

# The Victorian Architects of Birmingham

1. **Thomas Rickman**, (1776-1841) was one of the most important architects to live in Birmingham although the Midland Bank, Bennetts Hill, is his only surviving building in the centre of Birmingham. Rickman was responsible for the delination of Gothic building styles, classifying the designs under the headings of Norman, Early English, Decorative and Perpendicular.
2. **Charles Edge**, (?-1867) another important designer, completed the Town Hall and worked on the attractive late Grecian development of Bennett's Hill in the centre of Birmingham.
3. **H.R.Yeoville Thomason**, (1826-1901) was the grandson of Sir Edward Thomason, the leading button and toy maker, who had been apprenticed with Matthew Boulton. He was a pupil of Charles Edge and so worked on many important commissions and soon after he had finished his training he managed the architects department of the borough surveyor's office.  
He preferred classical architecture to Gothic and admired Wren. He won the competition to design the Council House and also finished its extension in 1878. He was responsible for many buildings on Colmore Row, the best probably being the Union Club.
4. **Julius Alfred Chatwin**, (1830-1907) was educated at King Edward VI School in New St, started work with the local building contractors Branson & Gwyther and in 1851 was articed to Charles Barry. He was a prolific designer both of churches, mostly in a Gothic style, and of secular buildings usually in a Renaissance style. In the City centre he built the neo-classical chancel of St. Philip's and the former Lloyds bank in Temple Row.
5. **Jethro Anstice Cossins**, (1829-1917) designed Masons College and the old Liberal Club, both now demolished, and in 1887 and 1900 took F.B.Peacock and Ernest Bewley respectively, as partners. He designed the former Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital in Edmund St.
6. **John Henry Chamberlain**, (1831-1883) settled in Birmingham in 1856 and joined a partnership with William Martin n 1864. He was a disciple of the ideas of Ruskin, and favoured a Venetian Gothic style. He became Professor of Architecture at Queens College and from 1865 the honorary secretary of the Birmingham & Midland Institute. Martin & Chamberlain were responsible for the Birmingham Board Schools, police stations, baths and Birmingham Waterworks. The School of Art, Edmund St. was one of his last commissions and he was surveyor for Joseph Chamberlain's Corporation St. He was a friend of William Morris.
7. **William Martin**, (1829-1900) who was articed to T. Plevins, designer of the Grand Hotel, went into partnership with his son Frederick Martin after Chamberlain's premature death. Frederick designed the former Telephone Exchange Building in Edmund St.
8. **William Henry Ward**, (1844-1917) was articed to James Cranson of Oxford and came to Birmingham in 1865, designing many public buildings and shops and the Great Western and Central Arcades.
9. **Thomas Walter Francis Newton**, (1863-1903) was articed to Osborn & Reading and took A. E. Cheatle as his partner, and built the City Arcade off Union St. in a Flemish Renaissance style. They did much work on business offices and professional chambers in Newhall, Edmund, Church and Cornwall streets of a neo-Georgian design, neo-Jacobean or with simpler Arts & Crafts facades. Some of the details, including railings, gates and lead panelling, are extremely attractive.
10. **William Henman**, (?-1917) worked on some chambers in Cornwall St. but his best known building is the General Hospital, for which he won a competition in 1882 in a neo-Jacobean design.
11. **Joseph Lancaster Ball**, (1852-1933) the first Director of the School of Architecture in Birmingham, joined with W.R. Lethaby, Professor of Architecture at London Central School of Art & Design, to design the former Eagle Insurance Building, Colmore Row.
12. **Arthur Stansfield Dixon**, (1856-1929) was the eldest son of George Dixon, a prominent man in Birmingham's civic life. He was a friend of William Morris and Philip Webb, and was an accomplished silversmith and copper worker. He was prominent in the Birmingham Guild of Handicrafts and designed its building in Great Charles St.