



A fine Sutcliffe interior - Hampstead Way



Meadway Court

ELLEN GILBERT



Club House Tower at Brentham Garden Suburb



5 Meadway - Sutcliffe's charm



Hampstead Way/Meadway corner



Meadway Court - cloisters

partnership Tenants Ltd. housing after the appointment of G. L. Sutcliffe was designed by him. From November 1912, the drawings come from a relocated Co-partnership Tenants Ltd. architect's office in Temple Fortune House; this office supplied

drawings not only for Hampstead Garden Suburb but for all the Co-partnership Tenants Ltd. developments throughout the country. From the evidence of the drawing numbers, some 3000 drawings were produced between the beginnings in October 1910

and G. L. Sutcliffe's death in September 1915.

G. L. Sutcliffe died at only 50 in his Hampstead home of some seven years (he didn't live in Hampstead Garden Suburb but his widow and sons later moved to Temple Fortune Hill); had he lived, he might be better remembered now as he would no doubt have continued to work for Co-partnership Tenants Ltd., filling in the plan he was working on at his death for the land which was to become the later suburb. Sutcliffe's plan, which was a development of that of Unwin, was abandoned after the war; had G. L. Sutcliffe lived, he might have had the strength of purpose to ensure it was achieved as first conceived rather than as the considerably weaker, more commercially attractive, design which emerged under C.G. Butler.

I think G. L. Sutcliffe was a really good architect: his work in Hampstead Garden Suburb shows him to be a gifted town planner as well as a great manipulator of building volumes, as particularly evidenced by his early works. He was a truly contextual designer, able to

integrate his own designs with those of others (no mean feat this: as we've seen in the brief tour here, he could design alongside and in harmony with architects as different as Lutyens and Baillie Scott yet, once one has learnt to see it, these buildings retain his signature). I still haven't fully answered my question about the designers who extended the suburb beyond the initial layout but, with G. L. Sutcliffe, I believe that a start has been made.

- 1) C.W. Ikin's book "Hampstead Garden Suburb Dreams and Realities" is the best introduction I've found to Sutcliffe's employer.
- 2) Another, later, architect resident of Hampstead Garden Suburb who wrote "A Dictionary of Edwardian Architects".
- 3) Information from Ealing Tenants General Committee minutes was given to me by Dr Aileen Reid who is working on a new book on Brentham.
- 4) In "The Story of the Growth of Hampstead Garden Suburb 1907-1928" by Dame Henrietta Barnett, she wrote warmly of G. L. Sutcliffe in relation to the Meadway Court designs.

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