A LATIN QUARTER FOR LONDON
A TOWNSCAPE SURVEY OF COVENT GARDEN AND A PLAN FOR ITS FUTURE

The danger is that in all the controversy over a new site* for Covent Garden fruit and vegetable market, Covent Garden itself, as a place, may be forgotten. If this happens, its special character could well be erased at one stroke by wholesale redevelopment. The nature of this character and the need to reinforce it in any new building are discussed below.

It is hard to picture Covent Garden, that urban cornucopia, without its market, without the splendid chaos which now exists; chaos by few intoxications of bananas and belladonna, top notes and tums, ripe fruit and ripe lemons. All these are the optics of the place. As to architecture, everything and everybody is so close packed, it seems to be mainly an architecture of fruit baskets; with, of course, St. Paul's church by Inigo Jones, 'the bastion of taste in England,' jutting its hat over the high stacked dalmatian, its portico studed with porters pulling back cuppas from the coffee stall. Also, round the corner in Bow Street, The Royal Opera House by H. M. Barry. But what future has Covent Garden? The prospect is not encouraging. London, 'the unique city' as Ruskin calls it, is steadily being straightened out, having its eccentricities corrected, its character impoverished, not only by piecemeal replacement but also by the well-intentioned doctrine of the clean away (publicly called comprehensive redevelopment). It is being made to conform to a dedicated conception of what it ought to be like with everything in compartments and no mixing by order, it is becoming just like anywhere else. What hope then for Covent Garden? In 'Project Anywhere' (see imaginary sketch right) the anonymous design which any architectural student can hash out in an evening, regardless of site, good enough for this place, the brainchild