

Burke, Horwood and White

The Toronto architectural firm of **Burke, Horwood and White** was founded in 1894 by **Edmund Burke** (b at Toronto 31 Oct 1850; d at Toronto 2 Jan 1919) and **J.C.B. Horwood** (b at Quidi Vidi, Newfoundland 19 Mar 1864; d at Toronto 1938). Burke had been a partner in the firm **Langley and Burke** from 1873 to 1892, and practiced on his own in 1892-94. Horwood apprenticed with **Langley and Burke** before working in New York for several years. **Murray White** (b at Woodstock 5 Aug 1869; d at Toronto 3 Nov 1935), who also apprenticed with **Langley and Burke**, worked in Chicago from 1892 to 1907, and did not join **Burke and Horwood** until 1909.

Burke and Horwood's first important commission was the rebuilding of the **Robert Simpson** store in Toronto. Burke had executed the original store in 1894, but it burnt down within weeks of opening. Horwood had gained experience with the most advanced building methods in New York, and **Simpson** hired the new partnership to design a new fire-proofed store in 1895-96. The store's façade presented the grid-like pattern of the Chicago style, with only limited ornamentation on the ground floor and cornice. The original store and its replacement were likely the first Canadian application of curtain wall construction.

Burke, Horwood and White were one of the most successful Canadian architectural firms during the boom decades preceding World War I. The firm was commissioned to design many churches across the country; other important institutional clients included the **YMCA** and **Mt Allison University** in New Brunswick. The firm also produced many substantial homes for wealthy clients in Ontario and the Maritimes.

Burke, Horwood and White were known for their commercial buildings, and this led to the firm's appointment as architects to the **Hudson's Bay Company**. Large, classical department stores were built in **Calgary**, **Vancouver** and **Victoria**, 1912-26. Burke also consulted on civic planning for Toronto, such as the architectural aspects of the **Bloor Street viaduct**.

Though the firm designed buildings in various historical styles, its projects also utilized modern materials and methods of construction, such as glazed terra cotta, early iron and reinforced concrete frames, and forms of fire protection. During this period buildings became increasingly large and complex, and their design required more specialized knowledge. Burke always researched advances in technology, building programming, and design, and shared his knowledge with colleagues in the form of lectures and publications. In the words of his biographer, Burke "presided over the transformation of the

architect from craftsman to consulting professional."

Indeed, both Burke and Horwood were active among professional architectural societies. In particular, Burke served as president of the Ontario Association of Architects four times, and was the founding vice-president of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

The firm was renamed Horwood and White in 1919 after Burke's death, and existed under that name until 1969. After the deaths of the latter two partners the firm was run by Horwood's son, Eric C. Horwood (1900-84). In 1979, Eric Horwood donated to the Archives of Ontario over a century's worth of architectural drawings done by Burke, Horwood and White, and by many of their predecessor firms such as Langley and Burke.

Suggested Reading Angela Carr, *Toronto Architect Edmund Burke: Redefining Canadian Architecture* (1995).

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Source: <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/horwood-and-white-burke>

Horwood and White

Horwood and White was a Toronto, Ontario based architectural firm which existed from 1919 to 1969 and designed a variety of buildings across Canada.

The Toronto architectural firm Horwood and White was established in 1919 as the successor to Burke, Horwood and White, following on the death of Edmund Burke in January of that year.

John Charles Batstone Horwood (1864-1938) apprenticed to Langley, Langley and Burke as a student, then spent several years with an architectural office in New York before establishing a partnership with Burke in 1894 as Burke and Horwood. Murray Alexander White (1870-1935) apprenticed with Langley and Burke from 1889 to 1893, then moved to Chicago where he worked with the firm Holabird and Roche. In 1908 he became a full partner in the firm Burke, Horwood and White. White was not highly involved in the architectural drafting of the firm, but was known for his residence designs.

Horwood and White carried on the work of its predecessor firm in department stores, commercial buildings, churches, industrial plants and residences, including Hudson's Bay Company stores in Western Canada; Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and, later, United Church denominations.

Following the partners' deaths in the 1930's, the firm retained the name Horwood and White and continued under Horwood's son, Eric Compton Horwood (1900-1984), and S. Solomon Van Raalte (1882-1956). Among the works undertaken by the firm following the Second World War were several churches and schools, and a number of large, complex projects for Canadian General Electric, the University of Toronto, and the Children's Aid Society. When Eric Horwood entered retirement after 1969, the firm gradually wound up.

Source:

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Horwood, E.C., 1900-1984

E.C. Horwood was a Toronto architect, active from 1927 to 1975.

E.C. Horwood was born in Toronto in July 1900, the son of architect J.C.B. Horwood. He studied architecture at the University of Toronto (1919-1925) while working at his father's firm, Horwood and White, then completed his studies in Paris, at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and Fontainebleau School of Fine Arts (1925-1927).

He joined Horwood and White in 1927, becoming senior partner following his father's death in 1938. E.C. Horwood began winding up the firm in 1969, but continued to do some work under its name until his retirement in 1975.

E.C. Horwood's projects included schools, churches, office buildings, hospitals and residences. His main projects included the renovation of the Robert Simpson Company and the John Northway and Sons department stores, buildings for the Children's Aid Society and the University of Toronto, and improvements to Canadian General Electric plants in Toronto.

E.C. Horwood died at Mimico on October 22, 1984

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