

Champneys, Basil 1842 - 1935



Basil Champneys was born in Whitechapel, London, England on 17 September 1842. After studying at Trinity College, Cambridge, he was articled to John Prichard (1817-1886) diocesan surveyor of Llandaff, Wales. In 1867 he commenced independent practice as an architect in Queen's Square, London. He soon became acquainted with William Morris, the offices of whose firm Morris & Co. was located nearby.

Champneys was one the first architects to adopt the new Queen Anne Style. He also worked in Gothic, neo-Jacobean and English Renaissance styles.

He was appointed as architect to Manchester Cathedral in 1893. He was a founder member of the Art Workers Guild in 1884. In 1912 he was awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects Gold Medal although he was never a member of that Institute because he regarded architecture as an art allied to painting and sculpture rather than a profession.

Champney's address was given as 39 Great Marlborough Street, London in 1874; and 19 Buckingham Street, London in 1881. From 1881 until his death on 5 April 1935 he lived at his home, Oak Hall, Froggnal Lane, Hampstead, London.

A biographical file on Basil Champneys is available on request from the Enquiry Desk, Royal Institute of British Architects Library, London

Worked in

UK

Works

Chamneys was one of the first architects to adopt the new Queen Anne Style. He also worked in Gothic, neo-Jacobean and English Renaissance styles. During his long career, much of his work was in the university sector. This included Newnham College, Cambridge (1874-75); Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford (1881-83); Museum of Classical Archaeology, Cambridge (1883); the Indian Institute at Oxford (1883-96); Mansfield College Library, Oxford (1886-89); Robinson Tower at New College, Oxford (1896); Somerville College Library, Oxford (1903); the St. Alban Hall buildings at Merton College, Cambridge (1905-10); the St. Alban Hall buildings at Merton College, Oxford (1905-10); and Bedford College, University of London, London (1910-13).

Non-university buildings designed by Chamneys included St Luke's Church, Kentish Town, London (1867-70); Wilnecote Schools, Wilnecote, Tamworth (1877); Sailors' Church of St Mary Star of the Sea, Hastings, Sussex (1878); Church of St George, Glascote, Tamworth, Lancashire (1880); Church of St John Stonefold, Rising Bridge, Haslingden, Lancashire (1884-86); Butler Museum at Harrow School in Harrow, London (1886); High School in Bedford, Bedfordshire (1878-92); John Rylands Memorial Library in Deansgate, Manchester (1890-99); Additions and alterations to Manchester Cathedral (1890s); St Chad Church, Slindon, Staffordshire (1893-94); Vicarage, Haslingden, Lancashire (1894); Memorial Buildings and Museum, Winchester College, Winchester, Hampshire (1898); St. Luke's Church, Kidderpore Avenue, Hampstead, London (1898); St. Andrew and St. Michael, Blackwell Lane, Greenwich, London (1900-02); King Edward VII Grammar School, King's Lynn, Norfolk (1903); Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Blackley, Manchester (1907-08); and Grammar school in King's Lynn, Norfolk (1910-13). Chamneys also designed several private houses, including a house for the artist Henry Holiday in Hampstead, London.

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Links

- M. S. Briggs, 'Champneys, Basil (1842–1935)', rev. Michael W. Brooks, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004 [Subscription service] <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/32357>
- Betzy Dinesen. Basil Champneys. Grove Art Online. Oxford Art Online [Subscription service] <http://www.oxfordartonline.com/subscriber/article/grove/art/T015859?q=Champneys>
- Historic England - contains over 80 records on the work of Basil Champneys <https://historicengland.org.uk/sitesearch?searchType=site&search=%22Basil%20Champneys>
- Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basil_Champneys
- Newnham College, University of Cambridge [Scroll down to name] <https://newn.cam.ac.uk/about/history/biographies/>
- Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660-1980 http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200889
- The Victorian Web <https://victorianweb.org/victorian/art/architecture/champneys/index.html>
- The National Archives <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/c/F43126>
- Find a Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13861706/basil-champneys>
- National Portrait Gallery, London <https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw178580/Basil-Champneys>
- Architects of Greater Manchester 1800-1940 <https://manchestervictorianarchitects.org.uk/architects/basil-champneys>
- Archives at Yale - Basil Champneys correspondence <https://archives.yale.edu/repositories/11/resources/616>
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