

Clendenning, Max Walter 1924 - 2020



Walter Max Clendenning [commonly known as Max Clendenning] was born in Richhill, Northern Ireland, on 26 September 1924. After studying at Belfast College of Art from 1942 to 1944, he worked in the office of Belfast architect Henry Lynch-Robinson from 1944 to 1950. He then continued his studies at Belfast College of Art in 1950-51, and, on a scholarship, at the Architectural Association in London from 1951 to 1953. In 1953 he received his diploma and was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA). He was also awarded a scholarship by the British Council enabling him to study town planning in Italy in 1953-54.

Following his return to England he worked in the offices of Morris de Metz in 1954-55, and Maxwell Fry, Jane Drew and Denys Lasdun in London in 1955-56. He then worked for the architecture department of British Railways where he was involved in a programme of modernisation, which involved the redesign of the Oxford Road station in Manchester.

From 1960 he was a partner in the firm Sir John Brown, A.E. Henson & Partners in London. Between 1965 and 1985 Clendenning worked as an independent interior and furniture designer. Projects by him included the interior of the Civic Centre in Crawley, Sussex, shops in Covent Garden, London (including that of Goods & Chattels Ltd.), the front of Terence Conran's restaurant in Neal Street, London, office in Sheffield. Notable among his furniture designs were a range for Liberty & Co. (1965), and the Maxima modular series for Race (1965). He also designed an inflatable furniture range. His own house featured an all-white living room with 30-foot-long sack seating and a giant papier-maché tulip.

Worked in

Ireland

UK

Links

- Hugh Pearman. 'Max Clendinning 1924-2020. The RIBA Journal 29 July 2020 <https://www.ribaj.com/culture/maxwell-clendinning-1924-2020-obituary>
- UK Modern House http://www.ukmoho.co.uk/html/architect/Max_Clendinning.html
- Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max_Clendinning
- Chelsea Space <https://www.chelseaspace.org/archive/clendinning-pr.html>
- Holly Williams. Mix and max: Designer Max Clendinning has had a radical change of heart when it comes to minimalism. Independent 5 April 2012 <https://www.independent.co.uk/property/interiors/mix-and-max-designer-max-clendinning-has-had-a-radical-change-of-heart-when-it-comes-to-minimalism-7622161.html>
- National Museums Scotland - 'Maxima' seating unit with coffee table: English, designed by Max Clendinning, 1966 <https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/collection-search-results/seating-unit/715591>
- Historic England - Crawley Town Hall <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1453758>
- Historic England - Manchester Oxford Road Station <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1255053>
- Max Clendinning, designer who 'did for furniture what Mary Quant did for fashion' – obituary . The Telegraph 20 August 2020 [access to this article is by subscription] <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2020/08/20/max-clendinning-architect-designer-1960s-minimalist-furniture/>