

## **Blanco White, Margaret Justin 1911 - 2001**

Margaret Justin Blanco White [also known as Justin Blanco White and as Margaret Justin Waddington] was born at 30 Pembroke Square, Kensington, London, on 11 December 1911. In 1929 she enrolled at the Architectural Association Schools in London. During her time at the AA she won the school's travelling scholarship for three successive years and was awarded the RIBA Henry Jarvis Studentship in 1933. She graduated in 1934 and over the next five years worked on a small number of private housing projects, including Shawms, a modernist house in Cambridge, for Dr George Rushton of Christ's College. At the same time she was involved in social housing schemes and in 1936 collaborated with fellow AA graduate [Mary Beaumont Crowley](#) [later Medd] on *Housing: A European Survey* (1936) which examined what Britain could learn from housing schemes in other countries.

In 1936 she joined Prixis, an architectural practice formed by former AA students David Goddard and John Marshall, and later that year married Conrad Hal Waddington (1905–1975), a geneticist and embryologist. In 1938-39 she spent a period working in studios in the USA.

In 1939 Blanco White and Crowley teamed up with the architect [Ernö Goldfinger](#) in submitting an entry for a competition sponsored by the Building Centre to design evacuation camps and nurseries for mothers and children.

During World War Two Blanco White was involved in bomb-damaged re-housing schemes and was responsible for the Blitz Accommodation and Housing report published by the Association of Architects, Surveyors and Technical Assistants (AASTA). Towards the end of the war she was engaged by Max Lock to work on the County Borough of Middlesbrough Survey and Plan, published in 1946.

In 1948, with Elizabeth Layton, she co-authored *The School Looks Around A Book for Teachers about Local Surveys*. In the late 1940s her husband was appointed to a post at the University of Edinburgh and with him moved to Scotland. She was subsequently appointed Superintending Architect of the Scottish Office and during the 1950s researched the development of housing types and new building methods. By the 1960s the emphasis of her research was focused on the design of hospital buildings.

Blanco White was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA) in 1939 and a Fellow of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (FRIAS) in 1964. She was also a member of the Modern Architectural Research Group (MARS Group). In 1973 she was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her work as Superintending Architect of the Scottish Office..

In 1975 her husband died and in the late 1980s she retired and moved to Livorno, Italy. She died in Cambridge on 1 November 2001.

Worked in

UK

Works

Shawms House, Conduit Head Road, Cambridge (1938); 12 Lansdowne Road, Cambridge with David Croghan (1961), Redesign of the studio of the artist John Piper at Fawley Bottom, Buckinghamshire (1960s)

Bibliography

AA Women in Architecture 1917-2017. Edited by Elizabeth Darling and Lynne Walker. London: Architectural Association and the authors, 2017

Blanco White, J. 'Housing standards: the requirements of good housing'. Keystone June 1937 p. 11

Blanco White, Justin. 'The design of huts'. Keystone February 1942 pp. 11-13

Blanco White, Justin 'Physical planning supplement: Manchester and district planning proposal'. Architects' Journal vol. 102, 6 September 1945 pp. 169-171.

Blanco White, M. J. and Rendale, P. C. 'The casualty department'. Architects' Journal 7 July 1960 pp. 39-44

Carullo, Valeria. 'Parting shot. Shawms, Cambridge, 1938'. RIBA Journal vol. 126, no. 10, October 2019 p. 106. [Architect: Margaret Justin Blanco White]

Layton, Elizabeth and Blanco White, Justin. The School Looks Around : a Book for Teachers about Local Surveys. London: Longmans, Green for Association for Education in Citizenship, 1948

'System of construction for a house of steel : scheme for 3-bedroom house alternative designs'. Architects' Journal 4 October 1945 pp. 245-258 [Scheme for 3-bedroom house, designed by: Max Lock and M. J. Blanco-White]

Links

- Elizabeth Darling. White [married name Waddington], (Margaret) Justin Blanco] Oxford Dictionary of British Architects [Subscription service] <https://doi.org/10.1093/odnb/9780198614128.013.112261>
- Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660-1980 [http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full.php?id=400816](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=400816)
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin\\_Blanco\\_White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_Blanco_White)
- WowHaus - Shawms 1930s Margaret Justin Blanco White modernist house in Cambridge <https://www.wowhaus.co.uk/2019/05/08/shawms-modernist-house-cambridge/>
- Cambridge 2000: Conduit Head Road: Shawms <https://www.cambridge2000.com/cambridge2000/html/0003/P3260341.html>
- Cambridge 2000: Lansdowne Road: 12 <http://www.cambridge2000.com/cambridge2000/html/addendum/PA269117.html>
- Architectuul <https://architectuul.com/architect/justin-blanco-white>
- Group sio [https://groups.io/g/ukmodernhousefanatics/topic/margaret\\_justin\\_blanco\\_white/35618445?](https://groups.io/g/ukmodernhousefanatics/topic/margaret_justin_blanco_white/35618445?)
- UK Modern House [http://www.ukmoho.co.uk/html/architect/Margaret\\_Justin\\_Blanco\\_White.html](http://www.ukmoho.co.uk/html/architect/Margaret_Justin_Blanco_White.html)
- UK Modern House [http://www.ukmoho.co.uk/html/architect/Margaret\\_Justin\\_Blanco\\_White\\_David\\_Croghan.htm](http://www.ukmoho.co.uk/html/architect/Margaret_Justin_Blanco_White_David_Croghan.htm)
- StudyLib - Justin Blanco White <https://studylib.net/doc/18313802/justin-blanco-white---women-in-architecture>
- Oxford Bookes University - Exploring the influence of pioneering women architects <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/about-brookes/news/exploring-the-influence-of-pioneering-women-architects/>