

The "1930s" Style

The European version of the new functional and geometric domestic architecture, which evolved in Germany and France in the work of Walter Gropius and Le Corbusier, reached England in 1925 when the German architect Peter Behrens designed "New Ways", 508 Wellingborough Road, Northampton. He designed it for the engineer W. J. Bassett-Lowke. During the 1930s when the Nazis were suppressing Modern architecture, several of the leading German architects came to England, including Gropius himself, but they found few clients and so moved to the United States. Nevertheless, there were more than fifty Modern houses built in England before the Second World War.

Although the first one was built in 1925, the style did not reach the general public until the 1930s, hence its slightly inaccurate title. We have a number of these properties in Birchington, including "Twentieth Century" (corner of Minnis Road and St Mildred's Avenue, The Nore and "Logan Rock" on the corner of Minnis Road and Arthur Road, "Bay House" (formerly "Guesend") and "Fort Grenham", both on Cliff Road at Grenham Bay. The shop on the corner of Station Road and Albion Road, now Ward's Estate Agents, was built by George Gardner in 1930, after he had demolished the end pair of "Bath Cottages", which had beautiful Dutch gables at each end.



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designed in 1925 by Peter Behrens for the English engineer W. J. Bassett-Lowke