

Voysey, Charles Francis Annesley (C.F.A.) 1857 - 1941



Charles Francis Annesley Voysey [also known as C.F.A. Voysey] was one of the leading figures in the English Arts and Crafts movement. He was born the son of Charles Voysey (1828-1912), a clergyman, in Hessle, near Hull in East Yorkshire, England, on 28 May 1857. On leaving school he was articled to the architect John Pollard Seddon in London (1874-77) and remained as his assistant (1878). He then worked as an assistant to the London architects Henry Saxon Snell (1879) and George Devey (1880-81).

Voysey opened his own office in Westminster, London, in 1881 and was in private practice for the next sixty years. Most of his architectural commissions date from the years 1889-1911.

In addition to his work as an architect, Voysey, produced a wide range of designs for the domestic environment. As a result of his acquaintance with Arthur H. Mackmurdo (1851-1942) early in his career, Voysey obtained commissions to design fabrics, rugs and wallpaper for a number of leading manufacturers including Sanderson, Jeffrey & Co. Alexander Moreton & Co. and the Essex Company. He later designed furniture, clocks, jewellery, metalware, light fittings, etc.

Voysey summarised his philosophy on architecture and design in his two books *Reason as the Basis of Art* (London: Elkin Matthews, 1906) and *Individuality* (London: Chapman & Hall, 1915).

He was elected a member of the Art Workers Guild in 1884 and became Master of the AWG in 1924. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA) in 1927, and in 1936 was elected a Designer for Industry (DI) [from 1937 known as Royal Designer for Industry (RDI)] by the Royal Society of Arts. In 1940 he was awarded the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture.

Voysey's architectural practice was in steady decline from c.1906, but the outbreak of World War One virtually put an end to it. By 1914 interest in the Arts and Crafts style had started to wain and his refusal to compromise on artistic ideals began to lose him potential patrons. However, towards the end of his life, his importance as an architect and designer had begun to be appreciated again, notably by the art historian Nikolaus Pevsner, who championed his work in his seminal book *Pioneers of the Modern Movement* (London: Faber and Faber, 1936).

Voysey died at his home, Patk House, in Winchester, Hampshire, on 12 February 1941.

A biographical file on C.F.A. Voysey is available on request from the Enquiry Desk, Royal Institute of British Architects Library, London

Worked in

UK

Works

Lakin House in Bishop's Itchington, Warwickshire (1889); Walnut Tree Farm for H. Cazalet in Castlemorton (1890); Additions to The Cliff, 102 Coventry Road, Warwick (1890); Walnut Tree Farm, Castlemorton, Malvern, Herefordshire (1890); Studio house, 14 South Parade, Bedford Park, London, for J.W. Forster (1891); Grove Town Houses in Kensington, London (1891-92); Perrycroft in Colwall, Hertfordshire (1893-94); Lowicks, near Frensham, Surrey (1904); Cottages at Ockham Park, Ockham, Surrey (1894-1903); Annesley Lodge in Hampstead, London, for his father, Rev. Charles Voysey (1895-96); Wentworth Arms public house and six cottages, Elmesthorpe, near Hincklry, Leicestershire (1895-96); Greyfriars at Hog's Back, Surrey (1896); the Voysey House at Colwell, Hertfordshire (1897); Norney in Shackleford, Surrey, for the Rev. Leighton Crane (1897); Broadleys, near Lake Windermere in Cumbria, for A. Currer Briggs (1898); Moorcrag, near Lake Windermere in Cumbria (1898); the Orchard at Chorleywood in Hertfordshire (1899-1901); the Spade House in Folkestone, Kent, for H.G. Wells (1899); the Pastures at North Luffenham, Leicestershire (1901); a wallpaper factory for Arthur Sanderson & Sons in Chiswick, London (1902); Tilehurst in Bushey, Hertfordshire (1903); Hollymount at Knotty Green, Buckinghamshire, for

C.T. Burke (1903); the Homestead at Frinton-on-Sea in Essex (1905); the offices of the Essex & Suffolk Equitable Insurance Company in London (1906-10); Littleholm in Kendle, Westmorland (1908-09); St Winifred's Quarry in Combe Down, Bath, for T.S. Cotterell (1909); Hetherington House in Belfast (1911); Lilycombe. Porlock Hill, near Pollock, Somerset (1912); and Lodge for Hill Close, near Studland, Dorset (1913).

See also:

[C. F. A. Voysey Society - Voysey's Principal Buildings](#)

[Historic England](#)

[British Listed Buildings](#)

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