

Brooke, Faith Ingham 1894 - 1972

Faith Ingham Brooke was born in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England on 1 October 1894. Her father, William Ingham Brooke (1862-1923), was a Church of England clergyman. By 1901 she had moved with her family to Halifax, Yorkshire and by 1911 to Warwiick, Warwickshire. In c.1914 she moved to London and trained as an architect at the School of Architecture, University College London from where she graduated in 1917*. She subsequently worked as a professional architect interior decorator.

In c.1919, with two of her sisters, she set up Home Decorators, an architecture and decorating business in Sloane Square, London. The Daily Graphic 18 August 1919 reported: "If you care to let the Home Decorators of Sloane-square take charge of your future home. one sister will design the house, another will decorate it, and a third - still in her teens - will help to paint it. 'At present we have about eight girls and ten men working under us,' Miss Faith Brooke, the architect, told me. 'At first my sister [Grace Marjorie Brooke (1896-1923)], the decorator, used to be her own forewoman, with one or two women under her; now she is tremendously busy going about, giving estimates and superintending work".

Houses in Seaton, Devon and Camber, Sussex designed by Faith Brooke are discussed in The £1,000 House by Randal Phillips (London: Country Life, 1928 pp.65-68 and 74-76).

Her address was given as 31A Sloane Square, London in 1925, and 1926; 20 Conduit Street, London in 1928 and 1929; and 1 Thornhaugh Street, London in 1935 and 1937. She died in London in 1972.

* Note: in the entry on the architect Gertrude Leverkus in the Dictionary of National Biography it states that "For a while she [Leverkus] studied alongside two other women, neither of whom completed the course. One of them, Faith Brooke, left to become a builder". However, in The British Architect September 1917 p.110 and The Architect & Contract Reporter 13 July 1917 p.18 it is reported that an architecture certificate was awarded to Miss Faith Brooke in July 1917.

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Bibliography

'The Woman as Architect. Two Examples of Small Houses Suited to Present Needs'. *Homes and Gardens* vol. 10, 1958 p. 306+ [Discusses two houses recently completed by women architects - one at Rickmansworth by Gertrude W. M. Leverkus, and the other near Seaton, Devon by Faith Brooke]