



THE BIRMINGHAM PUGIN TRAIL



FURTHER INFORMATION

Websites

www.thepuginsociety.co.uk
www.birminghammuseums.org.uk
www.birminghamheritage.org.uk/pugin.html

Books

- The Pugins and The Catholic Midlands**
Roderick O'Donnell (2002)
Gracewing and Archdiocese of Birmingham
- God's Architect, Pugin and the Building of Romantic Britain**
Rosemary Hill (2007), Penguin
- The Pugins and the Hardmans**
Brian Doolan (2004)
Archdiocese of Birmingham Historical Commission
- Hardman of Birmingham, Goldsmith and Glasspainter**
Michael Fisher (2008), Landmark Publishing
- Gothic for Ever - AWN Pugin, Lord Shrewsbury,
and the Rebuilding of Catholic England**
Michael Fisher (2012), Spire Books Ltd

Credits

Text by Judith Al-Seffar with contributions from Michael Fisher and Sandra Wedgwood, edited by Chris Rice.

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THE PUGIN SOCIETY



Birmingham City Council

Birmingham
MUSEUMS



LOTTERY FUNDED

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Information contained in this leaflet is correct at the time of going to print. However, it is advised that venue details are checked prior to travelling.

AUGUSTUS WELBY PUGIN

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY



Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin
by J. R. Herbert, Palace of Westminster

Augustus Welby Pugin (1812-1852), son of the French émigré A.C. Pugin, architectural draughtsman and topographical watercolourist, is arguably the greatest British architect, designer and writer of the nineteenth century.

Some of his finest work includes the interiors of the House of Lords (*opposite*), the Catholic church of St Giles, Cheadle, and his own house, The Grange, Ramsgate. He brought the Gothic Revival in this country and beyond to a new level of intensity and significance. He taught that architecture, society, morality and faith are all interconnected, and that the finest buildings can only be raised when the society from which these buildings emerge is equally fine.

His work was continued by his sons Edward (1834-1875), Peter Paul (1851-1904) and Cuthbert (1840-1928).



PUGIN IN BIRMINGHAM

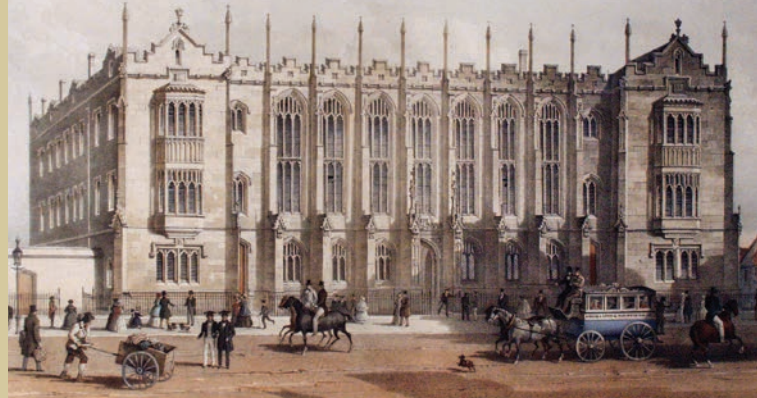
Although not a native of Birmingham, Pugin designed or contributed to a significant number of sites in the city, with St Chad's Cathedral as his greatest achievement. His work at King Edward's School in New Street (demolished in 1936) was also extremely significant, as it began the working relationship between Charles Barry the architect, and Pugin the designer. Together they went on to rebuild the Houses of Parliament in London, an iconic British building, recognised the world over.

In addition to his own work, Pugin's other great contribution to the city was to persuade his friend John Hardman to move into the production of ecclesiastical metalwork and stained glass. As a result, many of the interior fittings of the Palace of Westminster and other great ecclesiastical and secular buildings up and down the country were made in the Hardman workshops in Birmingham.

After his death, in 1852, his widow and younger children lived in Birmingham for over four years. His eldest daughter, Anne, married his assistant, John Hardman Powell, who became chief designer for the Hardman business (*see overleaf*).

In his lifetime Pugin was a celebrated figure, and Queen Victoria awarded his widow a civil list pension. But fashions come and go and the popularity of gothic design waned in the 20th century. As a result, many gothic buildings were destroyed as Britain 'modernised'.

In recent years, however, Pugin's popularity has grown, and the bicentenary of his birth in 2012 reaffirmed the importance of his architectural and design legacy.



King Edward VI School New Street by Henry Burn
(courtesy of the King Edward's Foundation, Birmingham)

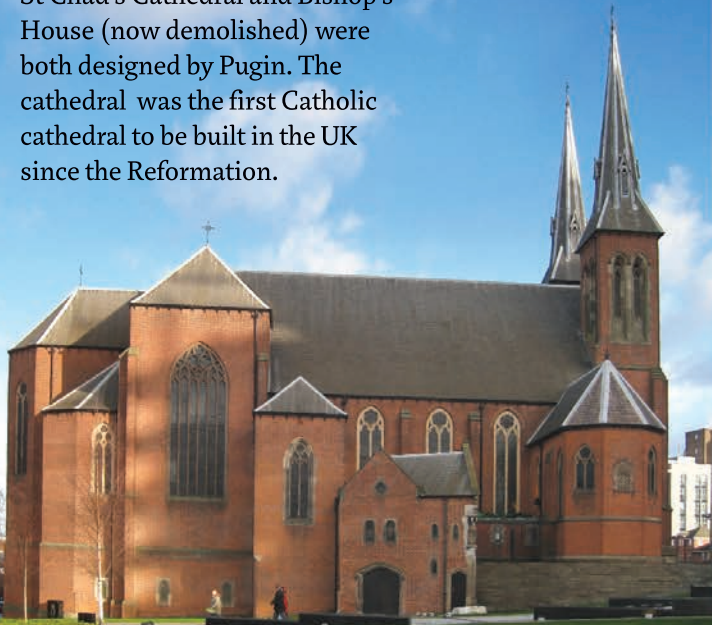


Please note
This map is an approximate guide to the relative location of sites listed within this publication and is not drawn to scale.
For an exact plan it is advised that an up-to-date A-Z or GPS satellite navigation system is used using the postcodes supplied.
For public transport information visit www.networkwestmidlands.com



St Chad's Cathedral (1837-41)

St Chad's Cathedral and Bishop's House (now demolished) were both designed by Pugin. The cathedral was the first Catholic cathedral to be built in the UK since the Reformation.



View of St Chad's
Below: St Chad's interior

The cathedral was built by George Myers ('Pugin's Builder') and the original internal decorations and fittings were made by craftsmen who re-introduced medieval techniques of production: William Warrington, the chancel windows, 1841; John Hardman junior, the plate and, after 1845, several splendid windows; Herbert Minton, the floor tiles.



Pugin also provided the Cathedral with some fine original medieval furnishings, acquired on his continental journeys, including the 15th century German Canons' stalls and the pulpit. Pugin's magnificent rood screen was removed in a re-ordering in 1967.

Sadly, the Bishop's House was demolished to make way for the new ringroad in 1960.

Top: The Bishop's House
Above: Statue on entrance to crypt
Left: Tomb of Bishop Walsh

St Chad's Cathedral

St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham B4 6EU
0121 236 2251 / 0121 230 6201
www.stchadscathedral.org.uk

St Chad's Archive

www.birminghamarchdiocesanarchives.org.uk

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Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is home to a number of objects designed by Pugin, including Hardman (metalwork), Minton (tiles) and a table by J.G. Crace.

One of the largest items, currently on display in the Industrial Gallery, is the Rood Screen from St John's Church, Alton, Staffs.

The new *Birmingham: its people, its history* permanent exhibition also features spectacular works by Hardman.



Above: *Birmingham: its people, its history*
Right: Monstrance by Hardman & Co



Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH
0121 303 2834
www.birminghammuseums.org.uk
Open Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm, Friday 10.30am-5pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm. Admission free.

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Library of Birmingham, Archives and Heritage



Drawings from the Hardman archive



The new Library of Birmingham houses the world-famous Hardman written archive.

It includes working day books, ledgers, staff accounts, family documents, collections of photographs, letters from Pugin and significant documentation of items for the Houses of Parliament, as well as records of orders from America, Australia, and other European countries.

The archive catalogue was digitised and went online in 2010. The Archives, Heritage & Photography section is located on Level 4.

Birmingham Archives and Heritage
Library of Birmingham
Centenary Square, Broad Street,
Birmingham B1 2ND
0121 242 4242
www.libraryofbirmingham.com

Pugin and the Hardmans

In 1838 Pugin persuaded his friend, John Hardman Junior (1811-1867), to turn his Birmingham button-making business to making metalwork and later stained glass for his new churches.

Based in the Jewellery Quarter, John Hardman & Co quickly rose to fame as makers of fine medieval-style metalwork based on Pugin's research, drawings and publications. Their work found its way into churches and cathedrals in the United Kingdom and throughout the world.

Hardman and Pugin were good friends, and their families were inter-related through the marriage of Pugin's eldest daughter, Anne (1832-1897) to Hardman's nephew, John Hardman Powell (1827-1895).

John Hardman Powell became the firm's chief designer, following closely in the footsteps of his father-in-law. John Hardman was succeeded as head of the firm by his son John Bernard Hardman (1843-1903), whose two sons, John Tarleton Hardman (1873-1959) and Gerald James Hardman (1875-1953) continued to direct the firm until the 1930s.



✦ John Hardman Senior



✦ John Hardman Junior



✦ John Hardman Powell



✦ Hardman & Co display

The Jewellery Quarter was home to Hardman & Co. The main Hardman workshop was located on Newhall Hill, and was in continuous use until 1970, when a serious fire almost gutted the building.

Hardman & Co were foremost in continuing and propagating the Pugin style, both during the architect's lifetime, and for many decades after his death in 1852.

Although the metalwork side of the business is no longer trading, the company continues to produce beautiful stained glass for clients around the world.

Above:
Hardman & Co letterhead
Right: Hardman & Co church metalwork



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Museum of the Jewellery Quarter



Located in the original factory of the jewellery manufacturing firm of Smith & Pepper, the museum tells the story of jewellery and metal-working in Birmingham.

Most of the techniques and processes demonstrated on the fascinating factory tour are exactly the same as used in Pugin's day.

The museum's displays include a number of items made by Hardman & Co, some of which were designed by Pugin.

Right: Claret Jug and cover by John Hardman & Co



Museum of the Jewellery Quarter
75-80 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham B18 6HA
0121 348 8140
www.birminghammuseums.org.uk
Open all year round, Tuesday-Saturday
10.30am-5pm. Admission charge.

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The Pen Museum

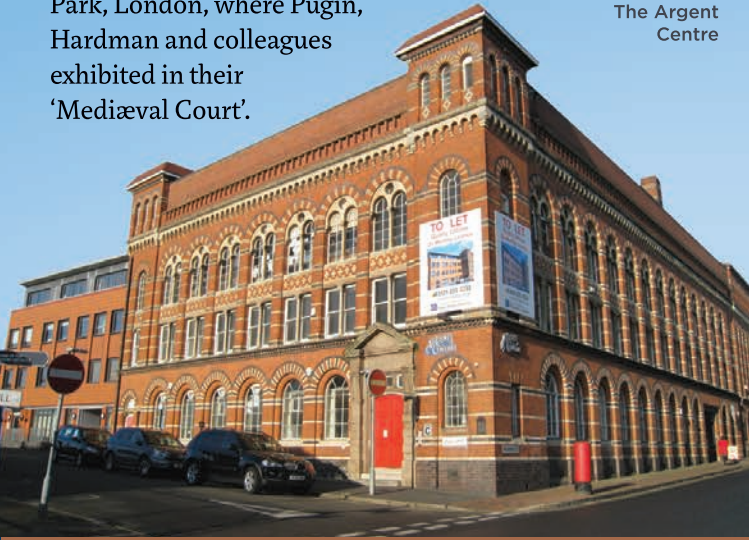
Located in the spectacular Argent Centre building, the museum tells the story of writing, and houses a very fine collection of pen nibs and other writing materials. Much of the material on display originated in the workshops of the Jewellery Quarter, which was the pen nib manufacturing centre of the world in the Victorian period.

Pen nibs were often designed decoratively for displays, such as those exhibited at the Great Exhibition of 1851 in Hyde Park, London, where Pugin, Hardman and colleagues exhibited in their 'Mediæval Court'.



The Pen Museum

The Argent Centre



The Pen Museum
Unit 3, The Argent Centre, 60 Frederick Street, Hockley, Birmingham B1 3HS
0121 236 9834
www.penroom.co.uk
Open all year round, Monday-Saturday 11am-4pm, Sunday 1pm-4pm.



Key Hill Cemetery



This Nonconformist cemetery was opened in 1836 and holds the remains of several notable Birmingham citizens who helped build the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition of 1851.

The metal frame of the Crystal Palace was made locally by Fox, Henderson & Co, all the glass by the Chance glass company of Smethwick, and the Oslers made the magnificent fountain for the central display area.

The Gothic Revival was given a huge boost by this exhibition and orders flooded in.

Sadly, Pugin did not benefit, as his health was in decline and he died in 1852.

The Friends of Key Hill and Warstone Lane Cemeteries

37 Quayside, Hockley,
Birmingham B18 5SQ
www.fkwc.org

Open all year round, dawn to dusk.



St Mary's Convent and the Hardman Home, Handsworth



St Mary's Catholic Convent was designed by Pugin for the recently founded order of nuns, the Sisters of Mercy. The convent was opened only two months after St Chad's Cathedral, in August 1841, with financial and practical support from John Hardman Senior and John Talbot, 16th Earl of Shrewsbury.

The Hardman family home across the road was extended by Pugin in 1842, and became the presbytery (priest's home) to the nearby St Francis' church in 1894.

St Mary's Convent is now open as a retreat and heritage centre.



St Mary's Convent

98, Hunter's Road, Handsworth,
Birmingham B19 1EB
0121 554 3271
www.mercyhandsworth.org.uk

For public tour dates see website.



St Joseph's Church, Nechells (1850)



Pugin's St Joseph's church was originally built as a mortuary chapel for the new Catholic cemetery, and both were opened in 1850.

As the local Catholic population grew a school was needed, and Pugin's son Edward designed the school buildings on the same site. In 1867, the chapel became a parish church, and was extended in 1872 by Edward, who also built the adjoining presbytery (priest's house).

The school buildings were demolished around 1970 for road widening but the church continues to serve the parish.

St Joseph's Church

Thimble Mill Lane, Nechells,
Birmingham B7 5QS

0121 327 0235

www.stjosephs-nechells.co.uk

Open Sundays or by appointment

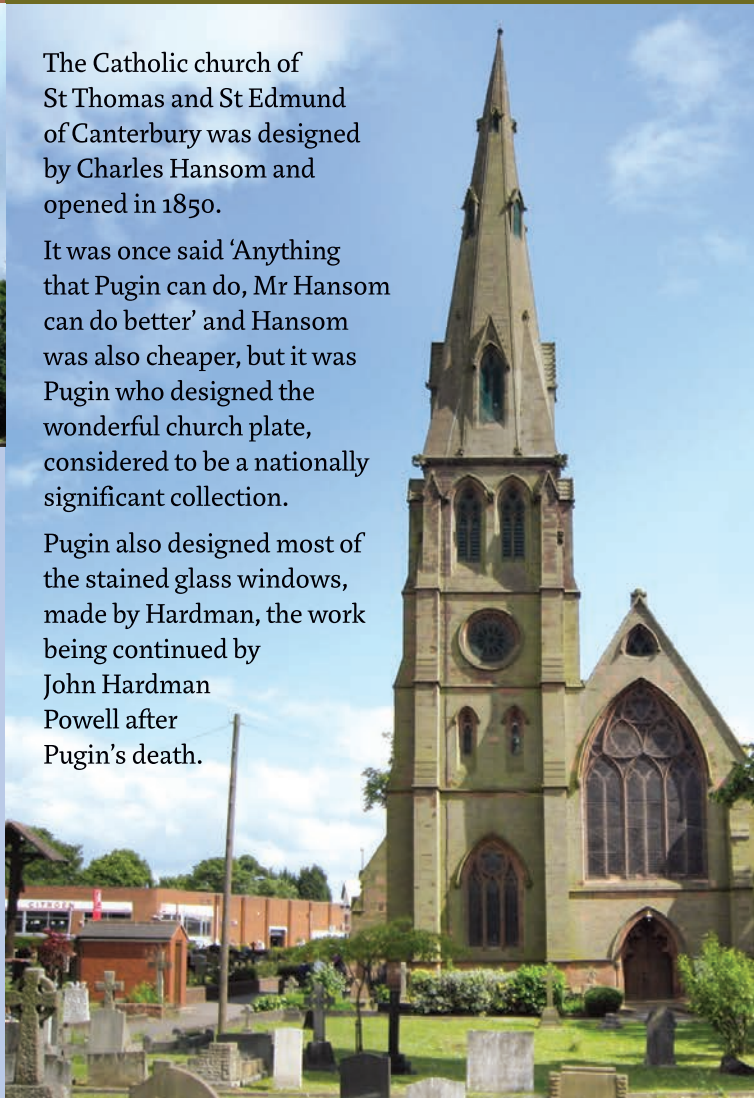


Erdington Abbey (1850)

The Catholic church of St Thomas and St Edmund of Canterbury was designed by Charles Hansom and opened in 1850.

It was once said 'Anything that Pugin can do, Mr Hansom can do better' and Hansom was also cheaper, but it was Pugin who designed the wonderful church plate, considered to be a nationally significant collection.

Pugin also designed most of the stained glass windows, made by Hardman, the work being continued by John Hardman Powell after Pugin's death.



Erdington Abbey

32, Sutton Road,
Birmingham B23 6QL

0121 373 0143

www.erdingtonabbey.co.uk

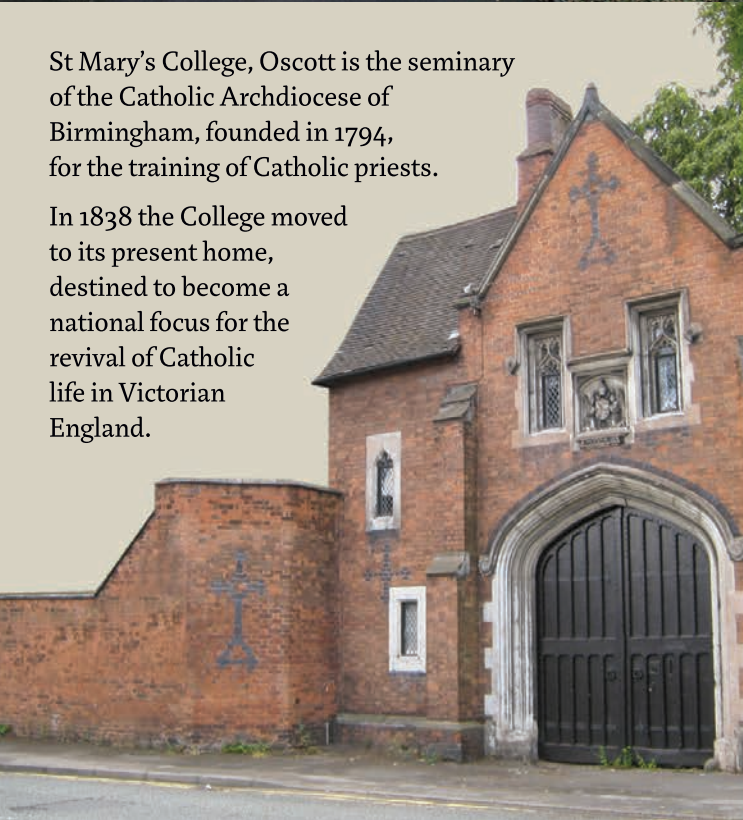
Open Sundays or by appointment



St Mary's College, Oscott (1837-41)



Main college building by Joseph Potter
Below: Lodge by AWN Pugin



St Mary's College, Oscott is the seminary of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, founded in 1794, for the training of Catholic priests.

In 1838 the College moved to its present home, destined to become a national focus for the revival of Catholic life in Victorian England.

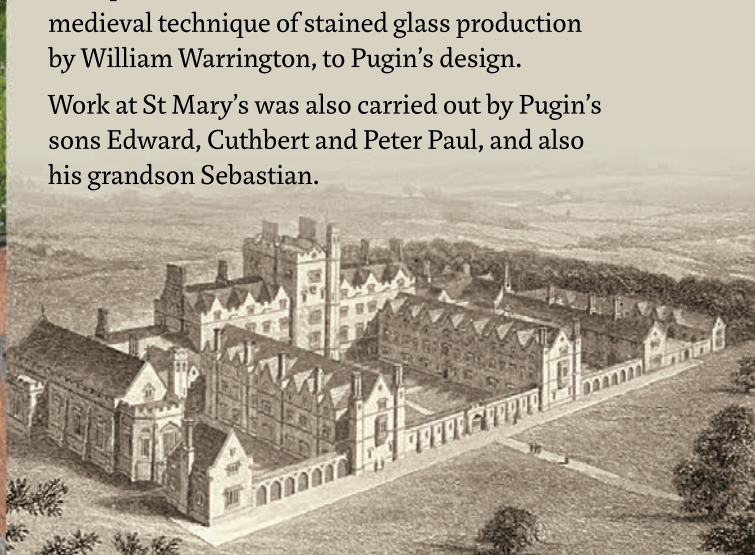
Joseph Potter of Lichfield designed the building, but through the influence of John Talbot, 16th Earl of Shrewsbury, Pugin was brought in to complete the project. Pugin designed the gate lodges (1840) and also most of the furnishings (1838-41).

Pugin was given a free hand in the decoration of the chapel (1837-38). The marvellous east window is an early example of the revival of the medieval technique of stained glass production by William Warrington, to Pugin's design.

Work at St Mary's was also carried out by Pugin's sons Edward, Cuthbert and Peter Paul, and also his grandson Sebastian.



Oscott College Library window, virgin and child



St Mary's College, Oscott

Chester Road, Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands B73 5AA
0121 321 5000
www.oscott.net

For public tour dates see website.

This historic school originally occupied buildings in New Street from 1552. The previous building (1838-1935) was a fine example of secular Gothic design by the architect Charles Barry.

In 1835 Barry employed the 23-year-old Pugin to design the school interiors, fittings and furniture. The New St building was demolished in 1936 - a sad loss for the architecture of the city.



Top and below:
Original New Street building



Above: Pinnacles rescued from New Street building
Right: Chapel interior

The school moved to its present site in Edgbaston in 1935. The only part of the old Gothic building to survive was the upper corridor and a few other architectural details which were dismantled and reused in the new school chapel, consecrated in 1952.

In spite of the loss of most of the Pugin interiors, the school still holds the earliest examples of his work in Birmingham. These include several pieces of furniture including the spectacular 'Sapientia' - the headmasters chair and desk - which is still in use today.

Guided tours of the chapel are available every Friday afternoon at 2pm during term-time. Please telephone to check availability.



King Edward's School

Edgbaston Park Road,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham B15 2UA
0121 472 1672

www.kes.org.uk/gallery/Other/Pugin

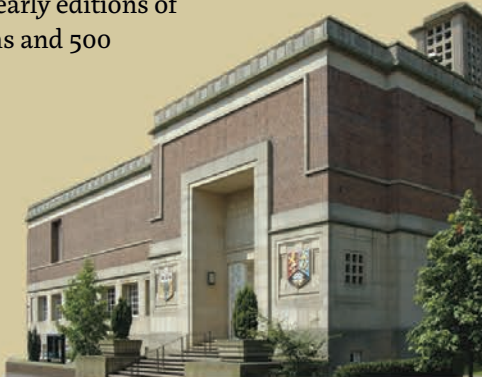
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The Barber Institute & Cadbury Research Library



The Barber's collections include an early Netherlandish triptych by a follower of Roger van der Weyden (*above*) which was once owned by Pugin and hung in the drawing room of his house in Ramsgate, the Grange.

A short walk from the Barber is the Cadbury Research Library, located in Muirhead Tower. The Library holds a number of early editions of Pugin's publications and 500 photographs of his sketches taken in 1865 by Stephen Ayling. The latter can be viewed on the Library's Flickr page.



The Barber Institute

University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham B15 2TS
0121 414 5839 / www.barber.org.uk
Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat & Sun 11am-5pm
Admission Free

Cadbury Research Library

0121 414 5839
www.special-coll.bham.ac.uk

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Winterbourne House and Gardens

Pugin's innovatory views on design had a profound influence on the development of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Winterbourne is a good example of an early 20th-century suburban Arts and Crafts villa and garden. Built in 1903 for the Nettlefold family, it is now home to the University of Birmingham's botanic gardens.

Recently refurbished, the house is now open to the public as are the gardens and café.



Winterbourne House and Gardens

University of Birmingham,
58 Edgbaston Park Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2RT
0121 414 3003
www.winterbourne.org.uk
For opening times please see website.