

Speech: Africa's Young Commonwealth

Good evening everyone. I am delighted to be with you tonight.

I was appointed just last month as Foreign Office Minister with responsibility for the Commonwealth.

Ghana was an obvious choice for my first official visit to a Commonwealth country. Not only because your country was the first African member-state to join the Commonwealth family, 60 years ago this year; but also because of the close relationship our two countries have long shared.

It means that we see Ghana as one of our closest Commonwealth allies, one that will join us in building a Commonwealth that is truly fit for the 21st century. Crucially, from your point of view, we want it to be an organisation that truly represents its young people.

That's why I want to talk to you about the United Kingdom's plans for the Commonwealth Summit next year, and why they matter to you.

The Summit is a great family celebration that takes place every two years. Heads of the 52 Commonwealth governments get together and discuss the issues of the day.

Next year it is the UK's turn, so in April we will be hosting meetings at great historic venues, from Windsor Castle to Buckingham Palace.

But it's not all about pomp and ceremony. We want this Summit to have a real impact and to make a real difference to people's lives, right across the world.

The United Kingdom is a passionate supporter of the Commonwealth.

Why? First, because it is a unique institution, with vast global reach and influence. It has already achieved great things – just look at the impact it had on the Paris Climate Change agreement, when the Commonwealth heads of government came together in Malta in 2015 to push for a global agreement to tackle climate change. We strongly believe that the Commonwealth has huge further potential as a force for good.

But that's not the only reason. We also passionately support the Commonwealth because we believe that it quite literally represents the future. It is home to a third of the world's population and two thirds of them, like many of you, are lucky enough to be under the age of 30. You represent the future not just of your country and the Commonwealth, but of the entire planet.

That is why our bold ambition for the Commonwealth Summit is to re-invigorate and re-energise the Commonwealth. We want it to be an organisation that works for the benefit of all its citizens and the wider world: men and women, rich and poor, old and young.

And especially the young. Your voices and your opinions are as important to us as the views of the political leaders of the 52 member states. The organisation could – indeed we think it should – have a real impact on your futures. That is why we want you to play a part in re-shaping it.

You may ask why it needs re-shaping. To answer that question, let's step back in time for a moment.

60 years ago, and for the rest of the 20th century, the Commonwealth family offered support for newly independent countries – like Ghana.

Today the world has changed. Greater demands are being placed on governments – and on the planet. We face new challenges. Technology, globalisation, automation, conflict, terrorism, demographic change, climate change...

So the world is changing, and the Commonwealth must adapt and change too. Now is the time to realise its as yet untapped potential as a global force. For that to happen we, the member states, must agree to re-vitalise, re-energise and re-new the organisation. We must build an institution capable of meeting the new challenges of our rapidly changing world.

We see four key priorities for this revitalised institution:

The first is improving prosperity. The Commonwealth can help by boosting trade and investment between member countries. Our shared language and legal traditions are unique advantages that we should make more use of. Ghana, one of Africa's fastest growing economies, is well placed to help boost trade and to benefit from it.

If we can succeed in improving trade and business links around the Commonwealth, it means it will be easier for young people like you – it's no secret that Ghanaians are some of the most enterprising people on the continent – to set up businesses and sell their products abroad.

The second key priority is acting on climate change. It will affect us all, one way or another. In Ghana's case, rising global temperatures pose a real threat to cocoa production. Your exports would be severely affected. That is why, as we did in 2015, we must continue to work together to implement the promises we all made in Paris to increase the resilience of Commonwealth countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change.

We also hope that other African Commonwealth countries will follow Ghana's example and ratify the Paris agreement.

The third priority is keeping our people safe. We still face the same threats that we did when the Commonwealth was founded – inter-state conflict, civil war, insurgency.

But the threats have also multiplied and become more sophisticated. We now also face violent extremism and terrorism. We suffer cyber attack, both state-based and criminal. And we know that organised crime operates, not on street corners but on the dark web, across borders and jurisdictions. We believe the Commonwealth could play more of a role in tackling these new

security challenges.

Our fourth priority is to build a fairer future, based on our shared values of good governance, democracy and human rights.

The organisation has a good record here – seven of Africa’s least corrupt countries are in the Commonwealth, and our election monitoring work is the envy of the world. [I might add that your country is one of the strongest democracies in Africa, having held seven consecutive democratic elections.]

Young people here can play a vital role in promoting the benefits of an open, tolerant and democratic society.

These four priorities inform our approach to the Commonwealth Summit next year.

And we want young people like you to be at the heart of them all, because it is your futures we are talking about. Your prosperity, your security, your human rights, your world.

We can’t do this without you. We need you to get involved with the Commonwealth, to help us build an organisation that can rise to the challenges of the future, and represent your interests on the world stage. As a leading African democracy we hope that Ghana, and young Ghanaians, will work with the UK and help us to realise our ambitious vision for the Summit.

I look forward to working with you to build a better future for the Commonwealth and the world. Thank you.

[News story: Senior CT officers appeal for greater collaboration at Security Summit](#)

Speaking at the Step Change Security Summit at London’s Guildhall yesterday, Monday 17 July, Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley welcomed the Security Minister Ben Wallace’s announcement of a £2 million innovation fund to improve the protection of the UK’s crowded places.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D’Orsi followed up by praising the partnership already in place between the public and private sectors, but added that shrinking timescales mean both police and industry must act quickly and decisively to combat the threat.

Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley at Guildhall

Assistant Commissioner Rowley warned an audience of police, security experts

and industry representatives that recent 'game-changing' attacks across the UK have increased the need for police and businesses to collaborate more closely to tackle the unprecedented increase in demand.

The threat is real and is a challenge to all of us, in policing, government and industry. To successfully meet this threat head on, we must exploit every opportunity for innovation and collaboration between the public and private sectors.

That means sharing resources, intelligence and expertise, but also asking business to help bear the load by funding their own counter terrorism security officers, search dogs and specialist security personnel.

For example, Oxford Street has in the region of 1000 security personnel, but only 10 police officers. That is an opportunity for building on the excellent existing relationships between businesses and police, by improving information-sharing and to provide specialist training where it can be most effective.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi, who is the National Police Chiefs' Council's lead for Protective Security, added:

We are facing a shrinking timeframe, if we are to combat the threat we must share information more effectively, and quickly. Effective communication is a two-way street and businesses underestimate the value of the information you hold. We must support each other, both private and public sectors. Advice is out there, and it is more important than ever to use that advice to protect ourselves.

I genuinely believe we are so much stronger when working together. Our crowded places are the targets for terrorists and I want people to go to these places knowing that both the police and business are united in keeping them safe.

Guildhall

Police forces have already provided Project Griffin self-delivery training to more than 300 businesses nationwide, which gives companies the ability to train their staff to detect suspicious behaviour and how to act in the event of an attack.

Assistant Commissioner Rowley has asked for more companies to engage with police and take advantage of the opportunities available to them for training their staff to keep both themselves and the public safe:

I would urge companies to review and, where necessary, improve their own security plans, and police counter terrorism experts are

here to help you do that.

We recently helped to train 23,000 holiday reps in our on-going work with the travel industry, and that means 23,000 extra pairs of eyes and ears deployed across the globe who are better equipped to help keep the public safe. Terrorists are constantly adapting their tactics and in recent months we have seen a change in their behaviour during attack planning. In policing we are currently undergoing numerous reviews to ensure we adapt as quickly as they are, and it is important that businesses do the same.

For more information about how businesses can help police to keep both themselves and the public safe, download the National Counter Terrorism Security Office's latest [Crowded Places Guidance](#) or [contact your local Counter Terrorism Security Advisors](#).

News story: New Director General of Immigration Enforcement appointed

Hugh Ind has been appointed as the new Director General of Immigration Enforcement, the Home Office announced today (18 July).

Hugh, who has worked for the Home Office for 26 years, takes up his new role with immediate effect.

He takes overall responsibility for Immigration Enforcement, which is responsible for preventing abuse, tracking immigration offenders and increasing compliance with immigration law.

Hugh joined the Home Office in 1991 and previously held roles including the leadership of the Bill Team for the Regulation of the Investigatory Powers Act 2000. He was Strategic Director for the UK's Asylum System from 2009 to 2013 and has been the interim Director General of Immigration Enforcement since autumn 2016.

Permanent Secretary Philip Rutnam said:

I would like to congratulate Hugh on his permanent appointment. His experience from both within and leading Immigration Enforcement will provide sound, consistent leadership and I look forward to continuing to work with him.

Commenting on his appointment, Hugh Ind said:

Having grown up in the Home Office, it is a great personal honour for me to be appointed Director General of Immigration Enforcement and to lead operations that are of such significance to the British public.

I look forward to continuing to realise our vision of reducing the illegal migrant population by ensuring compliance with immigration laws right across the UK and further increasing the number of foreign national offenders we remove from the UK.

Speech: “The United Nations’ relationship with Haiti has changed but our commitment has not.”

Thank you Mr President and thank you Special Representative Honoré for your briefing this morning. I’d like to pay tribute to you and the important work you’ve done during your time in Haiti and it’s particularly encouraging to hear that the transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH is on track.

It’s important that this continues. A smooth and seamless transition will send a clear signal to the people and Government of Haiti that the United Nations’ relationship with Haiti has changed but our commitment has not.

MINUJUSTH marks a new era in the UN’s support for Haiti. Its three-pronged focus on police, the rule of law, and human rights will help Haiti to address its future opportunities and challenges independently, for the first time in many decades. And the successful delivery of the MINUJUSTH mission will allow it eventually to leave Haiti having laid a framework for security and stability that Haitians can continue themselves to build on.

I know, Mr President, that there is a lot of work ahead, both for Haiti and the UN. I suspect that few of us who recently visited Haiti believe that success is guaranteed. In the weeks following the visit, I’ve come to believe that three fundamental conditions are required to make MINUJUSTH a success.

First, the new mission must be equipped with the tools that are fit for purpose and matched to Haiti’s needs. For example, to further develop the capacity of Haiti’s police, the UN Police commander will need officers with the right technical and language skills to engage meaningfully with their local counterparts.

Another example is the UN Country Team: joint analysis and programming with MINUJUSTH will help ensure it is better placed to support long-term justice reform in Haiti. And, as the Secretary-General’s latest report rightly points

out, all of the UN's tools will need to be more politically acute if they are to catalyse change.

Indeed, UN tools only go so far. The second condition for success is a government that embraces Haiti's challenges as its own and pro-actively takes on new responsibilities. The gap left by MINUSTAH is not primarily for its successor mission to plug, but for Haiti's government and institutions to fill.

This means providing Haiti's police with proper equipment and salaries – and not squandering these scarce resources elsewhere. As the Special Representative has outlined, it means investment in a justice system that protects all Haitians with the rule of law, leaving no space for corruption to flourish and impunity to fester. It means making critical appointments to the Supreme Court and taking urgently needed reforms through parliament. And finally, it means doing much more to tackle the scourge of gender-based violence. All of this requires that the priorities of Haiti's politicians are aligned with those of Haiti's people.

The third condition for success is also about taking responsibility. MINUJUSTH – and the whole UN – must continue to win back the trust of Haiti's people. On our trip to Haiti we heard about two issues that have damaged the UN's legacy.

One relates to cholera, a tragedy for the Haitian people and an obstacle to the UN turning its own page in Haiti. I am pleased to hear that infection rates are down. Eradication is within grasp, and like the Ambassador from Kazakhstan, I call on donors to do what they can to make this a reality.

The other tragic issue that has damaged the reputation of UN peacekeeping is the shockingly widespread sexual exploitation and abuse carried out by peacekeepers sent by this Council in the past to Haiti. Such crimes have left deep scars across the country. If we are to ask people to trust in peacekeepers and their mission, we cannot allow this to happen again – not in Haiti, not anywhere. We have agreed to a clear framework of action through resolution 2272. There can be space for backsliding on these commitments.

Mr President,

In conclusion, the UK looks forward to a smooth and seamless transition over the next few months. We also hope that these three conditions – a mission equipped with the right tools, a government ready to lead on Haiti's challenges, and a people ready to trust in the UN again – can accompany the next phase of the UN's relationship with Haiti.

Thank you.

Speech: Transport Minister speaks at the Backing Beauty Reception

Tonight (17 July 2017) I am going to speak of the future.

Truth is an absolute. And beauty the means by which it is revealed to us in its most comprehensible form. In John Keats' words:

Beauty is truth, truth beauty – that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.

Through our connection with beauty, we enjoy a taste of the sublime and both an escape from and a compensation for the inevitable pains and trials of daily life.

Through beauty the common good is nurtured, for humans are spiritual creatures who need much more than their daily bread.

Our sense of place is inseparable from our sense of worth and so the places in which we live and the environment around us feeds our individual and communal well-being.

To believe that a government minister shouldn't dare to speak of beauty is to assume that beauty is beyond politics or perhaps that politics is beneath aesthetics.

It is a misconception I want to confront this evening.

Politicians, as their confidence has been eroded, have retreated to, where a less challenging, less ambitious, less thoughtful discourse prevails.

Nervous about broaching matters about which they feel they can't do much or don't want to do much, it is unsurprising that they have failed to inspire those whose everyday lives have been blighted by the ugliness of the built environment they endure.

Back in 2005, my colleague Oliver Letwin observed that:

I believe that the disappearance of beauty from the vocabulary of politics is one of the reasons why British politics today so frequently strikes people as dessicated. I believe it is one of the reasons why so many people are 'turned off' politics.

The loss Oliver described is one I have regularly encountered, both in my role as Transport Minister and in the other offices of state I have held.

Even the most obvious truth – the advocacy of the pursuit of beauty – is

regarded with either disregard or disdain.

In part, this is explained by egalitarian hostility to those who judge the taste of others – for we are encouraged to believe that all is of equal worth regardless of how brutal, ugly or crass it is.

But more than this, we have lost our faith in beauty, because we have lost our faith in ideals. As Pope Benedict lamented:

We are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognise anything as definitive and has as its highest value one's own ego and one's own desires.

Yet this does not have to be so. Through beauty, our ideals and what is real can be harmonised.

Those who dare to make a case for beauty, elegance, grace or refinement are far from a public discourse brutalised by modern media and the consequent zeitgeist.

We are forced to live in too many spheres which have been colonised, in Umberto Eco's terms, by the Empire of Imbeciles.

The crass preoccupation with utility becomes imbecilic as it descends to the defence of ugliness.

No one has done more nor suffered more for his advocacy of beauty than His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.

As long ago as 1989, he set out in 'A Vision of Britain' the defining principles of good architectural design.

In 2011, he explained again that these timeless principles fit the future:

We can't have a future without the past. There has to be a sense of timelessness, a living tradition that helps to maintain (that) sense of identity and belonging.

More recently, in December 2014, he once again made the case for the re-connection of design with the natural order. He argues:

Universal principles are expressed in the order of Nature, which can never be 'old-fashioned'... Basing designs on the timeless universal principles expressed by Nature's order enables the full scope of our humanity to be fulfilled, on the physical, communal, cultural and spiritual levels.

Perhaps the most easily grasped and so persuasive counter to the zealous

preachers of modernism is the relationship – understood for centuries but now neglected – between the simple, God-given beauty of nature and what man can do.

The essence of Prince Charles' case is that there are timeless principles of good design. Such an argument would for centuries have been regarded as a priori.

Now the wish for art to please – to inspire – has been replaced by a thirst to shock, to alarm. As Roger Scruton has said:

Without the background of a remembered faith modernism loses its conviction: it becomes routinised. For a long time now it has been assumed that ... Art must give offence, stepping out of the future fully armed against the bourgeois taste for kitsch and cliché. But the result of this is that offence becomes a cliché.

Yet, despite popular revulsion with much they have imposed upon us, those responsible – who rarely live where they have wrought havoc – viciously attack anyone who dares to articulate what most people know: that most of what's been built in my lifetime could be demolished without aesthetic cost, and so bring the seductive benefit of leaving what was there before to stand proud.

Through our appreciation of beauty, we come to terms with ourselves and others, as our senses are elevated by sensory joy.

So, understanding the relationship between the built environment and well-being, I embarked on the mission, first highlighted in [my speech last year to the Independent Transport Commission](#), to challenge the character of what passes for acceptable design in much road and rail construction of recent times.

The best is bland. The worst is hideous.

It is true, of course, that different interpretations of beauty have prevailed in different eras, but the abiding idea was once routinely accepted – that what is built should be dignified by style.

Yet for at least 50 years, too often and in too many places, utility has been regarded as sufficient by callous architects, crass planners and careless politicians.

It's not just that form has been shaped by function, but that style has been neglected altogether. Greed and convenience have subsumed aesthetics.

Nowhere is this more true than in the case of industrial wind turbines, collections of which – in true Orwellian fashion – are dubbed 'farms'.

As Energy Minister I acted to ensure that wind turbines were constructed in appropriate locations after proper consultation with local communities.

Because little could jar more with the natural world or the man-made countryside than these huge concrete monstrosities.

Consideration about the impact on landscape became a vital part of the approval process. And, mercifully, we cut the subsidies paid by taxpayers.

While some made a case against the negative impact of turbines on the environment, and a few attempted to make an aesthetic case for such identikit industrial structures, many others simply dismissed my argument as irrelevant.

They did so on the basis of the easily grasped, though utterly crass notion, that 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder.'

Let's now, once and for all, be clear.

It is not beauty that changes but the ability of the beholder to appreciate it.

This notion that beauty is relative has been used to justify much of the ugliness imposed on our towns and cities by architects, planners and developers since the Second World War.

'Streets in the sky' were never a substitute for real streets, for homes on a human scale, in proportion and in harmony with their environment.

A home is not "a machine for living in". Ironically, these are the words, written in 1923, of the father of modern architecture Le Corbusier.

Homes are a reflection of our humanity.

As William Morris said,

Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful.

Morris understood that beauty and well-being are inextricably linked.

And that a politics that is serious about people's welfare and happiness must be serious about beauty.

For the ancient Greeks, aesthetic and moral judgements were inseparable.

In the 19th century, many artists considered beauty to be the vital link between freedom and truth.

There can be once again a growing understanding of how aesthetics are a vital part of our judgement of value and worth, for people instinctively understand the connection between beauty and a wider conception of value.

You see it in the love of natural, unspoilt places and the sense of shared ownership we feel for historic buildings.

You see it in the protests against the ugly buildings that developers still attempt to foist on communities against their will.

You see it in the despair at the way so many contemporary buildings are identikit, lacking any sense of craft or character.

Built with no consideration of the past and no regard to the future.

Indeed, at the heart of modern architecture, like all modern art, is the Nietzschean idea that the past is irrelevant and that we can create our own value system.

It is not for nothing that the 'hero' of Ayn Rand's despicable book 'The Fountainhead' is an architect.

This is the second misconception I want to bury this evening, and not before time.

Much modern architecture fails precisely because it rejects those principles of design that time has taught us delight the senses.

Where modern design does succeed it is largely by accident.

Or because, where form has at least followed function, a building has a high degree of utility.

But, as Edmund Burke noted long ago in an early work on aesthetics, this is not the same as beauty.

Burke understood that there is a great deal in common in what people find beautiful. But this is not related to utility; our appreciation of beauty is an effect "previous to any knowledge of use".

In other words, we know something to be beautiful before we understand its function.

When we perceive beauty, he wrote, our "senses and the imagination captivate the soul before understanding is ready either to join with them or to oppose them".

Our perception of beauty is not rational, it stems from the unconscious; from our deepest feelings and emotions as human beings.

Sir Roger Scruton puts it perfectly. He says:

Beauty is an ultimate value – something that we pursue for its own sake, and for the pursuit of which no further reason need be given.

Beauty should therefore be compared to truth and goodness, one member of a trio of ultimate values which justify our rational inclinations.

While the solipsism of the architect may be the driving force behind the drive to render much of our public space unsightly, it is our own denial of what our senses tell us that has enabled this desecration to take place.

It is because we have become so doubtful about the ability to make valid judgements about aesthetics, and even embarrassed by those who do, that we allowed ourselves to be ridden roughshod over by those who put profit and ego above all else.

Too many remain hesitant about making aesthetic judgments.

Respublica's research has shown that people tend to focus on the details – 'less litter and rubbish', 'vandalism and graffiti', and less 'vacant and run-down buildings' as important factors in making an area more beautiful.

All these things matter, and we could do much more to address them.

But which buildings will invariably be the shabbiest, the neglected, and the most disfigured with graffiti? It will be the relatively modern buildings – those built within the past 60 years.

Daubing graffiti is a crime, but the greater criminals are those that designed the modern structures which are the daubers' canvas.

And which buildings are invariably the most-obviously treasured?

It is older buildings, shaped by vernacular style, where architects have taken care to be in harmony with the surroundings. Where craftsmen have laboured over detail.

A study by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) found that when respondents were asked to name the most beautiful buildings in Sheffield, most cited the 2 cathedrals.

This brings me to the third and final misconception that I want to challenge, that beauty belongs somehow to the past.

For it is often considered, sometimes unthinkingly, that it is no longer possible to build beautiful buildings.

This is perhaps why increasing regard is given to the beautiful places and buildings that have survived intact.

We have somehow, rather depressingly, come to believe that the supply of beauty is both finite and exhausted.

This is perhaps because people assume that it must be somehow dated or even kitsch to build according to the principles of classical architecture.

Or because they assume that beauty comes at too high a price, and must be sacrificed for the sake of utility.

Both of these conceptions are false.

When the city fathers of Birmingham, Nottingham and Manchester built great town halls in either the neoclassical or gothic revival style, they did so because they understood that these styles had endured.

They wanted to build something that would last.

And they succeeded.

The modernist library in Birmingham's Chamberlain Square has recently been demolished, just 40 years after it was built – what a pity that its replacement couldn't have been in keeping with its surroundings!

No one would seriously consider doing the same to the neoclassical town hall, or to other great public buildings of the Victorian era.

Yet, despite their appearance, these are in other respects modern buildings, built using modern construction techniques.

In historical terms, they were built yesterday.

There are no good reasons why we cannot continue to build beautiful buildings and public infrastructure.

That is what I have undertaken to achieve as a Minister of State at the Department for Transport.

To make it an uplifting experience to navigate the roads, stations and other public infrastructure in our country.

We spend so much of our time travelling – to work, to see friends and family.

We must not resign ourselves to being miserable as we get from place to place.

Fine words matter, but they matter most as the precursor to fine deeds.

So later this year, I will be setting out in detail how our roads and railway sectors go about designing schemes in a harmonious way.

I am looking at both the processes by which judgments and decisions are made as well as the principles which inform those decisions.

Earlier in the year I met Sir Peter Hendy, Chair of Network Rail, who is now, with my officials, establishing a Rail Design Advisory Panel to embed good design on the railways.

The railway network is rich with buildings and structures of aesthetic value drawn from the dawn of the railway age through to the sympathetic treatment of Kings Cross.

In recent years, however, too often function has subsumed form leaving many of our cities and towns and much of our countryside scarred.

It is my ambition that the Rail Design Advisory Panel will usher in a new

golden age of railway design.

It will mirror the design panel that I insisted upon when, as the minister responsible, I established Highways England in 2014.

This has already examined the design of a number of schemes including the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon and the A303 Stonehenge Tunnel.

It has also looked at Highways England's general approach to a range of issues including light pollution and the design of expressways.

The panel includes organisations such as The Prince's Foundation for Building Community and the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

I have also asked both design panels to produce guidance on good design, exemplifying good practice – to shine a guiding light for practitioners.

I am pleased with the progress being made on these and they will be published in the coming months.

And I am working with the [HS2 Design Panel](#) too – their initial work is impressive.

Finally, I have established a taskforce to review motorway service areas, tasking it with improving the design and landscaping of both new and existing facilities.

In addition, it will be reviewing the scope for an expansion of local and particular provision of facilities to combat creeping corporate ubiquity.

It is my firm belief that motorway service areas should support local independent businesses, source locally produced food and be lovely places to enjoy.

Beauty at every turn, every stop.

All of these elements are critical for ensuring that good design is at the heart of all we do.

I am also determined that good design principles will not only apply to new projects but also to refurbishments and maintenance.

How we treat what is first well designed can make unsightly what was once beautiful.

As the great railway stations, bridges and tunnels of the Victorian era demonstrate, while beauty and utility are not the same, they can be made to work in harmony.

One does not have to be sacrificed for the sake of the other.

Indeed, the willful excesses of modern and post-modern architecture are often far more expensive than buildings built and designed according to classical principles.

It is our misconceptions we must now consign to the past.

And, in their place, embrace a vision of beauty.

To fill our hearts with joy.

We shall doubtless encounter carpers and critics – too difficult, too expensive, too contentious – they will say.

We will be tested in our resolve.

There can be no surrender.

We must triumph.

The future deserves nothing less.