

## Martin, John Leslie 1908 - 2000



John Leslie Martin [commonly known as Leslie Martin; also known as Sir John Leslie Martin, and as J. Leslie Martin] was born in Manchester, England on 17 August 1908 and studied architecture at the University of Manchester, where he was awarded an M.A. in 1932 and a PhD. in 1936. Martin not only practised architecture but taught the subject. His first teaching post was at the University of Manchester in 1930, where he was an assistant lecturer and master of elementary design. In 1934, at the age of 26, he was appointed head of the School of Architecture at Hull College of Art. In 1926 he met [Sadie Speight](#) (1906-1992), who with him had been an architectural student at the University of Manchester. They subsequently married in 1935. Martin and Speight began practising together as John Leslie Martin & Sadie Speight [or Martin & Speight]. Between between 1935 and 1939 they were engaged on several architectural commissions in the north of England.

In 1939 Martin gave up his teaching post at Hull College of Art and with Speight moved to London where he was employed by the London, Midland and Scottish (LMS) Railway as principal assistant architect from 1939 to 1948. In October 1948 he was appointed Deputy Architect by London County Council (LCC). Over the next three years was engaged on the design and construction of a new permanent concert hall (Festival Hall) on the South Bank site. In 1953, Martin succeeded Robert Matthew as Architect to the LCC.

In 1956 Martin took up an appointment as the first professor of architecture in the University of Cambridge and head of the department of architecture. From 1957 to 1973 he was also a fellow of Jesus College. Soon after his move to Cambridge,

he set up his practice in the nearby village of Great Shelford.

Martin was a Recognised Schools Silver Medallist in 1929 and a Soane Medallist in 1930. He was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA) in 1930 and was awarded the RIBA Royal Gold Medal for Architecture in 1973, and the RIBA Trustees' Medal in 1992. In 1957 he was knighted for his services to architecture. He died at Great Shelford on 28 July 2000.

Worked in

UK

Works

See: UK Modern House; and the Official website of Sir Leslie Martin [*links below*]

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- Historic England - Brackenfell, Brampton, Cumbria. Designed by Leslie Martin and Sadie Speight for Alastair Morton <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1388267>
- YouTube. Kit Martin on Leslie Martin & Sadie Speight [Kit Martin talks about his parents Leslie Martin & Sadie Speight of the C20 lecture series My Parents the Architects in spring 2015. 59 mins. 17 secs] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4PLHv5-YxY>