

## MOSELEY COMMUNITY HUB (AREA 3)

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Moseley Community Hub is a landmark via its symmetrical Bath stone baroque frontage with Doric columns framing upper floor windows, contrasting with the heavier Woodville red brick faced basement and ground floor.

Designed by William Henry Bidlake in 1899, it is also a landmark in education history and the history of Birmingham. This is because it became the first purpose built Branch Art School in the country. Local talented pupils were selected for admission to answer the economic necessity to educate artist/designers with drawing and modelling skills to feed local businesses, perpetuating Birmingham as “the workshop of the world”. This makes sense of the Birmingham crest combining industry and art on the swimming baths across the road.

When it closed as an art school in 1975, MSA art teacher Dr. John Swift wrote: “After nearly a hundred years a school where those who thought more fluently through their hands and eyes with a curriculum to match their abilities was lost.”

Although the building remains, it is enjoying a new lease of life as Moseley Community Hub.

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19th July 2023