrace with a magnificent brutalist extension by Colin St John Wilson, that invites intimacy and community.

This journal plays an important role in the life of our postgraduate community, bringing our students together with researchers who are working at the exploratory edges of architectural knowledge across the globe. When you look at the annals of Scroope over the years, you realise that the journal also collapses time, with researchers past and present pondering a range of enduring issues for our field.

In the language of Science and Technology studies (STS) Scroope then becomes a 'boundary object', or an 'artefact of knowing' (Zeiss and Groenewegen 2009), a vehicle for collective communication and sense-making across thresholds. That this journal has always been open access is telling. It has long been built on generosity, time, the desire for connection and a belief in a better future, here brought to a crescendo with the theme of 'contact'.

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