

## Medd, Mary Beaumont 1907 - 2005



Mary Beaumont Medd was born Mary Beaumont Crowley in Bradford Yorkshire England on 4 August 1907. By 1911 she had moved with her family to Letchworth in Herefordshire. After leaving school she trained as an architect at the Architectural Association in London and in 1934 was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA). In the 1930s she collaborated with Judith Ledebor (1901-1990) in the design of a small house. She also worked with Cecil George Kemp (1897-1973) in the design of three houses, 102, 104 and 106 Orchard Road, in Tewin, Hertfordshire. In c.1940 she worked with Erno Goldfinger (1902-1987) on the design of a flexible, prefabricated nursery and other schemes.

In 1941 she was employed as an architect by Hertfordshire County Council for whom she began designing educational buildings. The first school she designed was Burleigh infants' school in Cheshunt. One of her fellow architects at Hertfordshire County Council was David Leslie Medd (1917-2009) whom she married in 1949. Soon after, they moved to the architects and buildings department of the Ministry of Education. The couple subsequently became among the leading school designers in post-war Britain.

After retiring from the Ministry of Education in the 1960s, she acted as a consultant on school design to education authorities in Columbia, Pakistan, Venezuela, Botswana, El Salvador, Ethiopia, and elsewhere. With her husband, she was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1964.

Her address was given as Sewell's Orchard, Tewin, Hertfordshire in 1939; and 30 Frognall Lane, London in 1950. She died in Knebworth, Hertfordshire on 6 June 2005.

A biographical file on Mary Beaumont Medd is available on request the RIBA Library, London.

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