

# *Rodmarton Manor*

## *The House*

Ernest Barnsley, who built Rodmarton Manor was a follower of William Morris, was one of the leaders of the English Arts and Crafts Movement towards the end of the 19th Century. The Cotswolds became a stronghold for craftsmen and artists in the early 20th Century. Ernest Barnsley and his brother Sidney, who was the principal furniture maker, are recognized as leading lights of the Cotswold Arts and Crafts Movement. Alongside the furniture many other crafts flourished such as ironwork, leadwork, needlework and a wide variety of painting and design.

The movement was a reaction against poor design and the increasing use of machinery and unnecessary decoration that had featured in the Victorian era. The manufacturers were calling the tune rather than the craftsmen. Furniture was being mass-produced and poorly made. The aim of the Arts and Crafts reformers was to re-establish a harmony between architect, designer and craftsman and to emphasize the importance of handcraftsmanship to the production of well-designed, affordable everyday objects with individual and regional expression, honesty of construction, simplicity, and fitness of purpose. Inspiration would be drawn from the past but with fresh interpretation and the quality of the material being used was emphasized with designs from nature.

## *The Garden*

The eight-acre garden is interesting every month of the year but really beautiful throughout the summer months. The garden was drawn up by Ernest Barnsley as he was designing the house and it is still his layout which survives in the garden today, with terrace, topiary, leisure garden, herbaceous borders, and walled garden.

The garden was designed originally as a series of outdoor rooms. There is a wide selection of planting that has been done over the years with superb vistas and views throughout and plenty of places to sit and admire the view. Each part of this Gloucestershire garden has a distinctive character ranging from the alpines in troughs, bigger plants in the rockery, lawns, a large kitchen garden, white borders, to the magnificent herbaceous borders which are constantly replanted and improved. There is a strong architectural style close to the house, which gradually gives way to less formality and open farmland as one moves away from the house. Interest continues all year round with snowdrops, spring bulbs, roses and herbaceous planting. There is much in the way of hedging and some humorous new topiary in different parts of the garden. There are roses in abundance flowering through the summer and lots of pots and tubs in various parts of the garden. Emphasis is placed on looking after the birds and butterflies in the garden and they are much in evidence.

For more information visit - <https://rodmarton-manor.co.uk/cotswold-garden/>