



Sir Basil Spence, site specific bench, 1964

Designer: **Sir Basil Spence**

£900

DESCRIPTION

Bench by Sir Basil Spence

The bench or daybed was designed as part of the scheme for the original Swiss Cottage Central Library, London circa 1964. The project was part of a design for a civic centre in Hampstead with Townhall, swimming pool and other office buildings. Only two buildings were constructed and were soon regarded as a seminal works by the architect.

" ... one of Spence's most accomplished civic buildings, and amongst the most ambitious architectural designs for a library found anywhere."

The building is now Grade II Listed.

The Spence-designed bench, desks and tables were removed as part of a refurbishment in 2005.

The flat-bar stainless steel base echoes the key architectural features of the outside of the building and strictly linear elements within the interior from the glazing, through spiral staircases, ceiling panels and railings.

The front and side elevation of the base are in fact separate and a narrow shadow gap exists to create an elegant solution to the two meeting at 90 degrees.

The original vinyl upholstery is in good order.

The bench is a rare furniture design, with exceptional provenance, by one of Britain's most important and influential architects.

DIMENSIONS

155 x 73 x 43cmh

MATERIALS

Flat-bar stainless steel base with original vinyl upholstered seat.

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