

### SIMON FELTON

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Auchinleck House sits at the end of Broad Street overlooking Five Ways island and was until 2016 known as Auchinleck House before being re-branded and re-clad as the Park Regis Hotel, which opened in March 2016. The building was where I first undertook training when I started at HM Courts and Tribunals Service but it has a long history of hosting Birmingham City Council departments as well as the Civil Service.

As Auchinleck House it was named after Field Marshall Auchinleck who was the chairman of the company that built it and there is a statue of him, relocated nearby, from the former central ground floor square when it was known as The Five Ways Shopping Centre (<http://birminghamcentral.blogspot.com/2013/06/auchinleck-endeavours.html>).

The building was a landmark building at its construction, opening in approximately 1965, sitting at the Five Ways island (or roundabout) and being visible when arriving at that island by car or as pedestrian (<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/nostalgia/gallery/history-of-five-ways-10498441>). The former block had an interesting mural since covered up which would have been a dramatic focal point as public art.

The block remains a landmark today, along with Broadway House opposite (formerly Tesco on the ground floor), but now sits amongst a view when reaching the island from Harborne Road of new tower blocks such as Moda's The Mercian and a recently built 35 storey building, The Square. Arriving at Five Ways island as a pedestrian your view is now partially obscured by the trees that add greenery to the pedestrian route as well as the block being amongst the visibly changing skyline and mix of developments.

The block for me is both a landmark matching Lynch's description but also it acts as a social and historical landmark to people familiar with the area. As Birmingham continues to change the question is whether it will be a landmark or another block representing the high-rise built up city.

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