

## **Willcocks, Conrad Birdwood 1887 - 1972**

Conrad Birdwood Willcocks was born Reading, Berkshire England, on 18 July 1887. He studied at University College, Reading and was articled to William George Attneave Hambling (1848-?)

He opened an independent practice in Reading in 1908. In 1919 he formed a partnership with Joseph Reginald Greenaway who had worked with him prior to World One. Willcocks & Greenaway worked mainly on projects in the Berkshire area such as the Arthur Hill Memorial Baths in Reading and All Saints Hall in Reading. They dissolved the partnership in August 1931, although they both continued to work out of the same office at 11 Friar Street, Reading.

A drawing and ground-floor plan of cottages at Whitley Wood, Berkshire, designed by Willcocks is featured in 'The Studio Yearbook of Decorative Art' 1911 (p.80); A drawing of a cottage near London designed by him is illustrated in 'The Studio Yearbook of Decorative Art' 1913 (p.79); and photographs of the living room at 'Coldmoor Cottage', Henley-on-Thames and the entrance to 'Willstead' in Caversham Heights, Reading, designed by him are illustrated in 'The Studio Yearbook of Decorative Art' 1922 (p.69).

Willcocks was made an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA) in 1912 and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA) in 1920. During the 1940s he was Hon. Secretary of the Council for Education in Appreciation of Physical Environment (CEAPE) and in this capacity wrote an article on the importance of a well-designed environment in instilling in children an appreciation of design for 'Art and Industry' vol.38, no.223, January 1945 (pp.14-19). Willcocks died on 25 December 1972

Worked in

UK

Works

Arthur Hill Memorial Baths, Reading; "Willstead", Caversham Heights, Reading; Exhibition Cottage, Merrow Common, Guildford; houses and cottages at Reading, Woodley, Ipsden, Streatley, etc.; alterations and addition to Princess Christian's Farm Colony, Hildenborough; the Warren. Caversham; St. Luke's Home, Woodley; etc. In partnership with J. R. Greenaway, F.S.I. — Cottages built under the Housing Scheme for the Brodfield, Henley and Wokingham Rural District Councils; "The

Rhydd", Caversham Heights, Reading; houses and cottages at Reading, Woodley, Ipsden, Pangbourne, Shiplake, Sindlesham, etc.; alterations and additions to Reading Ford Depot; " Woodlands", Shiplake; business premises at Reading and Wallingford, etc.; Ipsden House, Oxon. Rebuilding or reconstruction of "The Horseshoe Inn," Hamilton, Oxon; "The Royal Oak," Shurlock Row, Berks; "The Wheatsheaf," Frimley, Surrey, etc. [Source: *Who's Who in Architecture 1914*]

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Arthur Hill Memorial Baths, Reading: "Willstead", Caversham Heights; The Warren, Caversham; St. Luke's Home, Woodley; etc. In partnership with J. R. Greenaway, F.S.I. — All Saints' Hall, Reading; cottages built under the Housing Scheme for the Bradfield, Henley and Wokingham Rural District Councils; "The Rhydd", Caversham Heights, Reading, Woodley, Ipsden, Pangbourne, Shiplake, Sindlesham, etc.; alterations and additions to Reading Ford Depot; " Woodlands", Shiplake; business premises at Reading and Wallingford, etc.; Ipsden House, Oxon. Rebuilding or reconstruction of "The Horseshoe", Bampton, Oxon; " Royal Oak", Shurlock Row, Berks: etc. [Source: *Who's Who in Architecture 1926*]

## Bibliography

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'Obituary'. *Building* vol. 224, 5 January 1973 p. 41

*Who's Who in Architecture 1914*. London: Technical Journals Ltd., 1914

*Who's Who in Architecture 1926*. Edited by Frederick Chatterton. London: The Architectural Press, 1926

## Links

- The National Archives

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/c/F269850>

- An essentially English architect. *The Berkshire Echo*. The Berkshire Record Office January 2016

<https://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/storage/app/media/echo/Echo%202013%20to%202016.pdf>

- Historic England. Conrad Birdwood Willcocks Collection

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/collection/CBW01>

- The Berkshire Record Office. Records of Conrad Birdwood Willcocks, architect of Caversham

<http://ww2.berkshirenclosure.org.uk/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=DE>

- Twitter. RIBA Berkshire

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