

## Abercrombie, Leslie Patrick 1879 - 1957



Leslie Patrick Abercrombie [commonly known as Patrick Abercrombie, and as Sir Patrick Abercrombie] was born in Green Bank, Sale, Altrincham, Lancashire, England on 6 June 1879. From 1897 to 1901 he was articled to [Charles Henry Heathcote](#) (1851-1938) in Manchester. On completion of his articles he worked for three years in the office of [Sir Arnold Thornely](#) (1870-1953) in Liverpool. In 1906-07 he worked for the architect [Philip Henry Lockwood](#) (1865-1939) in Chester. In 1907 [Charles Herbert Reilly](#) (1874-1948), head of the Liverpool University School of Architecture appointed Abercrombie junior lecturer and studio instructor. This was a defining event in his career and sparked his long involvement with civic design and town planning. From 1909 to c.1914 Abercrombie was research fellow in town planning at Liverpool University. In 1915 he became Professor of Civic Design at the university, a post he held until 1935 when he succeeded Stanley Davenport Adshead (1868-1946) as Chair of Town Planning at University College, London.

In 1916, with Arthur A. Kelly and Sidney J. Kelly, Abercrombie won an international competition to design a new city plan for Dublin.

Abercrombie was closely involved in plans for the post-war reconstruction of London. He was the co-author, with [John Henry Forshaw](#) (1895-1973), of the County of London Plan (1943), and author of the Greater London Plan (1944). He retired from the Chair of Town Planning in 1946.

Abercrombie was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA) in 1915, and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA) in 1925. He was knighted in 1945 and was awarded the Royal Gold Medal in 1946.

He was President of the Town Planning Institute and founder editor of the Town Planning Review. He died at his home, the Red House, in Aston, Berkshire on 23 March 1957.

Worked in

UK

Works

Hownhall, near Ross-on-Wye; Donnanstown: new village — lay-out and houses (in partnership with Adshead and Ramsey); Wrexham: housing scheme for Corporation (in partnership with P. H. Lockwood and C. F. Saxon); Kirk Sandall: new village — lay-out and houses (in partnership with T. H. Johnson). [Source: Who's Who in Architecture 1923]

Bibliography

Casseres, J. M. de. Stedebouw. Met een voorrede van Patrick Abercrombie. Amsterdam: van Looy 1926

Directory of British Architects 1834-1914. Compiled by Antonia Brodie, et al. Volume 1: A-K. London; New York: British Architectural Library, Royal Institute of British Architects/Continuum, 2001

Dix, Gerald 'Patrick Abercrombie', in Pioneers in British Planning. Edited by Gordon E. Cherry. London: Architectural Press, 1981 pp.103-125

Dix, Gerald 'Patrick Abercrombie" pioneer of planning'. Architectural Review vol. 166, 1979 pp. 130-132

Harwood, Elain. Space Hope and Brutalism. English Architecture 1945-1975. New Haven, Connecticut and London: Yale University Press in association with Historic England for the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, 2015

Isaacs, Reginald R. 'Patrick Abercrombie' in Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects Volume 1. Edited by Adolf K. Plakzek. New York and London: Macmillan and Free Press, 1982 p. 18

'Leslie Patrick Abercrombie: a centenary note'. Town Planning Review, vol 50, no. 3, 1979 pp. 257-264

Manno, Antonio. Patrick Abercrombie : a chronological bibliography, with annotations and biographical details. Leeds, Yorkshire: Planning Research Unit, School of Town Planning, Leeds Polytechnic, 1980.

Matless, David. 'Appropriate Geography: Patrick Abercrombie and the Energy of the World'. *Journal of Design History* vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 167-178

Osborne, F. J. 'Sir Patrick Abercrombie'. *Town and Country Planning*, vol. 25, no. 5, May 1957 p.199

'Obituary'. *The Builder* vo. 192, 1957 p. 593

'Obituary'. *RIBA Journal* vol. 64, 1957, pp. 205, 249, 292-294, 332

Pepler, George. 'Patrick Abercrombie: an appreciation'. *Journal of the Town Planning Institute*, vol. 43, 1957, pp. 130-132

'Presentation of the T. P. I. gold medal to Sir Patrick Abercrombie', *Journal of the Town Planning Institute*, vol. 41, 1955, 229-234

*Who's Who in Architecture 1923*. Edited by Frederick Chatterton. London: The Architectural Press, 1923

Williams-Ellis, Clough. 'A genial wizard: an appreciation of Sir Patrick Abercrombie' *The Listener* 8 August 1957 pp. 199-200

Zger, Mirjam. *The Potato Plan Collection - 40 Cities Through The Lens Of Patrick Abercrombie*. Rotterdam: nai010 publishers, 2018

#### Links

- Mervyn Miller, 'Abercrombie, Sir (Leslie) Patrick (1879-1957)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Jan 2011 [Subscription service] <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/30322>
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick\\_Abercrombie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Abercrombie)
- Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660-1980 [http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full.php?id=207133](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=207133)
- National Portrait Gallery, London <https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp50040/sir-leslie-patrick-abercrombie>
- Architects of Greater Manchester 1800-1940 <https://manchestervictorianarchitects.org.uk/architects/sir-leslie-patrick-abercrombie>
- Manno, Antonio. Sir (Leslie) Patrick Abercrombie. *Oxford Grove Art Online* [Subscription service] <https://doi.org/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.article.T000112>
- YouTube. English Heritage blue plaque to Sir Patrick Abercrombie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHjGZ4aS1Jc>
- Vimeo. The Proud City. Patrick Abercrombie <https://vimeo.com/123147030>

- MyLondon. The incredible story of the West Londoner who rebuilt London after World War 2 - and designed the M25 <https://www.mylondon.news/news/west-london-news/incredible-story-west-londoner-who-17649264>
- Barbican Living. The Abercrombie plan for the Barbican area <https://www.barbicanliving.co.uk/the-abercrombie-plan/>
- Gardenvisit.com [https://www.gardenvisit.com/biography/patrick\\_abercrombie](https://www.gardenvisit.com/biography/patrick_abercrombie)
- Allen, Kate. 'The man who created London - and other urban master planners' Financial Times <https://www.ft.com/content/97afa1b2-44a3-11e4-ab0c-00144feabdc0>
- The National Archives <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/c/F257641>
- Historic England - Fleetwood Memorial Park, Fleetwood, Lancashire <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1402219>