

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## SIR EDWIN LANDSEER LUTYENS, BIOGRAPHICAL HIGHLIGHTS\*

- 1869 Born in Surrey, 11th child in a family of 14, the son of Charles Lutyens, an amateur landscape painter and the inventor of a gun range-finder, and Mary Gallway Lutyens, a girl of Irish ancestry.
- early 1880s Determines to become an architect. In order to memorize color, texture, and materials, he creates a framed sheet of glass which, when held up to view, allowed him to trace the lines he wanted with slices of soap cut to a fine edge.
- 1885 Enters Royal College of Art, South Kensington.
- 1887 Leaves Royal College to join firm of Ernest George and Peto as associate. Already employed there is Herbert Baker, a major English architect of the 20th century, with whom Lutyens will have a life-long friendship and who will work with him in New Delhi.
- 1888 With the aid of a legacy of 100 pounds sterling from Aunt Landseer, he establishes himself as an independent architect.
- 1889 Builds his first house, Crooksbury (in Surrey), for Arthur Chapman.
- early 1890s Meets Gertrude Jekyll, the horticulturist, who will help shape his thinking on architecture throughout his lifetime.
- 1897 Marries Emily Lytton, daughter of the first Viceroy to India appointed by Disraeli.
- 1899-1901 Collaboration with Gertrude Jekyll on Tigbourne and Deanery Garden.
- 1900 Travels with Queen Victoria to the British Pavilion at the Paris Exhibition.
- 1900-1906 Completes transition from Picturesque to Classical style in architecture. He calls Classical architecture "The Great Game, The High Game."

\* Compiled by the Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, from Christopher Hussey, The Life of Sir Edwin Lutyens, A.S.G. (London, 1950).

- 1903 Restoration and rebuilding of Lindisfarne Castle for Edward Hudson.
- 1908-09 Acts as Consulting Architect for Hampstead Garden Suburb, first English model of planned urban development, which is carried out.
- 1912 Named Architect of Delhi; goes to India and spends months plotting out the land. He writes: "If Wren had built in India, it would have been something so different to anything we know of his that we cannot name it."
- 1912-31 The Viceroy's House is being built.
- 1913 Publication of Houses and Gardens of Edwin Lutyens by Lawrence Weaver. This study of Lutyens' architecture confirms his reputation and solidifies it.
- 1920 Completes the war memorials at Etaples, France.
- 1924 Completes the Memorial to the Missing at Thiepval, France. The names of 73,357 missing British soldiers are carved here.
- 1930 Designs Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool, which dimensions were to be comparable to St. Peter's in Rome. Because of World War II, the cathedral was never completed.
- 1938 Last journey to India.
- 1944 Dies in London.