

Denby, Elizabeth Marian 1894 - 1965



Elizabeth Marian Denby was born Elsie Marian Denby [1] in Bradford, Yorkshire, England on 20 May 1894 [2] and was the daughter of Walter Denby (1861-1944), a medical doctor, and Clara Emma Denby (née Bassett, 1868-1961).

She studied social science and administration at the London School of Economics in 1916-17, and then worked at the Ministry of Labour from 1917 to 1921. From 1923 to 1925 she was engaged in co-ordinating volunteer work in Kensington, London. Between 1925 and 1933 she was employed as organizing secretary of the Kensington Housing Association, where she was involved in various urban renewal schemes.

In 1933 she was awarded a Leverhulme fellowship grant to study rehousing schemes in eight European countries. This led to the publication of her book *Europe Rehoused* (1933). In the early 1930s she teamed up with the architect [Edwin Maxwell Fry](#) (1899-1987) in the design of affordable flats including Sassoon House in Peckham, London (1934), and Kensal House in Ladbroke Grove, London (1938).

Denby also collaborated with Noel Carrington (1895-1989) in organising the exhibition 'Living in Houses' held in London in May 1942 and on 27 March 1943 gave a talk entitled 'The Homes We Want' at the National Gallery in London.

In 1936 she founded the shop House Furnishing Ltd, in London, which supplied furnishing fabrics and fittings for the home.

Her address was given as 95 Great Horton Road Bradford Yorkshire in 1901 and 1911; and 11 Princes St W, Mayfair, City of Westminster, London in 1939. She died in Hythe, Kent on 3 November 1965

[1] Her name is given as Elsie Marian Denby in the England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, the 1901 England and Wales Census, and in her probate record. Her middle name is often incorrectly given as Marion

[2] Her date of birth is incorrectly given as 20 May 1899 in the National Register 1939

Worked in

UK

Bibliography

'The All-Europe house'. RIBA Journal 26 June 1939 p. 813 [Report on a house designed by Elizabeth Denby for a high-density area. The house was exhibited at the Ideal Home Exhibition in London in 1939]

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Links

- Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Denby
- Architectuul <https://architectuul.com/architect/elizabeth-denby>
- Lynne Walker. Golden Age or False Dawn? Women Architects in the Early 20th century [PDF] <https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/women-architects-early-20th-century-pdf>
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- Lynne Walker. Denby, Elizabeth Marion. Oxford Dictionary of National Biography [Subscription service] <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/63130>
- The Women Housing Architects Of Britain. Architectuul <https://architectuul.com/digest/the-women-housing-architects-of-britain>
- University of Brighton Design Archives. Elizabeth Denby and Dorothy Braddell <https://blogs.brighton.ac.uk/womendesigning/2015/11/12/elizabeth-denby-and-dorothy-braddell/>
- Daisy Froud. Role models: Elizabeth Denby and Marjory Allen. Architects' Journal <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/role-models-elizabeth-denby-and-marjory-allen>
- Twentieth Century Society. Building of the Month <https://c20society.org.uk/building-of-the-month/kensal-house-west-london>
- Hidden Architecture <https://hiddenarchitecture.net/si-kensal-house/>
- Historic England <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/inclusive-heritage/womens-history/visible-in-stone/gaining-recognition/>
- Biography Central https://biographycentral.com/biography/elizabeth_denby