

Sir Edwin Lutyens



Edwin was born on 29th March 1969. He was the tenth of thirteen children and grew up in Thursley, Surrey.

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He was ill with rheumatic fever as a child and so did not attend school. Instead Edwin was educated by his sisters' governess.

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Whilst growing up his passion for houses was clear. He spent time in a local carpenter's shop, a builder's yard and watched houses being built.

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From 1885 to 1887 Edwin was a student at the Kensington School of Art. He left to become an apprentice in an architects' office.

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After his training Edwin opened his own architect practice in 1888.

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Edwin visited India on several occasion throughout 1912 and 1913 while working on the design of New Delhi with Sir Herbert Baker.

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In 1917, before the end of World War I, Edwin was asked to be one of the Principal Architects for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

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While working for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Edwin designed lots of cemeteries and memorials including Thiepval.

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Edwin designed World War I memorials in places across the UK including the arch in Victoria Park, Leicester.



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One of Edwin's most famous designs is The Cenotaph in Whitehall, London.



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Following his work in New Delhi Edwin was knighted in 1918. In 1942, he received the Order of Merit, the first architect to do so.

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Edwin died on 1st January 1944 aged 74. His ashes and a memorial tablet are in the Order of the British Empire Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral.