

A Daunder with The Geographer

A field excursion through Glasgow's East End... a Zone of Transition

Glasgow's zone of transition circles the central business and retail centre and the merchant city renewal area. The term **transition zone** was first coined by Burgess (1925) who described the zone as a former suburban fringe that housed many of the merchants (2&3) and well-to-do citizens. The fringe is encroached upon by industry as the city grows and the quality of the residential housing deteriorates (4&5).

The Industrial Revolution of the 19th century did much to change the character of the East End as pollution drove the remaining well-off westwards. The **regeneration** of the Trongate area can be traced back to the formation of the Glasgow Theatre Club in the late 70s. Through the nineties further development took place, thanks to European Regional Development Funding. The Tron Theatre re-opened in its present form in July 1999, incorporating new build and refurbishment of older adjacent buildings (6).

Gentrification had commenced! Gentrification is a process of socio-spatial change whereby the rehabilitation of residential property in a working-class neighbourhood by relatively affluent incomers leads to the displacement of former residents (Pacione, 2001). Art galleries, cafes, and, in the case of Parnie Street, camera and model shops have followed the growth of the "cappuccino society" (7,8 &9). Older buildings have been refurbished as in St Andrew's Square (10). Gap sites attract new building (11) and architects receive an increasingly rare opportunity to boost the confidence of a neighbourhood (12). Risk assessment? Minimal risk as long as you bring your sense of humour!

The full presentation for this daunder is available for download at www.slideshare.net/aland

