

GEORGE, Allan (1874 – 1961)

Allan George was the senior partner in the architectural firm of George and Moorhouse which practiced in Toronto for 47 years from 1912 to 1961. Many of their designs were highly refined, traditional buildings, but when they created the Toronto Stock Exchange in 1936 they designed one of the boldest Art Deco buildings in Toronto. George was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1930, a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada in 1944 and an honorary member of the Ontario Association of Architects in 1961.

Allan George was born in England on July 31, 1874, son of Sir Ernest George, R.A., eminent architect, etcher and watercolorist. He got his early education at Blundell's, one of the old Public Schools, studied architecture at the Royal Academy School in London, and was apprenticed to his father's firm before coming to Canada in 1911. After working in the architectural offices of Darling & Pearson and Sproatt & Rolph, George entered into partnership with Walter Moorhouse in 1913 as the firm of George and Moorhouse. The partnership lasted for 47 years until George's death in 1961.

The firms Ecclesiastical works include Christ Church Deer Park, Toronto (1922-23) and Yorkminster Baptist Church, Yonge at Heath Street, Toronto (1927-28), which are across from one another on Yonge Street above St. Clair Avenue. They appear as a gateway across the major thor-

oughfare, as they are both executed in yellow stone and have the same planar massing and sparse gothic detailing. They also designed Erskine United Church, Roncesvalles Avenue, Toronto (1929), in the same style. At Trinity College, University of Toronto they designed the Chapel and residential additions, Hoskin Avenue, Toronto (1954) as associate with Sir Giles Scott. Here they skillfully modernized the gothic revival style to blend with the earlier building.

Working in a medieval Tudor style at the Danforth Branch of the Toronto Public Library, Pape Avenue, Toronto (1930) they created a small intimate effect by giving the library a domestic quality. George and Moorhouse designed in the Georgian style with great skill, demonstrating excellent composition, detailing and handling of materials as evidenced in the large mansion for G.R. Larkin, Castle Frank Road, Toronto (1926) and at St. Hilda's College Residence, Devonshire Place, Toronto (1938 and 1960).

It is their designs for the Toronto Stock Exchange, Bay Street south of King, Toronto (1937) which they did in association with S.H. Maw that is their finest work, as it is the city's most evocative Art Deco building. The facade is a smooth cube of hazy pink and beige granite dominated by five columnar windows above a dynamic 74-foot frieze by Charles Comfort, angularly portraying the Canadian worker.