

The Life and Death of the Shopping City

How have British cities changed in the years since the Second World War? And what drove this transformation? This innovative new history traces the development of the post-war British city, from the 1940s era of reconstruction, through the rise and fall of modernist urban renewal, up to the present-day crisis of high street retailing and central area economies. Alistair Kefford shows how planners, property developers, councils and retailers worked together to create the modern shopping city, remaking the physical fabric, economy and experience of cities around this retail-driven developmental model. This book also offers a wider social history of mass affluence, showing how cities were transformed to meet the perceived demands of a society of shoppers, and why this effort was felt to be so urgent in an era of urban deindustrialisation. By bringing the story of the shopping city right up to its present-day crisis and collapse, Kefford makes clear how the historical trajectories traced in this book continue powerfully to shape urban Britain today.

Alistair Kefford is Assistant Professor at Leiden University where he teaches history and urban studies. He was previously a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester, and a Lecturer in Modern British History at the University of Manchester. He worked for a number of years in local government planning and continues to engage with contemporary urban policy and regeneration. His work has appeared in numerous scholarly journals of history and urban studies and his research into 'the death of the high street' has been featured in high-profile publications such as *The Financial Times*.

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*Public Planning and Private Redevelopment
in Britain since 1945*

Alistair Kefford

Leiden University



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For Laura, who had to live with it.

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