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Construction News
Planner No. 42A-40
50XY - 37,600

- 5 DEC 1987



Books.

Community Architecture — How people are creating their own environment

By Nick Wates and Charles Kne-vitt

Penguin. £4.95

208 pp, 27 illus, ISBN 0-14-010428-3

PUBLIC awareness of community architecture dates from May 1984 when Prince Charles caused such construction by his speech at the RIBA's 150th birthday celebrations.

Not surprisingly his picture appears on the cover of this book and the story is re-told in the chapter entitled "The Break-through".

But despite the jazzy chapter headings and slightly heroic style of writing, this is not a trendy polemic and may disappoint a reader looking for sensationalism.

Instead a lot of the book is devoted to the planning and implementation of community architecture — a rather more specialist treatment of the subject than the Penguin orange spine would suggest.