

Eric Gill

Eric Gill, the man responsible for designing Gill Sans, was a versatile and brilliant talent in the early part of the last century. He was active, prolific and successful in many disciplines from wood engraving to sculpture and calligraphy. In the 1920s, he began an association with Monotype and, in 1928, his first typeface, Gill Sans, was released. This was followed by the Perpetua® and Joanna® designs.

One of reasons for the enduring success of Gill Sans is that it is based on Roman character shapes and proportions and is unlike virtually any other sans serif typeface. There is also warmth and humanity found in Gill Sans that is found in few sans serif typefaces. In addition, each weight in the family retains a distinct character of its own. They were not "mechanically" produced from a single design, as is the case with many other sans serif designs. The light is open and elegant. The regular, with its flat-bottomed d, flat-topped p and q and triangular-topped t, has a more compact and muscular appearance. The bold tends to echo the softer, more open style of the light, while the extra bold and ultra bold have their own vivid personalities.

A B C D E
F G H I J K
L M N O P
Q R S T U
V W X Y Z

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n
o p q r s t u v w x y z

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

i
sans

ASCENDER
CAP-HEIGHT
X-HEIGHT
BASELINE
DESCENDER
COUNTER
Handglovery