

## **Peter Womersley RSA**

### **RSA Obituary transcribed from the RSA Annual Report**

Peter Womersley, A.R.S.A., a native of Newark Nottinghamshire, died suddenly during the latter half of 1993. He received his architectural education at the Architectural Association of London. He settled in Melrose in the Borders and designed his house and office at Gattonside, which became a mecca to be visited by many architects.

His principal works of the late 60s and 70s became well known and he showed regularly in Our annual exhibitions. He always preferred black and white photographic enlargements for the presentation of his works. Apart from the elegant flat-roofed family houses which became his hallmark, his practice embraced a rich variety of building types.

He had a rare feeling for designing in reinforced concrete as evidenced in Fairydean Football Stand in Galashiels, the Transplant Unit at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh and the highly successful Studio for Bernat Klein near Selkirk, which won an R.I.B.A. Regional Award.

He won the open Competition for Roxburgh County Offices; these have recently been altered and extended. On one occasion Peter was asked by the Academy to consider ways and means of brightening up the R.S.A. building during exhibitions. Having regard to the constraints imposed upon such a highly listed building, he produced the idea of banners being suspended between the columns on the North and South fronts.

The outcome, of course, proved very satisfactory indeed and the concept of banners has been fully established over many years, the banners changed to suit varying exhibitions. Original design is still used for our annual exhibitions.

Peter enjoyed a considerable knowledge and love of the arts generally: literature, music, painting and sculpture. One of his favourite painters was his contemporary William Burns R.S.A. whose work he considered ideal for his distinctive domestic interiors.

In the late 70s Peter's practice in common with others, suffered decline due to lack of commissions and he left Scotland to work exclusively in Hong Kong, retiring in 1986. He acquired a house in Italy in a highly elevated position commanding stunning views over Lake Garda. From time to time he came back to Scotland to visit friends. He was unmarried.