

THE ACAPULCO CLUB (AREA C)

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The Acapulco Club is a Halifax institution. It has its own mythology, it's commonly known as *The Acca* and when they replaced the (sticky) carpet after a refurb, it was found that people would pay for a piece of it. Such is the cultural currency of the club. It opened in 1961 and claims have been made that it is the UK's oldest nightclub. I'm dubious about this and I imagine some of the historians of London's pre-WWII clubs would be as well. But no matter, the Acca's old enough to have served your parents and your grandparents.

The fact is that the Acca is widely known in the town, which makes it an interesting kind of landmark. It's not very prominent as an object, being part of a flat-fronted, fairly featureless, modern block. Does it stand out from the adjacent buildings, size-wise? No, it's about the same size. Does it have shapes or a design that give it singularity or distinctiveness? No, it's less distinctive than its neighbours. Maybe the one thing that gives visual interest is the Acapulco sign, which is shabby enough to have acquired unintended qualities of form and texture. So, not that visually prominent, then.

I think its significance lies in the place it occupies in people's minds. *Everybody* knows the Acca, what it is and where it is, even if they've only visited it a few times in their youth. The enduring nature of the place gives it properties that pubs would have had as orienting signposts, were they still there. But they've largely gone. The Acca plods on.

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