

## **Godwin, Edward William 1833 - 1886**



Edward Edward Godwin [also known as E.W. Godwin] was born in Bristol, England on 26 May 1833 and was the son of William Godwin (c.1794–1846), a partner in Godwin, Smith & Co., a building and decorating firm. After serving his articles with the architect William Armstrong in Bristol from c.1848 to c.1853, he established his own practice at 1 Surrey Street, Bristol in 1854.

In 1856 Godwin moved to Ireland where he designed cottages and three small churches in County Donegal. By 1858 he had returned to Bristol and over the next five years designed warehouses, a brewery and Northampton Town Hall (1861–66). He also worked on the restoration, additions, and redecoration of several churches, including Highbury Chapel in Bristol (1862–63), and St Grada's Church in Grade, Cornwall (1860–61).

From 1864 to 1871 he was in partnership with the Bristol architect Henry Crisp (1825–1896).

In 1865 Godwin moved to London where he established an office. During the late 1860s he was engaged on a number of commissions in Northampton. Two of his most significant commissions from this period were the restoration of Dromore Castle (1866–73). and Glenbeigh Towers in County Kerry (1868–70).

In addition to his work as an architect Godwin was also a decorative designer. He designed furniture and furnishings for Gillows & Co., the Art Furniture Company, Collinson & Lock, Waugh & Sons, Cox & Sons, W. A. & S. Smee, and James Peddle; textiles for Warner and Ramm and Cowlshaw, Nicol & Co.; carpets and flooring for Waugh & Sons; wallpapers for Jeffrey & Co., James Toleman & Sons, Lightbown Aspinall & Co., and the Papyrotile Company; tiles for Minton and Hollins and Burmantoft; and ceramics for Brownfield & Sons. In his designs he employed

in a range of styles, including Gothic Revival, Anglo-Greek, Anglo-Egyptian, and Jacobean or Old English.

In 1884 Godwin founded the Costume Society and subsequently designed women's dress, acting as a consultant on costume for Liberty & Co. During the 1870s and 1880s he also designed costumes and sets for a number of theatrical productions.

He contributed numerous articles to architectural and archaeological journals including Building News, British Architect, The Architect, and the Archaeological Journal.

Godwin died at his home, 6 Great College Street in Westminster, London on 6 October 1886.

Worked in

UK

Works

Architectural projects by Godwin in the 1870s and 1880s included several houses in Bedford Park, Chiswick (1875-77); a number of houses in Chelsea, including the White House in Tite Street (1874-79) for James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903); the studio-house at 44 Tite Street (1878-79) for the artist George Francis Miles (1852-1891); and the interiors of 16 Tite Street (1884-85) for Oscar Wilde (1854-1900); and a new entrance the Fine Art Society on Bond Street, London (1881).

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