



36 Kingfisher Court  
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East Molesey  
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Department of Culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London SW1Y 5DH

**Attention Mr. Gordon Howell**

Dear Sir,

**Listing of Kingfisher Court, Bridge Road, East Molesey, Surrey**

I am a resident at the above block of flats. It is an art deco style, brick structure, with two buildings surrounding a central garden, a lodge over garages at the entrance, a derelict squash court, a pump shed for the swimming pool, and garages at the exit.

We believe the owner of the freehold of this leasehold block of flats intends to put in planning applications to carry out very unsympathetic changes, i.e., building a penthouse on the roof and demolishing the squash court to build flats or houses.

The buildings have had limited modifications since construction and retain most of the original windows, stair cases etc. The information we have is given below. I enclose the following:

- 1) Photographs of the internal and external features
- 2) A plan of the site
- 3) Copy of reference in Pevsner
- 4) Copy of Advert for Flats from The Surrey Comet and Middlesex News, 9/4/38
- 5) A map of the are showing the address

We would like to make an application for the buildings and grounds to be grade II listed. We believe that Kingfisher Court has strong architectural merit and retains many of the original features. However, there is the probability that these will increasingly be lost unless listing protection is provided.

## **Information about Kingfisher Court**

**Architect** - Guy Morgan

**Dates** - Believed to be built between 1933 (date given by Pevsner) and 1938 (date of advert enclosed).

**Description** - Three storey, brick buildings with flat roofs. The main building encloses three sides of square grounds which contain a tennis court, swimming pool, fish pond, sunken garden and bowling green. The smaller building is in a fourth corner. Communal stairs at the front (inside the grounds) rise to pairs of front doors to flats except for flats 1 to 9 in the small building which open onto a single stair. All flats are different in that even those above each other have differing windows into the front and back stairwells, wall thicknesses (and therefore floor area), and top flats have different windows.

The attractive features include the airy stair wells with open glazing, the balconies on the “bridge”, and the open area on the top of the “bridge”. The way that window bays curve in and out gives it the art deco feel, with additional art deco features such as the balustrades, balconies, and some of the window features.

**Style** - Art Deco based on a steam ship with the “bridge” at the back looking out over the central grounds on one side and the River Mole on the other.

**Grounds** - Understood to be by or in the style of Gertrude Jekyll. The grounds include a tennis court, swimming pool, fish pond, lawns and bowling green, landscaping and flower beds. The grounds back onto the river Mole which joins the Thames a few hundred metres further down stream opposite Hampton Court Palace. External lighting has been replaced recently from the original bulkhead lights that reflected the nautical theme of the architecture.

A service road runs round the outside of the buildings with parking and garages off it, and access to back stairs and back doors. The main grounds are sufficiently enclosed by the buildings to be hidden from the main road and the service road.

The two main boundary walls are understood to be ancient, going back to Tudor times.

**History** - Built as luxury flats in the 1930s for the “Stars” of the film sets at Shepperton etc. locally. It included a swimming pool (still operational), squash court (interior damaged in floods 40 years ago but building still intact), and a cafe and social club for residents and guests (converted to flats in the 1950’s). We have been told by several independent sources that it won an architectural award when built but have been unable to trace. Our researcher tells us that the Surrey records office is relocating in Guildford and will reopen in November. We hope to glean more information from there. The flats were neglected after the war, and then sold off on long leases, a few long term rental remain. Extensive maintenance and renovation has occurred over the past few

years, in reasonable sympathy with the original architecture and fixtures and fittings.

We have spoken to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Society who have been very encouraging in supporting our application for Grade II listing. If you or your agents at English Heritage require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

John P. Broomfield