



HLM Architects. 50+

Anthony John Monk, Edward Denison

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Since its sudden and dramatic formation upon winning the competition to design Paisley Civic Centre in 1963, Hutchison, Locke and Monk (HLM) Architects has consistently served and adapted to the changing requirements of Britain's Welfare State, and has instinctively dedicated its professional services to community architecture. In each of the five decades of its existence, HLM's core activities have reflected the new political objectives to meet the evolving needs of the Welfare State. Firstly focusing on civic projects, which supported the reformation of local government, the practice then concentrated on residential projects, in accordance with the new social housing Acts. With the modernisation of the NHS, HLM then worked primarily on healthcare, designing and building over 30 major hospitals and becoming Britain's leading healthcare specialists. The company then worked on defence projects to meet national security needs and most recently, on education and the important schools programme. Written from the unique perspective of Tony Monk, one of the founding partners, this book reveals the inside story of how this partnership grew to become a leading practice with six offices across the UK. It sets out the early influences and progressive design philosophy of HLM Architects and analyses how they developed their design ethos from Late-Modern through contextual Post-Modern architectural styles by the early 1980s and then matured into producing its own contemporary designs, explaining the reasons why these changes took place over that period. As well as reflecting the transformations in the social and political landscapes and in aesthetic approaches, it also inevitably records the changing social history of the architectural profession from the labour-intensive manual presentations using drafting pens and drawing boards, through to the slick mass produced computer modelling that accompanied the digital revolution and the fundamental adjustments needed to meet the realities of managing an efficient modern and commercial business. The critical Introduction by Dr Edward Denison re-examines the practice's philosophy and contribution to the evolving Welfare State during the second half of the 20th Century. The complex relationships described shed new light on previous architectural histories and, in doing so, this book adds to the knowledge of post-war British architecture.

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