London Borough of Havering

Gidea Park Heritage Walk - People of Interest

B • Curtis Green (1875-1960)
Curtis Green was an established architect and had designed houses for the Letchworth Garden City and the Hampstead Garden Suburb. In the 1930s he was responsible for the interior and exterior design of the Dorchester Hotel in London.

D • Parker & Unwin
Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker were early pioneers in Town Planning and influential in the Garden City movement. Between 1903 and 1905 they developed plans for the Letchworth Garden City the Hampstead Garden Suburb. Unwin was one of the founders of the Town Planning Institute (1913) and President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (1931–3).

E • Clough Williams-Ellis
Opening his own architectural practice at the age of 22, Bertram Clough Williams-Ellis was renowned for his natural ability as a largely self-taught, natural architect. He is best known for Portmeirion, the holiday village he built on his private peninsula in Snowdonia, Wales, which opened in 1926.

F • Baillie Scott
A member of the established Arts & Crafts movement of the 19th century, Hugh Mackay Baillie Scott was influenced by both William Morris and John Ruskin, but went on to develop a distinctive style of his own. Baillie Scott designed the Red House, the Arts & Crafts home owned by William Morris.

G • Tecton Ltd
Founded by arguably the most important figure in the British modern Movement - Berthold Lubetkin - Tecton Ltd pioneered modernist design in Britain in the 1930s. As well as the villa in Gidea Park, renowned designs include Highpoint One apartments, the Finsbury Park Health Centre and the post war modernist housing estate Spa Green. In 1982 Lubetkin was awarded the RIBA’s Royal Gold Medal.

Did you know?
Gidea Park Station was originally called “Squirrels Heath & Gidea Park”
Berthold Lubetkin designed the Penguin Pool and the Gorilla House at London Zoo
Queen Elizabeth I visited Gidea Hall in 1568.

For more information visit: www.havering.gov.uk
Come to the Exhibition...

Influenced by the "Garden Cities Movement’ and the need for cheap and better social housing, the early part of the 20th century saw the design of houses and suburbs closely linked to a more holistic approach of combining homes with gardens close to large, open public spaces.  In 1910 a competition and exhibition of houses was launched and between July 1910 and June 1911, 121 architects and between July 1910 and June 1911, 121 architects designed the 159 houses and cottages that were built for the exhibition. In 1914 “The Modern Homes Exhibition” was launched and a further 35 houses were built in Heath Drive, Brook Road and Eastern Avenue. This circular walk will take in many of the houses built for the Exhibition and will take approximately two hours at a leisurely pace.

1. START at Raphael’s Park (A) with the park on your left. Continue along Main Road for approximately 500 metres and turn left into Heath Drive. No’s 3 to 7 are a row of oak-timbered cottages designed by Runney & Makees for the 1910/11 Exhibition. Cross the road and turn left into Elm Walk. No’s 3 to 7 were designed by Carlis Green (E).

2. Follow the road round to the right; on your left are the tall hedges that surround the Tennis Club, this was the original site of Gidea Hall (Q). Continue forward, bearing right into Broadway. Turn left into Heath Drive and continue round the bend in the road for until you see the finials on your left. These were part of the original Gidea Hall estate.

3. The walls and gates at Grade II listed from the 18th century and formed part of the boundary to the Hall’s walled garden. Continue along Heath Drive, No 41 was designed by Parker & Griffin (P). Continue straight ahead and turn right to Mike Walk. All the houses except No 15 were built for the 1910/11 Exhibition. Take the footpath between No’s 15 and 13.

4. Emerge into a small grassed area of Reed Pond Walk. Here you will find the park’s ornamental capice, a tree protected by covenant from 1912. Bear right and go straight ahead, keeping the capice on your left until you reach No.23, designed by Joseph Williams-Ellis (E).

5. Turn back on yourself and turn left next to Gidea Park Lodge. No’s 36 and 38 were designed by Ballicia South (J). At the end of the road turn left into Heath Drive and continue straight ahead. At the junction with Brook Road is No 64, first prize winner in the Gidea Park Modern Homes Exhibition 1914 and one of the first works by Yeocon Ltd (G).

6. Turn left into Brook Road. Continue straight ahead and then left to Ewell Road. Parkway has many exhibition houses including the Glass House first prize for Garden design for No 54. Continue straight ahead and enter Raphael Fish at the gate at the end. Post the tennis courts on your right. Explore and enjoy the parkland following the path back to the entrance in Main Road. FINISH