

Unwin, Raymond 1863 - 1940



Raymond Unwin [also known as Sir Raymond Unwin] was born in Whitston, near Rotherham, England on 2 November 1863. He declined a scholarship offered by Magdalen College, Oxford in favour of an engineering apprenticeship with the Staveley Coal & Iron Co. Engineers' Department in Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

In 1896 Unwin embarked on an architectural career and that year formed [Parker & Unwin](#), a partnership with [Barry Parker](#) (1867-1947) in Buxton, Derbyshire. The business relocated to Hampstead Garden Suburb in 1907 and by 1913 had moved to Letchworth in Hertfordshire. By 1914 Unwin had become increasingly involved in town planning projects and public sector work and in May 1915 the partnership was formally dissolved.

During its nearly twenty years history, Parker & Unwin made a significant contribution to the development of the garden city and suburb movement in Britain, notably in their planning of New Earswck Village near York for Joseph Rowntree, and the planning and housing they designed for the First Garden City at Letchworth, and at Hampstead Garden Suburb. Their book *The Art of Building a Home* (1901) was also widely-read and influential, as was Unwin's book *Town Planning in Practice: An Introduction to the Art of Designing Cities & Suburbs* (1909) which ran through several editions.

Following the dissolution of the Parker & Unwin partnership, Unwin worked for the Ministry of Munitions for whom he designed and supervised the construction of villages for war workers in Gretna, Eastriggs and elsewhere. In 1919 he was appointed Chief Architect for the Ministry of Health and later Chief Technical Officer for

Housing and Town Planning, a post he held until 1928. In 1929 he served as technical adviser to the Greater London Regional Planning Committee. In 1936 Columbia University in New York appointed him visiting Professor of Town Planning.

Unwin was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architecture (FRIBA) in 1910, and was President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (PRIBA) from 1931 to 1933. He was also President of the Town Planning Institute (PTPI) in 1915, and President of the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning (IFHTP) from 1928 to 1931.

Among the numerous awards and honours conferred on him were a knighthood in 1932, the Royal Gold Medal in 1937, and an honorary doctorate from Harvard University in 1937. Unwin fell ill and died in Old Lyme, Connecticut, on 28 June 1940.

Worked in

UK

Works

By Unwin and with Barry Parker: St. Andrew's Church, Barrow Hill, near Staveley, Derbyshire (1895); Woodcote, Church Stretton, Shropshire, with Parker (1895); Town plan of New Earswick, near York and housing there (1902-04); Town plan of Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, and housing there (1903); Kildare Lodge, Minehead, Somerset, with Parker (1903); Co-operative housing, St. Botolph's Avenue, Sevenoaks, Kent (1903-06); Folk Hall Institute, New Earswick, near York (1905-07); Town plan of Hampstead Garden Suburb, London and, Shops and housing at Temple Fortune, Heath Close, Reynolds Close, and The Orchard (c1906-c.1910); Oakdene, Rotherfield, Sussex (1907); Primary School, East Earswick, near York (1911-12); and The Clock House, Cowfold, Sussex, with Parker (1913-14).

See also:

[British Listed Buildings](#)

[Historic England](#)

Source of Illustrations

[RIBApix](#) - Raymond Unwin

[RIBApix](#) - Parker & Unwin

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- British Listed Buildings - 64 listed buildings by Parker & Unwin

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/site-search/?q=Parker%20unwin>

- Historic England - 250 architectural projects by Parker & Unwin

<https://historicengland.org.uk/sitesearch?searchType=site&search=Parker%20Unwin&searchType=site>

- British Listed Buildings - 115 listed buildings by Raymond Unwin

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/site-search/?q=%22Raymond%20Unwin%22>

- RIBapix - raymond Unwin

<https://www.ribapix.com/search?adv=false&cid=0&mid=0&vid=0&q=Raymond%20unwin>

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