

The redesign even extended beyond the interior to the street frontage, and included the addition of elaborate windows in the gothic style of intersecting tracery.



Number 13 Parsons Street was demolished over 40 years ago, and if one asked Banburians what they remembered, it would probably not be the fireplaces, exquisite lighting or the furniture, but the Mural, the *pièce de résistance* of the renovation.

The Mural was commissioned from Brian D L Thomas OBE (1912-1989). The choice of Thomas has been unremarked upon, and yet this choice is entirely remarkable. In 1947 Thomas would have been 35, his career about to take a new and exciting direction. The coming years would see his works incorporated into cathedrals, churches and livery halls, part of the rebuilding of London following the blitz. Thomas became a distinguished artist, appointed OBE in 1961, and is remembered for his stained-glass windows and murals which contributed to the restoration of St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and churches throughout London. (See appendix 1)

Born in Barnstable in 1912, and educated at Bradfield, he won a science exhibition to Oxford but chose instead to go to the Byam Shaw School of Art. Here he won the Rome Scholarship in Mural Painting.