

Landscapes of Innocence & Experience

Simon Roberts

The media and technology tent for the Occupy London protest camp in Finsbury Square.



The trading floor of Lloyds Banking Group photographed on the day of a mass protest in London.

One of the ways we remember an economic crisis is through images; from the Great Depression in America, told through the black-and-white portraits of men in bread lines, to the effect of Thatcher's Britain through photographs depicting the miners' strike and stolen moments inside dole offices.

The Peckham Peace Wall with messages left by residents of Peckham on a boarded up window of Poundland, which was smashed during the riots in London.



Live economic data stream in the London Stock Exchange.

While it seems that not a day goes by without more grim economic news, the current recession has been largely invisible. This is despite the fact that the eventual effects of such news – a lost job, a vanishing pension, cut-backs to social services – are intensely personal. Many believe that the most severe consequences of the recession on UK living standards have only just begun to be felt, and will continue to be felt for years to come.

The Occupy London 'Bank of Ideas' building, where protestors took over an empty UBS Bank building near Finsbury Square, London. The room had been turned into the protestor's security office.



Boardroom of an investment bank in the City of London.

Over the past year I've been looking at modes of representing these effects, exploring ways of interrogating our new predicament and the shifting perception of the country's economic and political geography. The series published here contrasts photographs taken inside financial institutions in the City of London, alongside landscapes of protest where groups like Occupy London have been reacting against the austerity measures implemented by the coalition government which they see as being directly caused by the financial sector.



Roof terrace of an investment bank in the City of London with a view of St Paul's Cathedral.



Photographs: Simon Roberts / DMB Media