



## **Geoffrey Townsend - Joint Managing Director: SPAN**

Pioneer builder and developer of modernist schemes

Geoffrey Townsend was born in 1911. At Regent Street Polytechnic he met Eric Lyons and they both discovered a shared interest in contemporary design. In 1938 they formed an architectural practice.

After the War Townsend & Lyons became involved in war damage, house conversion and alteration work. In 1948 Lyons and Townsend designed Oaklands a housing scheme in Whitton, Twickenham which comprised of four maisonette blocks set within landscaped grounds.

In 1952, Townsend and partner Henry Cushman, bought four acres of former peach orchard near Ham Common in Surrey. Parkleys, which was subsequently built on the site was a scheme of flats which displayed the combination of Span characteristics for the first time - private estate roads; out of view car parking; high quality landscaping and, common outdoor spaces. Townsend's awareness of the need to organise maintenance of these spaces and championed a legally constituted Residents' Association. These Residents' Associations together with legal covenants which have maintained the unity of architecture and landscape of Span developments.