



A Classical Adventure

The Architectural History of Downing College, Cambridge

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- Over 200 illustrations, including many new photographs and several aerial perspective drawings especially prepared for the book

In the story of English architecture, and the history of Cambridge University in particular, Downing College occupies a very special place. Founded in 1800 through the will of the third Sir George Downing, Baronet, it was the first new college to be built in Cambridge for more than 200 years; the first major scheme in the neo-Classical Greek Revival style; and the first instance of the spacious campus plan in collegiate architecture, acting as the precursor to Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia and the American campus universities that were to follow. For the last 215 years the College has been fully committed to the defining style of its original buildings for all subsequent additions to its spacious site in the centre of Cambridge, and the story of its architecture is traced from the earliest plans and ideas through to the college of today.

Contents: 1. The Cambridge Colleges before 1800 and Downing; 2. Born of a Romantic Age: Downing, Last of the Old Colleges, First of the New; 3. Concepts and Ideas: the Competition to Build Downing's College; 4. Twentieth Century Architects to 1983; 5. Contemporary Downing and the Architecture of Quinlan and Francis Terry; 6. Recent Projects.

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Tim Rawle read architecture at Downing College, before which he studied art and design in London. After Cambridge he went on to postgraduate study at the Architectural Association, where he was Caldicott scholar, and then worked briefly in practice before embarking on a career in publishing. He has written two major books on Cambridge: Cambridge Architecture (1985), and his iconic book Cambridge (2005), reviewed in CAM magazine as "the best introduction to Cambridge ever published". A new edition of Cambridge is due shortly, and a companion volume Oxford is in preparation. Tim Rawle lives in Cambridge and is a Fellow Commoner of Downing College.