

# The Glasgow School of Art Media Centre

The Glasgow School of Art Media Releases, Events and News

Friday, 8 November 2013

## Stoddard Templeton designers gather for exhibition opening



Images from Stoddard Templeton source material now held by the GSA

Over a dozen former designers from world famous Stoddard Templeton carpet companies, including former Design Director, Ronnie Wilkie, and Gerry Rafferty's brother, Jim, gathered at The Glasgow School of Art on Friday 8 November 2013 for the opening of *Interwoven Connections*. The exhibition, which opens to the public on Saturday 9 November, offers the public a rare opportunity to see some of the rich archival material from the Stoddard Templeton Design Studio and Library, which has been held by The Glasgow School of Art since the sad demise of Stoddard International in 2005.

The Stoddard Templeton companies were Scotland's most prominent carpet manufacturing innovators. They designed and supplied many iconic carpets including for the Titanic and Queen Mary liners, for events such as the Royal Coronations and Festival of Britain and even for The White House. Through folios, books, photographs, designs and samples, the exhibition, will give a flavour of the Design Library's contents, examine how the library was used, and throw a light on the design process of the Stoddard Templeton Studio.

*"The design studio archive is an amazing resource,"* says Helena Britt, lecturer and design researcher at The Glasgow School of Art who has curated the exhibition. *"It includes incredible books and colour plates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the art nouveau and art deco periods to more recent works, as well as designs from many different cultures and countries. Designers would use the library as a source of inspiration when starting a new pattern or commission."*

The collection was amassed over many years by the directors of the company as they travelled to meet clients and oversee fittings of their prestigious carpets. Much of it is rare and in some cases unique. *"The library was hugely important for designers,"* says Ronnie Wilkie who started his career as a designer in Templeton's factory on Glasgow Green in the late 1960s rising to Design Director in Stoddard International. During this time he undertook many commissions including overseeing the carpets for Balmoral, where he was privileged to meet the Queen, and also recreating the carpets Stoddard had designed for the Titanic for James Cameron's blockbuster movie .

*"It is a unique collection and one that companies across the world were desperate to buy when Stoddard International closed,"* he adds. Fortunately, due to his efforts a consortium of Glasgow University, Glasgow School of Art and Glasgow Museums was able to secure the archive for the city ensuring that it is still available for students and carpet designers like Ronnie to use.

*Interwoven Connections* is divided into three sections. The first looks at the Stoddard Templeton Design Library featuring a selection of items from the archive. The second looks at the Design Studio. This features the companies' timeline and shows various studios and designers through photographs, extracts from publications produced by the companies and film footage from Scottish Screen Archive. The third section builds a picture of the design process and includes Design Library items, sketches, carpet pattern designs and a selection

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Glasgow Evening Times

"The Glasgow School of Art Collection effectively gives us the chance to showcase work from graduates, alumni and staff still working in the school," explains shop manager Julie Kelly. "There's everything, from emerging graduates, people who are just ...

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BBC News

"They were hugely important," said Helena Britt, design researcher at Glasgow School of Art. "The west of Scotland carpet industry was a huge industry. They shipped all around the world, from very early on in the companies' history. "From the late ...

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of carpet samples, finished carpets, books and catalogues showing carpets.

*Interwoven Connections* runs in the Mackintosh Museum at the GSA from 9 November 2013 - 11 January 2014 (closed 24 December -2 January inclusive)

Ends

## Notes for Editors

### Images

- Design from Benedictus Relais 1930: Quinze Planches Donnant Quarante-Deux Motifs Décoratifs, by Edouard Benedictus (1930)
- Design from Ornamente der Hausindustrie Ungarn's, by Karl von Pulszky (1878)
- Detail of design from Kunstgewerbliche Schmuckformen für die Fläche (c.1920)
- Plate from Flore naturelle - plates 1-40, by Henry Lambert (c.1890)
- Design from Decors et compositions du jour - 5e serie, by Studio d'Arts Decoratifs (c.1920)
  
- The Stoddard Templeton Design Library is held by The Glasgow School of Art Library along with a selection of Stoddard Templeton carpet samples. The Stoddard Templeton Archive is held by University of Glasgow. Glasgow Museum holds the Stoddard Templeton Heritage Carpet Collection.
- Helena Britt is a lecturer in the Department of Fashion and Textiles at The Glasgow School of Art (GSA). Interwoven Connections: The Stoddard Templeton Design Studio and Design Library, 1843-2005 is a post-doctoral research project looking at the utilisation of archival resources in the design process, focusing specifically on the Stoddard Templeton Design Library which held at GSA.
  
- The project, which is part of a post doctoral research project, is supported by The Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Posted by [Press Admin](#) at 4:00 pm

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