



The first Great Exhibition took place in Crystal Palace, Hyde Park in 1851.
On november 30 th 1936 it was unfortunately destroyed by an ominous fire.

CRYSTAL PALACE

1. INTRODUCTION

Daytime

A strong dazzling sun from a cloudless blue sky.
Glass facades emerge in the sunlight. A house of glass looms into view. A panning and presentation of a city constructed entirely of glass: Crystal Palace
The strong sun is reflected in the glass facades. Floodlighting aimed at the glass palace.
The strong dazzlingly bright lighting and the strongly reflecting sunrays create an extravagance of light.
Scanning the glass facades. A lone woman stands on an upper storey inside the glass complex; she is looking through the glass.

Inside the glass palace

A strictly dressed woman, black slacks, high-heeled shoes, polo-neck and jacket, stands calmly and gazes out through the glass straight into the dazzlingly sun. She gets the harsh sunlight in her eyes, but nevertheless stares straight out through the glass – blinking rapidly. The sun's light falls through the window and forms on the marble floor a pattern resembling bars/grating. The woman is now gone. Ceilings of glass, different floors presented. The strictly attired woman with the high-heeled shoes, which echo cold and harsh on the hard marble floor, sweeps by. The woman is on her way up.

2. THE COURTYARD

A survey over the main courtyard of the Crystal Palace. A digital display shows the temperature - +22C.

a female voice

Did you get any sleep last night.

a male voice

*not much.
It's the light. It keeps me awake.
And besides that I had much on my mind.*

a female voice

You need to gets some sleep.
It will clear out your thoughts.
How much do they actually know?

a male voice

*They aren't interested.
They trust me. They have given me their trust. To me they have delegated the decision about how things shall be done. They have asked me to look after their best interests. And I do not think it is in their interests to know everything. That would not benefit them. My task is to guarantee their security.*

a female voice

yes?

a male voice

yes, but that means that sometimes I must weigh up what seems to be their best interest or avoid answering questions which they anyway wouldn't understand.

a female voice

Why wouldn't they understand?

a male voice

But they're such complicated questions. Difficult decisions must be made. I myself think it is difficult to take a stand on questions that are very complicated. How would it look if I couldn't give them complete answers but only uncertainty. They would be very worried, but above all, afraid. Besides, it is important that we are in accord and unified. Should we suddenly start consulting our inhabitants about important decisions we would be revealing a weak leadership. That would create disorder and fear. If we are not in accord, the system collapses



A cleaners' vehicle, equipped with rotating brushes, polishes the marble floor. The vehicle goes over a bridge which links two walkways. On the floor below, a café owner is putting tables and chairs out along the pedestrian precinct. Scanning the façade of a high dwelling. Uniform windows set close together face the main street. The residential block is joined to and incorporated with the outer glass façade.

> *birds twitter, piano music, sounds of a pair of keys*

A woman with short dark hair emerges from a door. She is casually dressed in loosely fitting black slacks and a T-shirt. She has soft comfortable shoes. By means of a spiral staircase she goes down to the pedestrian precinct. She goes to a nearby café, fills a cup with coffee and sits at a table outside. Panning over the pedestrian precinct which is filling up with people. Panning over the escalator, spiral stairs and lifts which link the various floors. Abundant vegetation and benches line the streets. In a tree whose branches have grown to a level with the windows on the facades of the dwellings sits a bird. A birdhouse.

A sinewy older man wanders restlessly back and forth along a walkway, under the shade of trees.

> *a speaker's voice from a loudspeaker:*

Ping, pong, ping ...we wish everyone a good morning.
Today in room 101 we'll be showing a film on the legendary mountain, Mt. Everest, which according to our sources reaches around 8848 m. At the same time, in room 314, the classical costum drama film, **Room with a view**, will be screened. For children, there will be a visit by a clown.

The woman in the high-heeled shoes, jacket and polo-neck, stands on the upper storey and looks out. The glass ceiling above her lets in strong sunlight. The woman lowers her gaze and continues over the bridge. The woman sitting in the outdoor café a few floors below, looks up at the place where the woman, I, had just been standing. She has been aware of the gaze from above and notes that the woman is going away.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE CONDITIONS IN THE CRYSTAL PALACE

The main courtyard is filling with people. On a lower floor children are queuing for balloons being doled out by the clown. Elsewhere on the floor a go-kart track attracts a lot of people. The age limit is 15 years. Outdoor cafés and fast food restaurants are placed close together. In the centre of the courtyard is a closed circular glass showcase with colourful budgerigars. A sticker placed on the glass wall of the case warns that smoking is not permitted in the palace.

> *muffled murmuring and various remote sounds: a mobile telephone rings, birds twitter, a dog barking far away.*

People sit on benches in the shadow of trees and bushes. They eat, talk, look around. Close-ups of faces. Laughter. People walk along the walkways built like balconies. Because Crystal Palace is completely open in the middle, you can see the floors above and below. The walkways are connected together by bridges and escalators. An older man sitting on a bench, dressed in a short-sleeved shirt, addresses a woman. A bit further on a girl sits rocking back and forth on an empty bench. A man steps out of nearby lift. The 16th floor. A mother standing in front of a background wall showing a snow-covered, ungraspable mountain, gives her daughter permission to buy an ice cream. Most people in the lifts and on the escalators are going up. Only a few are going down.

older man sitting on a bench, speaking to a woman

Let me ask you, are you happy?
Myself, I am satisfied.
It's a pity to complain.
There's always things to complain about.
But it's naïve to believe that you can change the world
To be constantly dissatisfied and contrary only leads
to becoming bitter - and unhappy.

> *low murmuring and glass that jingles*

One floor up are restaurants for sitting guests. The tables are set with cloth and porcelain. The section to the east is shaded by copious vegetation. The strong sun doesn't reach between the dense vegetation. Here the inhabitants sit protected by the shade in comfortable chairs next to a pool. A young man is stopped by a darkly clad man when he is about to get out on that floor. The young man goes back and takes the lift down. A man gets out of a lift. He walks along the walkway bordered by glass windows. Inside one window a man is getting a manicure.

The woman with the short dark hair passes by. She goes through a sliding door and enters a room furnished with aquariums. A waterfall covers one of the walls. A sticker on one of the automatic sliding glass doors calls attention to the fact that dogs are forbidden as is talking on a mobile telephone. The woman passes through the room. Goes through a connecting passage that leads to salon 101. She takes a seat in a blue chair. The ceiling lights dim down to darkness.

Back to the courtyard

Balloons filled with helium rise towards the ceiling of the glass palace and halt there. They hang still from the glass ceiling. Panning over the restaurants and cafés where people are sitting. A man dressed in a short-sleeved checked shirt sits on a bench and talks to a woman. A man and a woman in dark clothes go by. They are walking a black and white dog on a leash. Their gaze sweeps over the different floors. The woman in the high-heeled shoes appears on an upper floor. She sweeps by. The man and the woman in dark clothes give a quick nod to the woman on the upper floor. She takes note of them.



Behind a glass wall

A young man walks along bookshelves. Members Only. He reads the books' titles. He takes a book off the shelf, leafs through. Stickers on the glass walls say that eating ice cream is not permitted. The young man stops, feels that he is being watched. Looks up.

> *vague sounds of apes shrieking*

He takes the book he has lifted off the shelf with him to a computer. The book he's decided to borrow is registered, as is the borrower. inside the glass

The sinewy older man who was earlier seen restlessly wandering back and forth is now observed running on a treadmill. A digital display shows 25 km/hr, 20 km/hr. Pulse 200s/min. The man's gaze is unswervingly directed outside the glass, into the sun.

Back to the courtyard

Panning over the floor, milieu and interiors. +22C

> *laughter, a ceiling fan*

People. Close-ups of faces. A pair of well-manicured male hands tries on jewelery taken out of a glass showcase.

...the woman with the short dark hair comes out of salon 101.

The woman passes over a bridge. Goes towards the escalator. Escalators. Moves determinedly downwards. She watches people going in the opposite direction. No one meets her gaze. The escalator passes a lit-up waterfall. Copious vines and climbing plants. Via a steel spiral staircase, the woman goes down to a climbing wall.

...the woman with the high-heeled shoes, polo-neck and jacket.

The woman is on her way over a bridge. A door. There are no people in the corridor inside. The woman's heels echo sharply. The walls of the corridor are lined with glass showcases in which sit live animals. The sound from the woman's shoes creates obvious stress among the animals.

> *apes shrieking, birds twittering and hard heels clicking*

A new door, another corridor. Computers and hard discs. Shelves from floor to ceiling line the walls. The woman goes straight ahead. Hard heels.

The woman with short dark hair is high up on the climbing wall. The waterfall sprinkles water beside her. She is blinded by the strong sunlight let in by the skylight. She loses concentration and her grip and falls. She remains prone on the floor. She stares up at the ceiling, out through the skylight without blinking. Closes her eyelids. Fading into darkness. Shuts her eyes.

Womens thoughts
<p>This stillness and contentment drives me mad. I think I am losing my mind. It's like heavy weights pressing my head together. The situation feels hopeless. There's nothing to dream about. There's nothing to see, nothing different, no change, no goal to reach. One constructs meaningless goals to keep oneself sane. The situation lacks perspective. One avoids complications and people are incredibly afraid of conflicts. The goal is simple. Simplicity appeals to people in here.</p>

Back again into the palace

A girl sits rocking on an empty bench

The young man who previously was seen going along the shelves of books, sits down beside the girl on the bench. He lays his hand upon her shoulder. Exhilarated children holding balloons pass by.

the young man
You don't need to worry.
<i>the girl</i>
<i>I'm so cold.</i>
the young man
You've had too much sun. You should sit in the shade.
<i>the girl</i>
<i>It's said they live on the top floor. No one's seen them. But everybody thinks they exist. Which is why they're obeyed.</i>



the young man

They can't harm you.
I wouldn't allow it.

the girl

*A couple of birds had escaped.
They built a nest in the tree outside my window where they laid an egg.
One day some people came, took down the nest, crushed the egg and
shot the birds. They said they only followed orders from above.
The birds were a nuisance, a health hazard.*

...the woman at the climbing wall

The woman is still lying on the floor. She looks up at the glass ceiling. Looks at the sun without blinking.
The light coming in from the ceiling is strong. The waterfall is lit from underneath by lamps.
Reflections in the water.

...a room with aquariums.

The aquariums are filled with colourful fishes. Underwater plants. Pumps provides oxygen.
Close-ups of the fish, the plants. Bubbles.

...the woman with the high-heeled shoes, polo-neck and jacket.

The woman has arrived at an armoured/a freight lift. She gets in and presses the button for the top floor.
The floors are given via a display – 32, 33, 34, 35...Her face gives composed impression.
The lift stops.
The woman gets out of the lift. She steps into a large room. Remains standing.
The room is square; its four walls are entirely covered with coloured glass. The colours of the glass shift
and the glass is cut and incorporated into an abstract pattern.
The pieces of glass are fitted according to colour and tone.

> a fan is whirring

The room shifts from orange towards lilac.
It is fastidiously furnished. A black grand piano. Below the grand piano lies a black and white dog.
In a corner is a glassed-in cupboard which protects antique weapons from being touched by
unauthorized people. Sunlight streams in through the coloured glass and gives the room a calm
and subdued tone.
The room is cool. A fan.

a female voice

I am constantly worried. I am afraid of something but cannot put my finger on what.

a male voice

....listens

a female voice

Sometimes I think that I am most afraid of our inhabitants.
They behave so strangely to me.
When I observe them, they seem so unconcerned.

a male voice

*They should be unconcerned, then we have succeeded with our task.
To get them to feel safe, then they don't know, for example, that every
day somebody from the outside manages to get in.
I don't understand how and where they get in.
We must use all our means to find the leak and stop it.
It is devastating that undesirables get in.*

older man sitting on a bench, speaking to a women

I'm happy. I have reconciled myself to things not
necessarily becoming what I thought.
But I have chosen to accept and be satisfied.
You cannot get everything you desire.
Regardless of what you think, you won't answer?



the women answers

Igen, igen, itt kényelmes és biztonságos. De én nagyon egyedül érzem magam. Nekem hiányzik a közösség és mindenekelett az emberi melegség. Úgy vélem hogy az emberek itt barátságosak, de hiányzik személyi egyéniségük. Mi az ember személyi egyéniség nélkül?

...the older man sitting on a bench has been speaking to a woman.

The woman answers the man in what is to him a foreign language. The conversation ends.

the girl

*I protested.
I pointed out that there was no reason to murder the birds.
They could have been caught and taken back to the glass showcase.
They were upset about the choice of words. They said I didn't have the right to accuse them of murder. They were only doing their job, which was to eliminate the birds that soil the palace.*

I went up to the 30th floor and got to talk to someone involved in the decision to take the bird nest down. He said that the decision was made higher up. His task was only to execute the decision. And it was to be carried out early in the morning when the inhabitants of the palace slept. So he regretted that I had witnessed the elimination of the birds. But it wasn't his fault but that of those who had been commissioned to do the job. The commission had been carried out sloppily and irresponsibly. That is what he regretted.

Then I went up to the 31st floor where I got to talk to a woman. She said she was responsible for the decision to remove the birds. But on the advice from a higher authority, she underlined. It was important to keep the palace nice and clean. The decision had been made on the basis of complaints from inhabitants in the palace that the birds were noisy and dirty.

Don't you like birds? I asked.

For the first time during the conversation the girl looks up at the man. She observes him. Then returns her gaze back to the floor.

4. Participation

The courtyard of the Crystal Palace. Panning over the machinery of lifts, escalators and mechanical means of movement. A number of floors. Bridges and spiral staircases connecting upwards as well as downwards. Zooming in on an escalator. A dynamo, a motor is connected to the escalator. Panning out through the window. Vision is blinded by a strong floodlight directed at the Palace. Attempts to discern the environment outside the palace are blinded by reflections, strong light and sun. Only a barren white abstract landscape can be vaguely detected. Strong floodlights.

...on the ground floor of the palace

A lift takes us downwards. We pass floors, glass, plants and light. The lift stops. We step out into a darkish closed corridor. On the ground floor there are empty platforms surrounded by rough rock walls. No vegetation. Polished concrete floor.

The corridor leads to an energy distribution centre where energy is generated by the motors connected to the escalators. Energy is created when the escalators are used by the inhabitants and it is carried via the distribution centre to the Crystal Palace's outdoor lighting. Floodlights are mounted on high steel frames and their sharp light is directed at the Palace.

The woman with the short dark hair sweeps soundlessly by along a rock wall in a darker part of the platform. In a darkened corner in the wall is an opening about 50 cm in diameter.

> dogs' barking

the young man

It's not your fault that the birds were shot.
It's not your fault. You did what you could.



the girl

Everyone says that it isn't their fault.
And I, I couldn't do anything.
I tried.

the young man

You shouldn't be so hard on yourself.
We are limited.
Come, let's sit in the shade.

the girl

We are terribly limited.
You don't go up there without reason.
You don't go wherever you wish.

The girl lets herself be persuaded to sit in the shade.

> rippling water. Piano music

The glass on the ceiling functions like a prism and creates reflections in all the colours of the rainbow. Vines climb up a wall, a stream runs through a little arrangement of stones. The stream runs into a shallow pool where goldfish swim amongst coins lying on the bottom. Strong dazzling light streams in from the outside. The water reflects the light and the light makes the coins shine.

This has been inspired by, among others, the European Union cooperation, discussions about public space, the philosopher and sociologist, Bruno Latour, Thomas Hobbes' Leviathan and the Polish writer, Irena Linkiewicz.

Translation to English by Jan Teeland
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” There was never any absolute point of time.
It took a new form over a long time, very slowly.
It was slowly reformed and the previous system became the past.
Power was moved to a place without insight. People's impression
was that they had less and less influence and that no one seemed
noticeably upset about it. For time and interest in thinking about
time-consuming ideologies didn't exist. Much time was spent in
making the future secure and seeing to individual needs. So while
people devoted much time and worry to the future, power flowed out
of their hands and in the end was beyond their reach. ”

” Without our participation through action everything halts.
We participate in the course of events through our actions
and non-actions. ”

” Power can only be secured through an agreement between those who have power
and those ruled by it. By creating a position of hierarchies the power balance can
be staged. To ensure the positioning of power, some must subordinate themselves.
A certain way to maintain power is to demonstrate before the subordinates
a positive picture of the arrangement and what it offers. The Establishment must
prove that the subordinates are favoured by the agreement. This can be done using
various methods. For example, by indicating an external threat (social or political)
people can be gathered into a collective that shows its gratitude and is loyal to the
hierarchies and to the protection that power is alleged to give. ”