

## Atkinson, Robert 1883 - 1952



Robert Atkinson was born in Wigton, Cumbria, England, on 1 August 1883. He was articled to J. Harris of Nottingham (1898-1900) and attended Nottingham School of Art and University College, Nottingham [now Nottingham University]. Atkinson was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA) in 1910 (by which time he had moved to London), and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA) in 1915. He was Principal of the Architectural Association Architecture School in London from 1924 to 1930. In 1932, he became a director of the Building Centre.

Projects by Atkinson include the Regent Theatre, one of the first super-cinemas in England, which opened in Brighton, Sussex, in July 1921; Imhof House in London (1929-30); interiors for the 'Daily Express' Building (1929-32); the Barber Institute of Fine Art in Birmingham, England (1939); and the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital at Cliveden, England (1939). Photographs of 'type D' and 'type D' houses on Percy Lodge Estate, East Sheen, and of a house at Carshalton, Surrey, designed by Atkinson are illustrated in 'Decorative Art' 1928 (pp.8, 9, 10, 11, 51); a photograph and floor plan of a house at Trebetherick in Cornwall are illustrated in 'Decorative Art' 1931 (p.160); two photographs and a floor plan of a house in Oxted, Surrey designed by him are illustrated in 'Decorative Art' 1934 (p.20); and a photograph of the doors of the Electricity Showrooms in Croydon, Surrey, designed by him is illustrated in 'Decorative Art' 1942 (p.50).

In c.1908 Atkinson formed a partnership with George Luard Alexander (1883-1917). They designed a number of cinemas including the Aberdeen Picture House, The New Picture House in Edinburgh, and the Wolverhampton Picture House. Alexander was killed in 1917 while serving in the Army in France during World War One. Atkinson was subsequently in partnership with [Alexander Frederick](#)

[Berenbruck Anderson](#) (1888-1968) from 1924 to the late 1940s.

In addition to his work as an architect, Atkinson was also a painter and a fine draughtsman. He exhibited frequently at the Royal Academy in London. He also exhibited at the Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts, and at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh. Drawings by Atkinson are discussed in *Architectural Review* January 1911 (pp.30-37). He died in London on 26 December 1952.

Worked in

UK

Works

Bath Improvement Scheme; Regent Theatre, Brighton; St. Katherine's Church, Hammersmith, etc., etc. [Source: *Who's Who in Architecture* 1923]

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Royal Victoria Pavilion, Ramsgate ; Carnegie Library, Ramsgate ; decoration and alteration of Assembly Rooms, Bath ; Repertory Theatre, Liverpool ; Duchy of Cornwall Estate, Kennington ; Domanston Housing Scheme, Redcar, Yorks (with L. P. Abercrombie) ; Worthing Pavilion ; Housing Scheme at Newburn-on-Tyne (with Harvey and Wicks, of Birmingham) ; Dover Housing Scheme (with Percy Bond Houfton); Totnes Housing Scheme. [Source: Marriott, Charles. *Modern English Architecture*. London: Chapman & Hall, 1924 p. 228]

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