A Celebration of Civic Design and Planning

Peter Batey

Lever Professor of Town and Regional Planning, Civic Design, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Liverpool

1909 2009

Civic Design

The world’s first university planning school
The RTPI Planning Awards 2009: Civic Design wins special award for 100 Years of Planning Achievement
The professional dimension

• Universities exist to teach and to carry out research
• In professional subjects like Civic Design, there is an added dimension - the link with practice
• This has been a constant thread running through the history of planning education at Liverpool – we ignore it at our peril
• It is as important now as it ever was
Structure of Presentation

- The origin of Civic Design at Liverpool: Lever’s benefaction
- The RTPI Presidents: eleven former students or members of staff who have risen to the top of their profession
- The *Town Planning Review*: communicating important developments in planning thinking and practice
In 1907 the soap manufacturer WH Lever sued the *Daily Mail* and gave the money to the University of Liverpool.

Charles Reilly, Professor of Architecture, suggested Lever’s gift be used to fund a school of town planning, the first of its kind in the world.

The University responded by establishing the Department of Civic Design in 1909.
Lever’s gift

Lever’s generous gift to the University enabled three things to happen:

• The founding of the **Department of Civic Design** as the world’s first university planning school;

• The establishment of the **Lever Chair**, the first university professorship in the subject of town planning; and

• The creation of the **Town Planning Review**, the first international journal in the subject
THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

FACULTY OF ARTS

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

DEPARTMENT OF

CIVIC DESIGN

PROSPECTUS

FOR THE SESSION 1909-10

TOGETHER WITH AN APPENDIX DESCRIPTIVE
OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SCHOOL

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS OF LIVERPOOL, 1909

THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIC DESIGN

(TOWN PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE)

FOUNDED BY W. H. LEVER, Esq., M.P.

The Vice-Chancellor

Dean of the Faculty of Arts

ALEXANDER MAIR, M.A.

Professor of Architecture

C. H. REILLY, M.A., A.R.I.B.A.

Associate Professor of Civic Design

S. D. ADSHEAD, F.R.I.B.A.

Civic Design . . . Lecturer and Research Fellow: P. ABERCROMBIE


Civic Engineering . . . Associate Professor: J. A. BRODIE, M.Eng.,
M.Inst.C.E., M.I.Mech.E.,
City Engineer for Liverpool

Professor: S. W. PERROTT, M.A.I., Dublin,
M.Inst. C.E.

Civic Hygiene . . . Professor: E. W. HOPE, M.D., D.Sc.,
Medical Officer of Health for Liverpool

Civic Law . . . Lecturer: H. CHALONER DOWDALL, M.A.,
B.C.L., Barrister-at-Law

The first prospectus, 1909
The Gordon Stephenson Building, University of Liverpool

Civic Design: as we know it today
Civic Design’s Original Location: the Bluecoat Chambers in Liverpool city centre
The Lever Professors have each made important contributions to the professional practice of planning.
The Presidents

Eleven former students or members of staff have served as President of the Royal Town Planning Institute
1918-19

1923-24

1925-26

1941-42

1953-54

1958-59

1959-60

1972-73

1973-74

2004-05

2013-14
Adshead  Abercrombie  Mawson

Pioneers in Planning Education at Liverpool

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIC DESIGN
(Town Planning and Landscape Architecture)
Founded by W. H. Lever, Esq., M.P.

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Medical Officer of Health for Liverpool

Civic Law . . . Lecturer: H. CHALONER DOWDALL, M.A.,
B.C.L., Barrister-at-Law
10 have worked here in North West England
7 have worked overseas at some point in their career
7 teachers of planning
Stanley Adshead
Patrick Abercrombie
William Holford
U Aylmer Coates
Joseph Allen
John Millar
Graham Ashworth

7 Architect-Planners
Thomas Mawson

Robert Mattocks

2 Landscape Architect- Planners
1 Geographer-Planner

Michael Hayes
1 Building-Planner

Peter Geraghty
Family connections
Thomas Mawson, Lecturer in Landscape Design, 1909-23

1923-24

Course F
Landscape Design
Mr. Thomas Mawson
Alternate Fridays, 8.30-9.30 p.m.

This course will treat of the arrangement, construction and planting of parks, parkways, boulevards and open spaces, with special reference to the kind of trees, shrubs and plants best suited to particular localities. It will discuss their culture and the art of pleaching, pollarding and plashing. It will also discuss the laying out of parks and gardens in connection with suburban and country residences.
The most celebrated landscape architect of the Edwardian era, Thomas Hayton Mawson (1861-1933) was renowned for the creation of landscapes that utilised his architectural and horticultural skills and emphasised a strong association between built form and the immediate landscape.

From his offices in Lancaster and Windermere he was a leading practitioner of the emerging profession of Landscape Architecture and he became well known for garden, park and civic space commissions throughout the UK. He is now widely recognized as the leading landscape architect of his time. Although less well known for his works abroad, his international reputation was established from the beginning of the twentieth century by the completion of commissions in America, Canada and Europe including the prestigious garden of the Palace of Peace in The Hague.

Janet Waymark biography, 2009
Robert Mattocks, Mawson’s nephew, was one of the first students in Civic Design. He and Mawson’s son, John, studied at Liverpool together, 1910-12.

On graduation, Mattocks travelled to Vancouver and worked in Mawson’s office there for a time.
# Examination for the Diploma and Certificate in Civic Design

**MARCH, 1912**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Candidate</th>
<th>Studio Work</th>
<th>Thesis and Design</th>
<th>Town Planning</th>
<th>Civic Engineering</th>
<th>Civic Law</th>
<th>Civic Architecture</th>
<th>Civic Decoration</th>
<th>Landscape Design</th>
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**Chairman**

**Dean**
Mattocks’ performance in the Diploma won him the Lever Prize in 1912

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Mattocks made rapid progress in his professional career, including a prize-winning design for Vancouver Civic Centre, 1915

**Vancouver Civic Centre Competition**

A competition was recently held in order to obtain a general plan for the Civic Centre of Vancouver. Mr. Thomas Adams, Town Planning Adviser to the Commission of Conservation, Canada, was appointed assessor. A considerable number of fine designs were sent in, showing that there is much ability in Canada in the direction of monumental Town Planning. The first premium of 500 dollars was awarded to Mr. R. H. Mattocks, a holder of the diploma of the Liverpool School of Civic Design, in partnership with Mr. T. Korner. We herewith illustrate his plan, a fine conception of the centre of a great city.
In 1923, Mattocks took over from Mawson as part-time Lecturer in Landscape Design.

Mattocks is well-known for the plans he prepared for West Cumberland, the Lake District and Sheffield, at various times working with Patrick Abercrombie and Joseph Allen.

Mattocks’ obituary, Westmorland Gazette, 24th April, 1948
Town Planning Review
Town Planning Review

• A leading international journal since its foundation in 1910
• Edited throughout in the Department of Civic Design
• Highly influential in shaping opinion, e.g. Abercrombie’s paper in 1926 that led to founding of CPRE. The TPR helped the Department become a ‘clearing house’ for information about town planning
• Importance of post-war re-launch by Gordon Stephenson, attracting big name authors like Gordon Childe, Lewis Mumford, Clarence Stein and Lloyd Rodwin
• Centenary Papers, in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012: commissioned papers from eminent planning academics throughout the world, echoing Stephenson’s venture of sixty years ago.
The Editors
The Planning Academy

The evolution of planning as an academic discipline
Simin Davoudi (UK) and John Pendlebury (UK)

Gordon Stephenson’s reform of the planning curriculum: how Liverpool came to have the MCD
Peter Batey (UK)

Under my care: Gordon Stephenson and the refounding of the Town Planning Review, 1948-54
David Massey (UK)
Philosophical and Historical Perspectives

V Gordon Childe and the urban revolution: a historical perspective on a revolution in urban studies
Michael E Smith (USA)

Plan and constitution – Aristotle’s Hippodamus: towards an ‘ostensive’ definition of spatial planning
Luigi Mazza (Italy)

The evolution of cities: Geddes, Abercrombie and the new physicalism
Michael Batty (UK) and Stephen Marshall (UK)

The ‘new’ planning history: reflections, issues and directions
Stephen V Ward (UK), Robert Freestone (Australia) and Christopher Silver (USA)
Policy and Practice in British Planning

Planning and good design: indivisible or invisible? A century of design regulation in English town and country planning
John Punter (UK)

Urban conservation and the shaping of the English city
John Pendlebury (UK) and Ian Strange (UK)

Landscape planning – preservation, conservation and sustainable development
Paul Selman (UK)

UK urban regeneration policies in the early twenty-first century: Continuity or change?
Keith Shaw (UK) and Fred Robinson (UK)
Planning in Europe

*European spatial planning: past, present and future*
Andreas Faludi (The Netherlands)

*A brief history of Italian town planning after 1945*
Giorgio Piccinato (Italy)

*Ildefons Cerda and the future of spatial planning: the network urbanism of a city planning pioneer*
Michael Neuman (Australia)
International Perspectives

*Urban planning in South-east Asia: perspective from Singapore*
Belinda Yuen (Singapore)

*The poor and the land: poverty, property, planning*
Benjamin Davy (Germany)
What did planning ever do for us?

A celebration of Civic Design & Planning

Friday 24th May (1.30-4.30pm), Victoria Gallery & Museum, University of Liverpool
Organised by the Department of Geography & Planning
Supported by Town Planning Review

To celebrate the centenary of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) in 2014, ‘What did planning ever do for us?’ highlights the importance of planning and planners in shaping the places that we live, work and relax in.

The University of Liverpool is home to the world’s oldest planning school (founded in 1909), so it is an excellent venue for this event. It has a proud record of having educated many of the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Presidents, including this year’s incumbent Dr Peter Geraghty, who is the day’s keynote speaker.

Drawing lessons from over 100 years of planning education and research in Liverpool, including the publication of the department’s journal Town Planning Review, the event will also look forward, with speakers debating the on-going importance of planning and the role that Universities can play in the development of tomorrow’s planners.

The event will be chaired by Professor Peter Batey, the Lever Professor of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Liverpool. He will invite contributions from two graduates of the Department – the current President of the RTPI, Dr Peter Geraghty (Southend-on-Sea Borough Council), and previous President Michael Hayes CBE (Michael Hayes Consulting). They will be joined by Sue Kidd, the University’s Head of Civic Design.