

# carruthers associates

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Preserving Womersley.

4.5.2018

This is a letter of support to those who are actively trying to preserve and protect the work of Peter Womersley in the Scottish Borders and in particular the Bernat Klein Studio at High Sunderland, Selkirkshire.

This building is of significant importance to the Modernist movement in the United Kingdom and in particular to the history of the work of Peter Womersley, the architect responsible for the Studio.

My name is Hamish Carruthers and I have lived in the Rig Office, Gattonside, with my wife, Professor Sheila-Mary Carruthers, since 1978. We are both Textile Designers.

This is the site of Peter Womersley's Design Studio and where much of his architectural work was conceived. This building has not been listed as we have done much to create our own living and working space, but the original plan has basically been kept.

The Studio at High Sunderland is one of Womersley's highlight designs and it is terrible to see how it has been allowed to deteriorate, particularly as it is on the Scottish Borders Council List of buildings in danger.

I was responsible in persuading the then Scottish Development Agency in the early 1990's to buy the Bernat Klein Studio to be used as a Centre for use by the Scottish Textile Industry.

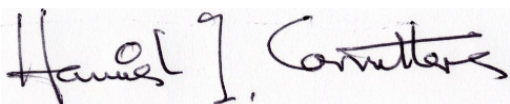
Since that time, it has been purchased privately and allowed to deteriorate badly.

We have several visits to the Rig Office by Womersley enthusiasts annually and the numbers are increasing as interest in Womersley's work grows. The comment that is made is always the shock at the state of the High Sunderland Studio, which is supposedly protected but has had little active support from Scottish Borders Council.

If the Womersley legacy is to be protected and highlighted, it needs Public bodies to stand up for the powers given to them by the Listing Process, and not to pay lip service to this legislation.

Yours sincerely,

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