

## Tubbs, Ralph 1912 - 1996



Ralph Tubbs was born in Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire, England, on 9 January 1912. [This is the date given in his entry in 'Who's Who', however, other sources give the date as 12 January 1912]. After studying at the Architectural Association School in London, he worked for a year unpaid with Erno Goldfinger, and then for three years with Maxwell Fry, then in partnership with Walter Gropius. Tubbs subsequently returned to Goldfinger and prepared all the working drawings for a terrace of three houses in Willow Road, Hampstead, London. In 1939 he became honorary secretary of the [MARS. Modern Architectural Research Group](#).

During World War Two he designed factories and served as a fire watcher on St. Paul's Cathedral in London by night.

In 1948 he set up an independent architectural office. He was a member of the Presentation Panel and Design Group for the 1951 Festival of Britain, and architect of the Dome of Discovery built on the Festival's South Bank site. Other architectural projects by Tubbs included the YMCA Indian Student Hostel in London (1952), Baden Powell House for the Boy Scout's Association in London (1959-61), Granada House in Atherton Street, Manchester (1960-62), and housing in Hounslow and Harlow New Towns. Tubbs designed a nursery for the 'Britain Can Make It' exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London in 1946.

He was the author of two books - 'Living in Cities' (Harmondsworth, England: Penguin, 1942) and 'The Englishman Builds' (Harmondsworth, England: Penguin, 1945). Tubbs was an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA). He was President of the British Entomological and Natural History Society (1982-84) He died in London on 24 November 1996.

Worked in

UK

Bibliography

Harwood, Elain. Mid-Century Britain: Modern Architecture 1938-1963. London: Batsford, 2021

Knevitt, Charles. Dome: Ralph Tubbs and the Festival of Britain. London: Chelsea Space, 2012 [ISBN:9781906203634 / 1906203636] Published on the occasion of the exhibition held at Chelsea Space, London, 12 September - 20 October 2012.

Lazarides, Telemachos Odysseos. The Structural Analysis of the Dome of Discovery. London: Crosby Lockwood & Son, 1952

Mills, Edward David. The New Architecture in Britain 1946-1953. London: The Standard Catalogue Co., 1953 [Discusses the Dome of Discovery (1951 Festival of Britain), South Bank, London pp. 151-160]

#### Links

- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph\\_Tubbs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_Tubbs)
- Charles Knevitt. 'Obituary: Ralph Tubbs' Independent 6 December 1996  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/obituary-ralph-tubbs-1313191.html>
- RIBA [https://www.ribapix.com/ralph-tubbs-architect-of-the-dome-of-discovery-festival-of-britain-south-bank-london\\_riba19477](https://www.ribapix.com/ralph-tubbs-architect-of-the-dome-of-discovery-festival-of-britain-south-bank-london_riba19477)
- Chelsea Space <https://www.chelseaspace.org/archive/dome-info.html>
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