

to me

Dear Ms Mayo

Many thanks for your desperate plea in an attempt to save the wonderful Arts and Crafts house at 28 Redington Road. It is indeed similar to Garth House, 47 Edgbaston Park Road,

1. William Henry Bidlake was an extremely important architect for Birmingham and features as a full chapter in Birmingham's Victorian & Edwardian Architects ed Phillada Ballard printed in 2009.

The chapter on WH Bidlake is written by Trevor Mitchell (pp367-401). I attach a scan of the list of his known works as well as the references from the RIBA collection. Bidlake did work outside Birmingham, but no commission for Reddington Road is noted.

2. WH Bidlake is also one of the important architects in Hermann Muthesius book *Das Englische Haus- The English House* originally published in Berlin in 1904 and reprinted in 1979 as a paperback. WH Bidlake is mentioned as the development of the modern English house under the younger architects with Garth House being illustrated as well as Yates House at Four Oaks in Birmingham

3. This is the list description from the Historic England website for Garth House

EDGBASTON PARK ROAD 1. 5104 Edgbaston B15 No 47 (Garth House) (formerly listed as Garth House) SP 08 SE 12/20 21.1.70 II* 2. 1901, by W H Bidlake for Ralph Heaton. An irregular composition essentially L-shaped in plan with a brick tower-like erection at the angle and a stable yard ranging behind the small arm of the L. In a Tudor style much influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement. Partly of 2, partly of 3 and partly of 4 storeys. Ground floor of red brick in English bond; first floor roughcast, minimum stone dressings; slate roof. All windows have leaded lights and wood mullions and some have transoms as well. Good metalwork in door hinges, window latches and rainwater heads. Entrance (north-west) front is distinguished by a pair of tall brick chimneys linked together at the top, a projecting gabled bay in which there is a single window high up a capacious wooden porch and a row of small windows tucked under the eaves. Garden (south-east) front, with terrace in front, is distinguished by an advanced gabled bay on the left, a broad central brick chimney stack and 2 unequal gabled bays in the right-hand one of which there is a polygonal bowed window rising through ground and first floors. Stable yard is also of brick and roughcast and entered through an arch over which the slate roof flows. Across the yard are the stables themselves with a pyramidal slate roof. With weathervane sitting astride the centre of an ordinary longer gabled roof.

4. WH Bidlake also edited a book *The modern home; a book of British domestic architecture for moderate incomes; a companion volume to "The British home of to-day"; 1906*

ed, Bidlake, William Henry, Ricardo, Halsey, -, Cash, John

Reprinted in 2015 with the help of original edition published long back [1906]

Garth House, 47 Edgbaston Park Road,

5. Wikipedia has a short entry for him as well.

Bidlake was born in [Wolverhampton](#), the son of local architect George Bidlake (1830-1892, from whom he received his earliest architectural training), and educated at [Tettenhall College](#) and [Christ's College, Cambridge](#).^[1] In 1882 he moved to [London](#) where he studied at the [Royal Academy Schools](#) and worked for [Gothic Revival](#) architects [Bodley](#) and [Garner](#). In 1885 he won the [RIBA](#) Pugin Travelling Fellowship for his draughtsmanship, which enabled him to spend 1886 travelling in [Italy](#).

On returning to England in 1887 Bidlake settled in Birmingham where he set up in independent practice and, from 1893, pioneered the teaching of architecture at the Birmingham School of Art. Famously [ambidextrous](#), his party trick was to sketch with both hands simultaneously.

Bidlake designed many Arts and Crafts-influenced houses in upmarket Birmingham districts such as [Edgbaston](#), [Moseley](#) and [Four Oaks](#) (the latter then in Warwickshire and absorbed into Birmingham in 1974), along with a series of more Gothic-influenced churches such as [St Agatha's, Sparkbrook](#) – generally considered his masterpiece.

He was an associate, member, treasurer and, from 1902–1938, Professor of Architecture of the [Royal Birmingham Society of Artists](#).^[2]

In 1924, Bidlake married a woman over twenty years younger than himself and moved to [Wadhurst](#) in [East Sussex](#), where he continued to practise until his death there^[2] in 1938.

6. The English House Muthesius also has a paragraph on Arnold Mitchell but does not list his commissions.

28 Redington Road does appear to be a most important intact Arts and Craft house and I am very surprised that it is not statutorily protected or even on a Local List. Have you also tried the Victorian Society for support <http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/> You could also give them a ring on 020 8994 1019

I'm sorry I cannot be of more help but do wish you much luck in trying to save this important building

Yours sincerely

Harriet Devlin

Birmingham's Victorian and Edwardian Architects Phillada Ballard. ed.

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