

Denby, Elizabeth 1894 - 1965



Elizabeth Denby was born Elizabeth Marion Denby in Bradford, Yorkshire, England on 20 May 1894 and studied social science and administration at the London School of Economics in 1916-17. She was then worked at the Ministry of Labour from 1917 to 1921 and in co-ordinating volunteer work in Kensington, London from 1923 to 1925. 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. She died in Hythe, Kent on 3 November 1965

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>
- Darling, Elizabeth Ann. Elizabeth Denby, housing consultant: social reform and cultural politics in the inter-war period. Ph.D. thesis, Barlett School of Architecture, University College London, 1999 [PDF Open access version] <https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10066631/>
- Lynne Walker. Elizabeth Marion Denby. Oxford Dictionary of National Biography [Subscription service] <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/63130>