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A REPORT ON THE PRESENT AND FUTURE CONDITION OF THE REMAINING BUILDINGS OF CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH
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TWO

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activities

(ii) list of communications received or
interests in co-intel's activities
I would like to say thank you to all those people who helped me. I am indebted.

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I regret that, through circumstances out of my control, I was unable to visit 'uchendalnie, Clock and the remaining buildings in England. I have not therefore included them in the detailed report, but I have obtained current photographs of the two limestone houses.
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This report was undertaken at the invitation of Professor Macmillan of the Mackintosh School of Architecture, in conjunction with the Mackintosh Advisory Committee.

Its intention is to record the present condition and report on the future condition of the remaining buildings of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, in Glasgow and elsewhere. The report concentrates solely on his remaining buildings for two reasons: firstly, buildings cannot be moved into (new) museums as readily as furniture, fittings and other design work can, and secondly, they are subject to social, political and economic forces to a greater degree than any of his other work.

There is a need for a full catalogue of the entire works of Mackintosh, including his paintings and textile designs, but I feel that this is a more scholarly task than I am able to undertake at this stage.

The report is intended as a basis for looking at the feasibility of new uses and contexts for any of the buildings which are presently or likely to come under threat, and whose future is therefore doubtful. A kind of early warning system will be set up to avert future crises in advance. It is hoped that public awareness of old buildings in general and Mackintosh buildings in particular will increase so that destruction through ignorance or lack of foresight is avoided.

The report is in two parts. The first contains an analysis of the social and economic forces affecting old buildings in general, followed by a specific discussion of the problems affecting Mackintosh's buildings. The second contains a detailed report on each building, describing its condition and surroundings, outlining present or possible future threats and drawing conclusions on its future. It includes a very brief architectural appraisal of the building, aimed at pinpointing the essential features; references are given for fuller architectural descriptions and are marked with an asterisk.
(a) An analysis of the social and economic forces affecting old buildings today

The first part of this section deals with the forces acting from inside, the second part looks at forces acting from outside, and the third part considers the built and social contexts of old buildings. In view of the very wide implications of this subject, this analysis can only hope to touch briefly on the major issues.

1. Forces acting from inside

The process of obsolescence in old buildings has always become obsolescent and been replaced or adapted to suit increased expectations and standards. The idea of continually improving such standards and expectations has always been a fundamental force in Western society, closely linked to concepts of progress and development, but today the problem is increasing for a number of reasons. Standards and expectations are changing faster than ever before, for several reasons, and buildings are almost obsolete before they are built. Exacerbated by this high rate of change, increasing standards can now be statutorily applied to all buildings. Both these factors have wide implications.

At any given moment, only a tiny percentage of the built stock is new: the vast remainder is obsolete to some degree (i.e., it does not meet the standards required by the current building regulations and other acts). It is therefore obvious that bringing such buildings up to standard would not only be an enormous, expensive, time-consuming task but a continual process, and the implications of either closing or demolishing all obsolete buildings would make it a practical impossibility. In any case people live and work in a vast number of technically obsolete buildings without ever questioning it (except in the case of accidents or really unacceptable conditions) and it is clear that society has implicitly accepted such a state of affairs. This is borne out by the fact that building control, fire prevention, and other officers usually only choose to enforce their powers on old buildings which are to be altered in any case.

At present, conservation or rehabilitation of old buildings involves making changes in order to make them comply with the current regulations
(aside from actually converting them to new uses). A resurfacing process takes place in order to find a reasonably probable and aesthetically acceptable solution, and this usually means obtaining relaxations from the Secretary of State for a number of building regulations. In order to do this, the applicant has to present a good case for relaxation, which necessarily implies that he has a strong desire to re-use the old building in the first place. Without such initial desire, the relaxation procedure becomes an obstacle or even an excuse not to re-use an old building, and is therefore biased against old buildings although it is theoretically neutral. If the theory does not work in practice, then the theory must be wrong. A closer look at the fundamental problem might help to clarify matters.

As a result of 19th century social reforms, the building regulations and other acts came into being in order to protect people, either from exploitation by others or from "acts of God". In other words, they were broadly concerned with safety. Without examining it too deeply, it could be said that there is an inevitable tension in people's lives between safety and pleasure, which are extremely difficult to balance because one is quantifiable and the other is not. That is why it is futile and emotive to try to argue that saving lives within buildings is more or less important than the quality of their architecture. It must be recognised that a balance has to be struck between the quantifiable and the unquantifiable. The difficulty with the building regulations is that they can only deal with the quantifiable aspects of human life, and are doing so at the increasing expense of the unquantifiable aspects. To need only look at the kind of buildings the regulations are forcing us to build, or take note of general public dissatisfaction with new buildings (which basically has little to do with technical faults) to see that a balance has been disturbed. Even more significant, we can look at old buildings and see which could not have been built in their original form under today's regulations - St Paul’s, Oxford and Cambridge colleges, Glasgow School of art, and most of what is considered to be our fine architectural heritage. These buildings are now achieved to be weighted towards the unquantifiable, which demonstrates the shift in attitude that has taken place.

Having recognised this, society has to ask itself whether or not this shift is desirable and acceptable. If not, what kind of balance would be preferable, how would it be achieved and what would be the consequences of such action.
The second point is that the building regulations have continued to expand and increase their scope, regardless of the fact that the original problems have eased considerably (thanks to the effect of the building regulations). In other words, the disease is still being treated in spite of the fact that the patient has recovered. A reappraisal of the entire situation, including the real costs and cumulative effects of obsolete legislation introduced following accidents, may lead us to see that the regulations may be maintained at an appropriate minimum level to such greater benefit.

Such a reappraisal will mean questioning the fundamental attitudes and values of our society and making people aware of their implications, so that conscious choices can be made. Society carries responsibility for its attitudes and values, and public opinion can influence both the weighting given to and the application of the building regulations.

2. Forces acting from outside

Until recently there was a feeling that building new buildings to replace old ones was cheaper, better and preferable to retaining old buildings for new uses. This was a result of the political and economic forces: the government were keen to stimulate growth in the economy, and developers were making large profits from redevelopments as a result of the amount of money available for borrowing.

But the side-wind effects of the current economic recession plus the government's deflationary policy for the economy, along with a shift in public attitude and subsequent changes in legislation to protect old buildings, have reduced the profitability of redevelopment, forcing developers to turn to rehabilitation work in search of profit. A recent RICS report stated that rehabilitating old buildings can give better value for money than building new buildings to replace them, and this makes economic sense to the developer.

In the same vein, the abandonment of the LBD's and the increase in the number of rehabilitation schemes by local authorities shows a change in attitude from the 'brave new' policies of the early 1960's. Cuts in public spending, coupled with disenchantment with the reality of so many 'utopian' schemes, have forced them to turn to old buildings in an attempt to relieve their housing problems.
The present example shows the real reasons for the current interest in conservation. (It also explains that political and economic forces are behind the fascination with deep and possible exhaustion of the world's resources within the next 50 years.)

But other political, social and economic forces affect old buildings generally.

Planning policy is dictated by political decisions, and directly affects old buildings in a number of ways.

Firstly, applying zones to existing urban patterns of mixed land use is bound to dictate that old buildings are either demolished or made redundant through removal of their support population, in spite of the fact that they may have years of useful life ahead.

Secondly, major redevelopment schemes and/or new building proposals inevitably lead to planning 'blight' in areas of cities, which is especially detrimental if delay or uncertainty is involved. Public and private investment is withdrawn from the affected areas, resulting in their eventual decline. The difficulty of regenerating such investment, if for instance the scheme is eventually abandoned (usually for political and economic reasons), often means demolition and rebuilding, when the or blen need not have existed in the first place.

Conversely, if an area such as a city centre has been highly desirable, for economic reasons, and attracts a vast amount of investment in a short space of time, there is a danger of development getting out of control and the existing buildings being threatened by redevelopment, as exemplified by some of the large commercial developments recently completed in a number of cities. A number of political and economic forces, such as pressure of investment and the effect on attracting future developments, dictate the level of planning control exercised by local authorities, but shrewd politicians should see that, if pressure of investment is great enough, developers can be forced to concede to strict planning control and communities can actually benefit. Such control may force developers to rehabilitate or may result in careful integration of new development into the old fabric.

But more than this, this sort of hard-line policy is difficult to maintain today, because of the nature of our present society. In the past, the most powerful urban developments have resulted from strong policies based on a close understanding of and response to the expectations and values of society at the time. The existence of our present divided society, with its consequent conflicting expectations and values, means that it is impossible to achieve a similar under-
standing today. Any such policy therefore requires very strong political nerve to implement it; the lukewarm urban developments of to-day show that few authorities have got it.

The way in which politicians choose to implement planning policies such as zoning, road building programmes, etc., raises questions about society's basic attitude towards its experts. As long as it is preferred to leave its decision making to the 'experts' - a situation inevitably fostered by the 'expert' themselves - there will be a conflict between what they decide and what the people want. This is partly related to the fragmented nature of society discussed previously, and partly related to the fact that people neither think about what they want nor express it, let alone examine its implications. Because they feel inhibited in the face of 'expert' opinion, scientific jargon and statistical 'evidence'. Politicians take full advantage of such a docile public, and it is only afterwards when it is too late, that the harm wrought behind such blunders as Glasgow's Inner Line Road policy is questioned.

3. Context

'...the origin of all townscapes as we now know then.'10

Shrouding built and social context in an urban situation is therefore inevitable, as a result of the political and economic forces outlined in the previous section.

However, the kind of planning policies implemented by local authorities have all now seen to have taken this tenet to its most extreme, and disregarded all the old buildings already existing within certain parts of cities. Redevelopment schemes have been planned leaving the occasional old building (as a sop to local pressure groups), such as Caldonia road church, isolated from both its original built and social context without prospect of being integrated into the new scheme. A similar approach has been taken to road building programmes and housing policy, with equally disastrous results for several of Proctor's buildings.

It should be realised that such embracing problems are inherent in the approach, and in the political and public attitudes behind it. Given that change is inevitable in the urban situation, it might be useful to try to find a satisfactory approach to planning policy. In recognition of the fact that buildings are fixed objects, old
buildings are by and large inseparable from their original contexts - the one mutually supports the other. (Perhaps the absence of such a dialogue accounts for some of the dissatisfaction with new buildings.) By the same token, if new development in cities provided similar, if not better support for the existing buildings than the buildings replaced, dialogue would be maintained between new and old. Thus the existing townscape could usefully serve as a basis for future planning policy, and the problems of the 'imposed' plan would be eliminated before they were created. It might then be possible to control the rate of change within the townscape.

Conclusion

This analysis has attempted to show that the social, economic and political forces affecting old buildings in general result from the nature of our society and its values and attitudes. It must be recognised that an attempt to change certain aspects has fundamental implications for other aspects and the advantages and disadvantages of each must be weighed before a choice can be made.
(c) A specific discussion of the problems affecting Mackintosh's buildings

Mackintosh's buildings in Glasgow, like all old buildings in cities, are affected by the forces identified in the previous analysis, but because they are the work of an internationally recognised architect, and are situated in Glasgow, a number of specific points should be considered.

In view of the questions raised previously about the building regulations, the quality of their architecture should not be destroyed by insistence that they comply fully with current regulations. As with St Paul's, and other buildings of architectural merit, society should decide that a tolerable minimal level of safety is acceptable, for the sake of the quality of the architecture. In fact, society implicitly makes this decision by not insisting that full measures of safety should be required from old buildings, but unfortunately, fire prevention officers, having had their attention drawn to some of the buildings, feel obliged to enforce their powers. In the last resort, strong public declaration might sway the Secretary of State to grant significant relaxations, but it is doubtful if such public support could be found in Glasgow, especially for the lesser known buildings.

If Mackintosh buildings are to be adapted, either to the minimal level of safety mentioned above or to suit changing needs of users (original or new), the degree of change that is acceptable without destroying the quality of the architecture must be decided. This will be an individual subjective bargaining process for each building. If interiors are thought to be inviolate, any fittings added should be integrated carefully, and it should be realised that this will inevitably cost more than an ordinary job. New users may have to forgo the maximum utility for the sake of maintaining the quality of the architecture.

The destruction and erosion of context is serious for a number of the buildings in Glasgow, thanks to brutal imposition of planning policy and weak planning control in the past. Unfortunately little effective improvement can be made when the event is a 'fait accompli'.

As far as moving a building is concerned, it is only justifiable if its new context allows it to respond as well as or better than it did on its original site, not socially and physically, or if the only other alternative is demolition.
Conclusions

The buildings of Charles Rennie Mackintosh are an important contribution to the Scottish architectural heritage, as affirmed by their listings by the CDM, and as such should not be diminished. It is important that their future is considered in advance, that any danger or threat is identified and that an appropriate course of action is planned to overcome possible destruction.

The public is beginning to be aware of Mackintosh and his work, in order for them to understand the issues involved (and in an effort to halt total urban destruction in Glasgow) the present shift in attitude towards old buildings should be encouraged.

"Buildings have continuously been adapted to new uses - a fact which has enabled generation after generation to derive a sense of continuity and stability from their physical surroundings." 12

We neither want nor can afford to demolish all our old buildings because they are obsolete - old is not necessarily bad, but it is not necessarily useless, either. We must evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of re-using old buildings, and recognise the worth of Mackintosh's buildings, in particular, to society. Glasgowians should realise the value of old buildings, such as Mackintosh's, to the city, and actively contribute to their survival. The buildings of any architect are a matter public responsibility than those of a lesser man: there is so much more within them that should not be destroyed. The sad thing is that so many old buildings in Glasgow are the victims of the general insensitivity to the quality of environment and the obsession with petty politics that have pervaded policy making in the city in recent years. Superficial remedial treatment cannot reverse the balance.
References


   Stone, op.cit.  pp 151

4. Stone, op.cit.  pp 21


6. Winney et al., op.cit.  pp 1306

7. Stone, op.cit.  pp 225

8. Stone, op.cit.  pp 226

9. Winney et al., op.cit.  pp 1307  see example of Chester


11. Winney et al., op.cit.  pp 1308

12. van den Broeke, S. "New uses for old buildings" Architectural Review vol CCL no 902 may 1972
140-142 Balgray Hill road, Glasgow

- Listed category B
- Built in 1890, for Sir William Hamilton
- Now owned by Glasgow District Council
- In use as two semi-detached houses
- No drawings available

Introduction

One of the earliest buildings associated with Mackintosh, this shows few of the characteristics of his later work, although Howarth suggests that this was possibly because he had difficulty in getting his client to accept and use for any imaginative or innovatory ideas. The fireplace in the upstairs front room of no. 140 bears a slight resemblance to ideas he developed later, but the rest of the fittings are typical of their time and unremarkable. It seems likely that they were selected by the original individual occupants.

Accommodation (each house)

Ground floor: sitting room, kitchen/dining room, hall
First floor: three bedrooms, bathroom

Condition

The building is in good physical condition inside and out. It is maintained by Glasgow District Council, and, apart from a small extension at the rear, it stands substantially as Mackintosh built it.

Surroundings

The building originally stood amongst other semi-detached villas, probably very similar to itself. In the mid-sixties, Glasgow Corporation demolished all of them except Redclyffe, to make way for a new housing scheme between Balgrayhill road and Springburn road. This low rise housing has since been built, and the site immediately across the road from Redclyffe is now a football pitch. The sites on either side are at present waste ground, and the nearest contemporary buildings are
the tenements at the southern end of Dalgrayhill road.

Future

The building is within the Springburn CDA, which is zoned residential, and the low rise housing, either built or planned, has a maximum density of 110 ppa, with about half the houses possessing their own gardens. Redclyffe is therefore freed from the threat of motorways or industrial development, but it has lost its original context and is suffering for it. It has not yet been successfully integrated into the new scheme. Detailed consideration should be given to this problem as soon as possible.


1. Howarth, op. cit. pp 22
2. ibid.
GLASGOW HERALD BUILDING *
itchell street, Glasgow
- listed category A
- built 1893-94. for George utram - Co, Ltd
- still in use as a newspaper office
- drawings from city archives (original basement and attic plans only) and Kears
  Kennie Henderson, architects (surveys)

Introduction

According to Owarth, Mackintosh was given very little control over
this commission as he was still managing an "office at this time". However it is generally thought that
he designed the tower and the facade to itchell street 2. The tower,
built to house an 8000 gallon water tank and currently housing
sprinkler storage tanks, is a distinctive landmark in est""ile street.
The building has ac demic value as an early example of Mackintosh's
development.

Accommodation

The building houses the office and despatch accommodation of the
Glasgow Herald newspaper, the despatch accommodation being on the
ground floor, with the offices above. The basement houses workshops,
storage and the main boiler house. The ground floor formerly had a
corridor running through it from itchell street to itchell lane,
which allowed horses and carts to enter and leave the building on a
through route, picking up the newly printed papers as they went. This
was removed in the 1920's.

Condition

The building is reasonably well maintained by the Glasgow Herald's
works department. The stonework on eves to be in good condition, al-
though structural movement is evident in places and damage has been
causd to the itchell lane corner by lorries and vans.
At some time in the past, possibly in the 1920's, the original interiors
were replaced. Some of the fittings were saved and are now in possession
of the museums department of Glasgow District Council. Further alter-
atations took place in 1972, when new front offices were inserted on Mitchell street, and the ground floor windows now have anodised aluminium fascias. Several other openings to Mitchell lane have been crudely bricked up, and recently some illuminated advertising signs have been fixed to the base of the tower. It is unfortunate that the modernisation of the interior has been allowed to spread to the exterior, and that the ground floor should have received such indifferent treatment.

Surroundings

The building was designed to fit the crowded urban situation and fortunately this has largely remained unchanged since it was built, apart from a multi-storey car park just opposite in Mitchell street. Vulgar and unsophisticated as this is, the height of its facade is not significantly different from that of its neighbours, and the chaum-like feeling of the narrowing Mitchell street is maintained. An added bonus for those interested is the easy access it gives for examining Mackintosh's tower at high level.

Threats

The building, standing on such a valuable commercial site in the city centre, is inevitably under an increased threat of redevelopment, as the values of such sites soar above the values of the buildings built there, and new buildings offer greater profits for developers. In spite of the fact that the building was designed for the horse and cart era of newspaper production, it has absorbed so much internal alteration that it seems to function adequately for modern purposes.

The real problem is one of access. The newspaper is operating from this building with increasing difficulty, and the pedestrianisation of Buchanan street has aggravated the problem.

Since about 1967, the newspaper has been considering moving out of these premises and has been looking at the feasibility of building a new building on several different sites in the city. They may well decide to remain and make further alterations, or they may decide to move out in which case the building becomes redundant.
GLASGOW HERALD BUILDING (contd)

Future

If the building becomes redundant, a new use will have to be found for it - it might be taken over by some public body for public use, or it might be bought by a developer and converted for office or office and shop use. At any rate, the fact that its present interiors are indifferent means that it is easier both to find a new user and to fit a new use into it. The valuable part, which should be preserved as near the original as possible, is the external shell. There is a responsibility to the public, and such additions as there are at present at ground level should not be permitted.

The building is therefore eligible for a 'gut conservation' job, which might achieve competitive floor areas with any proposed new building on the same site, strengthening arguments against its demolition, should that threat arise.

If the Glasgow Herald decides to stay in the building, similar approach should be taken in adapting it to suit the needs of modern newspaper production.

* Howarth, op.cit. pp 61-63

Brockleod, R., Charles Rennie Mackintosh first ed. (Fulham Middlesex: Hamlyn. for Country Life books; 1968) pp 38-40


1. Howarth, op.cit. pp 63
2. Howarth, op.cit. pp 62

Walker, op.cit. pp 120-122
Queen Margaret College
Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow

- built in 1933-4, as an extra-mural department of Glasgow University
- now owned by the BBC
- used for television studios
- no drawings available

Introduction

Another of Mackintosh's early works, this building is mainly of academic interest as part of his ongoing development. The original plan was fairly simple - L-shaped with a stair tower set in the traditional manner in the internal angle of the L. The building has been engulfed by the BBC complex, and the only original part remaining is the front facade, including the stair tower and front entrance with balcony and distinctive eaves above.

Accommodation

basement: workshops and stores
ground floor: TV studios, control studio, rehearsal room
first floor: production room, technical room, offices

Condition

The ground floor TV studios appear to have been constructed inside the former dis.ectum room and museum, with the control studio set between in the former professor's room. Upstairs, the hall is almost entirely filled by the technical room, which hides rather plain roof trusses above, and the former private room has become the production room, but retains its wooden dado panelling.

The stair has been given a new grand finish and a balustrade, but it still has its stepped vertical windows complete with stained glass inset panels.

The original front door is still solid and it retains the heavy iron gates that stood a little over a yard apart. Some of the sandstone is scalling in places, but otherwise the physical condition of the building seems good.
PARTYRS' SCHOOL *
Barony street, Glasgow

- Listed category A
- Built in 1995, for the School Board
- Now owned by Glasgow District Council
- Used by clubs and community groups in the evenings only
- Drawings from National Monument Record and the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society (survey only)

Introduction

This building was the last work by Mackintosh prior to the School of Art competition in 1896. Notable features are the central light well to the drill hall running right through the building and in characteristic exposed and detailed timber of trusses, and the treatment of the roofs above the stairs so that they project externally forming deep eaves. Elsewhere the building is a fairly typical example of a school of the time, but the glazed tile dadoes to the landings and stairs show hints of decorative treatment used later in the Art School. The internal structure is exposed steel.

Accommodation

Ground floor: drill hall, four classrooms, two entrance porches and staircases, janitor's room, staff room, cloak room and dressing room.
First floor: five classrooms, book store, head teacher's room, two cloakrooms.
Second floor: five classrooms, medical room, dark room.

Condition

The internal physical condition is surprisingly good. There are some damp patches on the ceilings on the top floor, notably above the timbers of the roof over one of the stairs. The stairs themselves are stone and the landings concrete with a stone finish. The circulation spaces have tiled dadoes, and the drill hall has climbing bars and other gymnastic fittings. The classrooms, which are unremarkable, have timber floors and dadoes, high cills to the windows and the usual exposed
pipes and radiators of the heating system. Ventilation ducts run from central extract points in each classroom to three ventilators on the roof - a fairly typical feature in schools of the time.

Externally the building is in less sound condition. The stonework is spalling on all facades, especially above the east doorway. A number of stones need replacing and the entire building requires careful repointing. The roof and gutters are suspect and need thorough checking and repair where necessary. Downpipes and gutters on the east facade are leading badly and soaking the adjacent st nework, and the parapets and entrance doorways need waterproofing.

The building stands substantially as Mackintosh built it. Doors have been fitted into the arches leading to the stairs, and some doors and windows to the landings round the light well have been replaced in an insensitive manner.

Surroundings

When the school was built, it was surrounded by densely packed four storey tenements. These have nearly all been demolished in connection with the Townhead CDA Clearance scheme, but the church and church halls in P-reen street remain. The Martyrs' School, designed for the street context, will in future stand as an island building.

Threats

This building is under threat at the present time - indeed it has barely escaped demolition in the past. It became redundant as a school in 1973, when a new CLASP school was built to replace it, and when proposals for the East Flank of the urban motorway involved its demolition, the Education department of Glasgow Corporation was agreeable. However, as a result of public outcry and the work of local pressure groups, it was reprieved, and the latest road alignment proposals, now in the hands of the SDD, involve the motorway passing just to the east of the school in a 5 metre deep cutting.

This means that the school will sit on a cliff above the motorway with the church and its annexes and the new school as its only neighbours. There are no landscaping plans, but with luck, a retaining wall will be built. But there is a chance that the East Flank will be
abandoned, because the Royal Fine Art Commission have recommended to the SDD that Glasgow District Council reconsider the whole idea of building the East Flank.

At any rate, the Hartym' school is suffering from two threats: it is redundant as a school and a new use must be found for it, and its context has been destroyed, and a new one must be designed for it.

Future

Since 1973, the Education department has handed the school over to the Planning department, and since regionalisation in May 1975, it has become the responsibility of Glasgow District council.

Whilst the building was under immediate threat of demolition, several different parties took an interest in it for their own use. Amongst these were the Scottish Youth Hostels Association, who wanted to convert it into a youth hostel, and the Pipe Band Association, who wanted it for their new headquarters. Both associations applied to the Corporation to no avail, and have since embarked on improving their existing accommodation.

The Royal Infirmary were interested in converting the building into library accommodation, but their scheme was turned down by the Greater Glasgow Health Board as too costly.

The remaining two interested parties are still interested. Strathclyde University want to convert it into drama group/chaplaincy/nursery group accommodation and have looked at the feasibility of doing this. They conclude that it could be fairly easily done without much alteration, except perhaps the raising of ceiling heights in the drama group spaces, which does seem to be a problem. Toilet provision within the building would have to be increased. Relaxation from certain building regulations would be a major consideration in any conversion scheme, especially in relation to the central light well.

The Scottish Arts Council are interested in converting the building into workshop and studio space for young artists in connection with the recent launching of a scheme similar to SPACE (which operates in London). They have had doubts in the past about the size of the school and the number of artists that it would involve, but recent experience in Dundee, where there is a similar single scheme involving forty artists, has convinced them that there is a considerable demand for
THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART
PROPOSED ALTERATIONS & EXTENSIONS

NO 9

ELEVATION TO RENFREW STREET

SCALE 10
PLAN OF SUB-BASEMENT FLOOR

NOTE:
- SINK
- ST. SURFACE TRAP
- HYDRANT INLET
- EXTRACT.

SCALE OF

4 BEATIEWOOD SQUARE
GLASGOW NOVEMBER 1910.
PLAN OF MEZZANINE BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS

PLAN OF LIBRARY BALCONY

PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR

SCALE OF 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 FEET

4 BLYTHSWOOD SQUARE
GLASGOW NOVEMBER 1910
GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART
167 Renfrew street Glasgow

- Listed category A
- Built 1896-99 and 1907-09, as the result of a competition
- Now owned by the S3D
- Still in use as part of Glasgow School of Art
- Drawings from Glasgow School of Art (1910 set) and the city archives (west extension drawings only)

Introduction

ackintosh's 'true test masterpiece', this building is famous all over the world, and one of Glasgow's great architectural assets. It is described in detail in numerous publications; suffice it to say here that it must be preserved as close to the original as possible.

Part of the building's attraction lies in the fact that it remains part of a working art school, with students and staff still using much of it in the manner for which it was designed. It is inevitable that a changing system of education will make demands and changes in a building, but what is important is that the quality of the architecture be recognised and the degree of change it can accept evaluated. Change can then be made accordingly.

Accommodation

At the moment, three and a half departments are housed in the building: basement floors: sculpture and ceramics studios, lecture theatre, boiler house, junior house shop

First floor: administrative offices, board room

First floor: principal's room, drawing and painting studios, library, museum, waiting room

Second floor: lectures' studios, architecture studios, hen run, loggia, principal's studio, conservatory.
The architects to the Glasgow School of Art carried out a detailed survey of the building in 1972, and at present there is a phased programme of maintenance, based on the survey, in progress. It is costing around £200,000.

The stonework is generally in good condition, but at higher level needs refacing or replacing. Most urgent are repairs to the roof and these are at present being carried out. Windows and external woodwork are to be replaced as necessary and class replaced where required. It was recommended that the stonework be cleaned, but this is not possible within the budget available. The hen run and greenhouse have been renewed.

Internally, extensive repairs are to be made, especially to floors and door furniture, both of which are subject to extreme wear and tear. Drainage, plumbing and sanitary fittings are to be renewed and repaired, and redecoration is recommended every three to four years. The architects have also recommended that the electrical system is renewed so that levels of illumination can be increased. This will mean that fluorescent tubes are installed. In spite of the fact that they have recognised the need to integrate such fittings into the building design, surely the need for such improvements should be questioned in the first instance. If it is imperative that lighting levels be increased, whether fluorescent lighting is desirable in terms of maintenance or not, its effect on the internal environment of the building and its effect on the outside appearance of the building at night should be carefully considered before any decision is made.

The replacement some years ago of the original plenum venting and heating system with the present steam heating system was unfortunate, not only because it was unnecessary but also because the new radiators helped to destroy the original spatial experience of the building. The steam system is to be replaced by a gas system operating from a central boiler house in the Bourdon building (when it is built), which means that the present boiler house in the Mackintosh building will be used to house calorifiers in future. Carefully the change will mean a reduction in the fire risk to the Mackintosh building, and that there is a chance of carefully integrating the new heating system so that the spatial experience is restored to what it was before the steam system.
The structure of the building has been rigorously checked, especially after there was some sign of movement following the building of the ABC 2 cinema in Sauchiehall street, but the consultants state that there is no danger in this respect.

The most significant change to Mackintosh's design has been the insertion of fire doors in the corridors. Although an attempt was made to make them blend in sympathetically, they nonetheless break up the circulation space considerably, and have spoilt the original spatial experience within the building.

Surroundings

When the Art School was built it was almost completely surrounded, on three sides at least, by three or four storey tenement type buildings. The scene across Renfrew street has since changed unrecognisably, with the new concrete of the Newbery tower reflecting sunlight into the north facing studios of the Art School. The Cathcart street buildings remain, except for the one on the opposite corner, where the playground is now, and in Renfrew street, the Assembly building still stands, as a reminder of what the street was once like. Both the tenement buildings on the corners of Scott street have gone, to make way for the 'cordon building, which will straddle Renfrew street, and the new ABC 2 cinema on Sauchiehall street now obscures the view of the rear facade of the Art School from that street. The way in which the Art School can be seen and will be seen in the future is quite different from the way it was designed to be seen. Its original context has been eroded gradually as the buildings put up in the last decade or so have failed to respond in the same way as the buildings they replaced.

Future

The Art School administration has a problem. On one hand it is trying to run a working art school involving an education system whose changing circumstances make continual demands for change within the building, and on the other hand it is trying to preserve and maintain the Mackintosh building in as near original condition as possible. These two situations are continually working against each other, but at the same time, if one were to succumb to the other, both would
suffer. If the building were to cease functioning as an art school for reasons of preservation, it would lose much of its potency and credibility in an architectural sense, and the students and staff would lose an excellent set of working studios. Conversely, if changes were made to bring the building up to present day standards, the quality of the architecture would suffer which would in turn mean that the staff and students would suffer because the building would be a less exciting work place.

And so the Art School administration has to strike a balance. In this situation it must define the limits of its preservation policy and the degrees of compromise that are acceptable in terms of demands for change made by the education system. For instance, Mackintosh had a fairly tight budget to work to when he built this building, and so he used it to treat the internal spaces such as the entrance hall, museum, corridors, etc - the semi-public spaces - with his own inimitable decoration, leaving the more private spaces like the studios in a relatively raw state, so that the students and staff using them could express themselves freely without feeling inhibited by the architecture. Seen in this way, it becomes clear that the semi-public should be preserved in Mackintosh's original manner - and if they are not, then the quality of the architecture will suffer - while the studios can be painted or decorated freely, without the quality of the architecture suffering. It is important to make the point here that there is a difference between superficial alteration and fundamental change - a coat of paint can easily be eradicated, but it is more difficult and costly to remove offending partitioning or to build up clearings in walls. The recent conversion of one of the former architecture studios into administrative offices shows an alarming and deplorable failure to grasp this very point.

Part of this last section mentioned bringing the building up to present day standards, as set out in the current building regulations and other acts. This is related to what was discussed in the first section of this report which deals with old buildings in general. As far as the Art School is concerned, there is undoubtedly a case for maintaining only a minimal level of safety (i.e. the quantifiable aspects) so that the unquantifiable aspects (such as the quality of the architecture) are preserved. Moreover this minimal level should be achieved by ingenious application of the regulations and acts in principle, which would
probably cost more but would be worth it in the interests of preserving
the original spatial experience in the building.
The final section on the future of the art school is involved with
policy. In session 1976-77 the former architecture studios on the ground
floor are scheduled to house an extension to the library. The first
phase of this programme has been completed, that is, the former ornament
room, which had become an architecture studio, has been converted into
offices with partitions between. It is also intended to remove the
existing partitions in the entrance hall and restore it to its original
condition.
As the art school complex grows (and has grown since Mackintosh designed
this building) so the administration grows in importance. Already
it is beginning to encroach more and more on the studio space. Current
art school policy is that all administration be centralised, except for
that of the architecture and planning schools which will be housed in
the Bourdon building. This could conceivably mean that at some time in
the future nearly all the studio space within the Mackintosh building
might be taken over by administration and very few students and teaching
staff would actually work there. Undoubtedly there would be opposition
from the various departments involved, but the recent removal of the
first year course to Clythwood Square, and the takeover of the archi-
tecture studios by library and administrative facilities show the
direction events are taking. It is time to realise this and reconsider
policy. The advantages and disadvantages of having a central adminis-
tration must be weighed against the advantages and disadvantages of a
small number of students being able to work in the Mackintosh building.

* Kovarth, op. cit. pp 62-92

Inclined, op. cit. pp 43-61, 67, 120

pp 120-138. 140

Pevsner, N., Pioneers of Modern Design third ed. (Vernonisworth


Gomme and Walker, op. cit. ch 215-218

Walker, op. cit. pp 125-129

pp 133- 134

Banham, R., The architecture of the well-tempered environment first ed.

1. As mentioned on previous page
2. ibid, op.cit. p 122
3. ibidem. op.cit. p 84
LOCATION PLAN
QUEEN'S CROSS CHURCH *
866 Carscube Road, Glasgow
- Listed category A
- Built in 1897-99 for St Matthew's Free Church as a mission in Maryhill
- Owned by the Church of Scotland
- Still in use as a church
- Drawings from Mr R. Rossman (survey only)

Introduction

H. Craigie considered that this was not one of Mackintosh’s best buildings, but it is noteworthy because it is the only complete church that he designed. It has a distinctive tower designed to help the church assert itself amidst the neighbouring tenement, and a very constricted plan which was dictated by the buildings immediately to the rear. Interesting internal features are the high arch ceiling spanning by exposed steel beams, and the entrance aisle underneath the gallery down one side of the nave. There is extensive rated timber panelling throughout, and the hall at the rear has similar timber roof trusses to Auchinleck church hall which was designed about the same time.

A hydraulic organ over tiny off the water main in the street outside, was installed in the organ chamber in the 1920’s, and is still in use.

Accommodation

- Ground floor: church, session room, vestry, church hall, store, cloakroom and C. kitchen
- First floor: two galleries, session house

Condition

Extremely the building is in poor physical condition, but is now being made wind and watertight with the aid of a grant of £6500 from Glasgow District Council. If this money is insufficient, more will be made available. This work involves re-airs to the roof and gutters and the replacement of broken windows (which are the results of vandalism). It is hoped that complete re-decoration will be carried out internally.
The stonework is in very poor condition, especially at parapets on the two exposed facades. It is estimated that around £40,000 is needed for stonework repairs.

The interior of the building is in reasonable condition, given the state of the roof. The timber ceiling in the church shows suspect staining, and the stone corbels supporting the roof trusses in the hall are damp.

Very little of Mackintosh’s original building has been altered. The session room at the back of the nave was put in about forty years ago by Professor Howarth, and involved fitting a timber panelled screen under the gallery there.

All the paneling in the church was originally stained dark brown, but this was stripped to the present natural oak colour some years ago. A dreadful stained glass window has been put in above the chancel.

Surroundings

The church was designed to fit a crowded tenement context on an extremely constricted site. This can still be seen today, although the tenements behind have been demolished. Eventually the building will become free standing (whether or not the Maryhill motorway is built) with its back elevations exposed, which is unfortunate because they were never designed for this situation.

 Threats

The church is at present threatened from three directions. In the first place, the congregation is dwindling below 300 in number, so the population of Maryhill shrinks, and it is therefore threatened with immediate closure as a church.

Secondly, the Maryhill motorway (which has at present been postponed indefinitely) is scheduled to pass just to the north of the church in a 1.5 metre deep cutting. The church, by this time free standing, will be sandwiched between the motorway and Garscube Road, which becomes a feeder, with the new Firhill road flyover just to the east. A 8 foot high retaining wall is to be built in stone between the church and the motorway, and the land round about is to become public open space. The original built context for the building is scheduled to be replaced by
QUEEN'S CROSS CHURCH (contd)

a new park context, which not only means a radical visual change, but also a change in relationship between building and community.

Thirdly, because its future is uncertain, there is no money available to restore the stonework which urgently needs attention, and there is a danger of its deteriorating beyond repair.

Future

There have been a number of suggestions for the future of Queen's Cross church. At one point, the alignment of the motorway passed right through it, saving £1.8m, and the Corporation offered to pay for the removal of the entire building (possibly along with Ruchill church hall) to Summerston, where it would remain as a church with a new congregation. However, after the Church of Scotland had accepted the offer, the Corporation withdrew it. Since then the Church has looked at a number of sites within Ruchill itself, but as yet to no avail. It is a difficult building to re-site, and the context will be very important.

It is also a very difficult building to convert to a new use, especially as so many of the fittings should be kept. Some redundant churches have been turned into rehearsal halls for orchestras, but a brief acoustic test on Queen's Cross revealed that it is not suitable for music. It is however excellent for speech, which might suggest use as an auditorium or hall for meetings.

Unfortunately its future isolation from its immediate community, both visually and physically, may jeopardise the success of any such use.

Of all the Mackintosh buildings under threat, Queen's Cross is the most difficult to cope with, and perhaps, because the original siting is to be completely destroyed, it should be moved to a new site where its future as a church is assured. At least one of the questions over its future will then be answered.

* Howarth, op.cit. pp 175-180
  Macleod, op.cit. pp 64-67
  Gomme and Walker, op.cit. pp 220
  Walker, op.cit. pp 129

1. Howarth, op.cit. pp 179
2. Howarth, op.cit. pp 177
3. Howarth, op.cit. pp 178
  Macleod, op.cit. pp 64
RUCHILL CHURCH HALL
Ruchill street, Glasgow

- Listed Category A
- Built in 1933-39 for Westbourne Church Dorcas Society as a mission
- Now owned by the Church of Scotland
- Still in use as a church hall
- Drawings from: Holmes & pts, architects
  (roof plan only)

Introduction

When the original mission premises run by Westbourne in Maryhill became inadequate, they asked Mackintosh's office to build a new hall in Ruchill street. Unfortunately, they did not see eye to eye with Mackintosh on his architecture, and consequently commissioned another architect to build the church itself a few years later. This accounts for the incongruity of the two buildings, although the contrast between red and white sandstone has been blurred by dirt.

The hall has exposed timber roof trusses - simpler versions of those in the museum in the art school - and is notable for its economy and flexibility of planning in spite of the cramped caretaker's house. It is now too small for the present church's needs, but additional accommodation may be available in community buildings to be built nearby.

Accommodation

- First floor: main hall plus alcove, committee room, entrance hall with staircase and WC/cloakroom, kitchen
- Upper floor: safe room, WC, smaller hall (subdividable into two)
- Caretaker's house: dining/living room, three bedrooms, bathroom and store, kitchen (extension not by Mackintosh)

Condition

At present the building is in lamentable physical condition, but thanks to insurance money received after the additional church hall which was built at the rear if the church was burned down, £26,000 is now about to be spent on a comprehensive programme of restoration work.
RUCHILL CHURCH HALL (contd)

Externally this involves overhauling slating, re-leacing leadwork, repairing or replacing cast iron gutters and downpipes, replacing ridge and battens, replacing skylights, blocking off ventilation ducts and patching vent cowls. The stonework is to be restored and repointed, and where roughcast needs patching, the whole wall is to be re-done. The brick extension to the caretaker's house is to be harled to match, the windows are to be repointed and one re-laced, and the brick chimney is to be demolished. The stone chimney above the stair tower is to be rebuilt, and stone cleaning is recommended by the architects after the adjacent tenements have been demolished. This is worrying in view of the different colours of stone within the group of buildings.

Internally, the restoration involves repairing and revarnishing the timber dado panels, redecoration, mending the seating to the trusses, overhauling leaded windows and replacing glass, and removing the existing asbestos panels from the doors and treating them in a more sympathetic manner. The caretaker's house is to have its fireplace restored and to be redecorated.

Most of the original building remains, and is very well. The addition of fluorescent strip lights has been unfortunate, as has the addition of a partition at the entrance to the main hall.

Surroundings

When the hall was built, there were four-storey tenements on three sides, and open ground to the Forth and Clyde canal on the fourth. Beyond this there were industrial buildings.

The tenements opposite on Buchill Street continuing round into Chapel Street are now demolished, and the whole block up to Harrington Street plus the buildings behind the hall on Maryhill Road are scheduled for demolition within the next two years. The area immediately next to the hall is designated public open space and the ground between Buchill Street and Harrington Street will be the site of a new community centre.

As at Queen's Cross, the rear elevations will be more exposed in future than they were ever designed to be.
RUSHILL CHURCH HALL (contd)

Threats

Unlike Queen's Cross church, Rushill church is not threatened with redundancy - its congregation is 600 strong and the minister reports a healthy increase in activity over the past year. It is the largest church in the area and therefore the one most likely to remain. However, the building stands in an area zoned industrial, and the Maryhill motorway is scheduled to pass within five metres of the church, sunk three or four metres below present ground level. This, plus the demolition of the neighbouring tenements, means that the original built context will be totally destroyed.

Future

The future of Rushill church as a church is assured, and so the church hall will be relatively safe. It is significant that the church decided to spend the fire insurance money on restoring the Mackintosh building; this will ensure that the fabric remains in sound condition for some years and, so long as the building is in use, essential maintenance will be carried out.

The most important task in the future will be the creation of a suitable new built context for the building, especially in relation to the motorway. It is proposed that Glasgow District Council build a retarding wall at this side to cut down noise nuisance.

The rear and side elevations were never designed for the prominent 'island' setting now proposed for them, although the problem is less serious than at Queen's Cross. The architects appointed by Rushill church have a proposal for the adjacent vacant site involving sheltered housing and a pedestrianised church precinct. The elevations are not well-sited, but it is not enough to simply zone the immediate area as public open space.

*Howarth, op.cit. pp 120-131
Walker, op.cit. pp 129

1. Howarth, op.cit. pp 180
INDYHILL *

il accl. li fromshire

listed stc ortv.

\textbf{built in 1910-11, for Dr H. A. R. Davidson}

\textbf{occupied by M. A. R.}

\textbf{in use as a private house}

\textbf{no drawings available}

\textbf{Introduction}

Windyhill was Mackintosh's first domestic commission since Helcyffe nine years before. The contrast is striking, both visually and conceptually, for by now he was approaching his mature style.

its simple barled finish and careful study of proportion of solid to void, windhill acknowledges strong antecedents in the Scots vernacular, but there is a kind of spatial manipulation that appears in his later work.

The front facade of the building, which overlooks steeply sloping land, is rather black and cold in spite of the shutters which were added to relieve this.

The front door is placed diagonally round a corner in the small courtyard at the back of the house, and is not immediately obvious as the entrance to the dwelling.

\textbf{Accommodation}

\textbf{ground floor: living room, dining room, nursery, pantry, kitchen, laundry, utility room. G/vel. bedroom}

\textbf{first floor: seven bedrooms, bathroom, in w. gable, store.}

\textbf{Condition}

Externally, the building is in fine physical condition. The present owner restored the bay window to its original condition some years ago. The condition of the interior is not as difficult to ascertain, but it seems to be maintained barely in working order, possibly because the house is too big for one person to live in. Very little Mackintosh furniture remains in the house - most of it is in the Glasgow School of Art.
Future

When considered in relation to the neighbouring houses in Kilmacolm, Windyhill seems quite a small house. Or, looked at the other way round, people who want to live in Kilmacolm probably expect to buy a large house. For this reason it is possible that Windyhill will remain as a family house without being subdivided, as the Fhill house has been. Its rooms are reasonably sized and quite in keeping with modern expectations. The problem might be that future owners may be unwilling to cope with the constant stream of visitors. Perhaps it would be an idea to open the house one day a week to visitors.

There is an inevitable conflict between the occupant of such a house wishing to alter or redecorate it as he pleases, and the preservationist attitude which says that it should stay exactly as originally built. Both attitudes are too extreme. The occupant should recognise that he has a responsibility to the public, and the preservationist should see that no-one can live happily in a museum piece, and compromises should be made accordingly. The occupant should be able to do as he pleases so long as he does not destroy the original spatial experience of the building. If central heating, for instance, were added, it might cost him more to have it integrated into the house without destroying the spatial experience.

There is a suggestion that Glasgow School of Art should buy the house, as it owns so much of the furniture, but unless there are plans to use it for a definite purpose, it would be sad to see it abandoned as a house and become a museum piece.

* Howarth, op.cit. pp 98-107
** Macleod, op.cit. pp 75-85
** Walker, op.cit. pp 129-131

1. Walker, op.cit. pp 131
DAILY RECORD BUILDING *
20-28 Renfield Lane, Glasgow

- Listed Category A
- Built in 1900-01, for the Daily Record, (Glasgow) Ltd., as an office
- Now owned by James R W Forsyth, Ltd and
  the Scottish Mutual Assurance Society (no 26).
- Used as a warehouse
- Drawings from city archives (detail sections only)

Introduction

The Daily Record building is in two parts - a six-storey section at the Hope street side and a three-storey section at the Renfield street side - and stands between two very narrow lanes. The facades to both lanes are finished in white glazed brick - a feature not uncommon in such Glasgow lanes - with a series of large arched windows in white sandstone at ground floor level in Renfield lane. This is Scotland's only brick building, apart from work done in England at a much later date.¹

The Renfield lane facade is notable for its series of arched bay windows at fourth floor level², and the strong feeling of encroachment achieved by carrying the end bay next to the three-storey section right down to fourth floor level. It is difficult to comprehend each facade as a whole due to the narrowness of the lane.

Accommodation

Three-storey section: warehouse, workrooms and despatch office.
Six-storey section: garage (for two vans and a car), stores, escape stair and lift (no. 26)
The stores in the six-storey section were formerly used as workshops for altering clothes and making kilts. The ground floor garage is entered off Vincent lane, and the escape stair and lift serves both the Forsyth's building and the buildings at no 106-108 Hope street.
DAILY RECORD BUILDING (contd)

Condition

The only remaining features of Mackintosh's design are the external facades; the interiors have been gutted at some time in the past, possibly after the Daily Record moved out. The external fabric is poorly maintained - a report written in 1972 gives an indication that Forsyth's have done little to maintain the building in the intervening space of time. Repairs to stonework have been neglected (some of the arches are splintering badly) or badly carried out (untidy concrete patches are visible in places). At the rear, ground floor windows are broken and have been boarded up, and window bars are rusty.

Both facades of the building are dirty, and the coloured tile decoration is almost totally obscured. It is deplorable that Forsyth's should leave it in this state of neglect.

Surroundings

As the confined space within the lanes was crucial to the design of the facades, the built context of this building is very important. The high buildings on either side, which existed at the turn of the century, are still there and it is probable that they could be replaced by equally high buildings (as a result of high land values on central city sites) if they were demolished.

Threats

The Daily Record building is in a similar position to the Glasgow Herald building in relation to the threat of redevelopment because of its city centre location, although the lane site is undoubtedly less prestigious than the street corner one.

The fact that Forsyth's have to pay relatively high rates for this type of accommodation may force them to think about locating it elsewhere, although it is obviously more convenient for them to have it located at the rear of their shop. The patent under-use and poor maintenance of the building may indicate that they will shortly abandon it.
Future

The future of this building is similar to that of the Glasgow Herald. If it is abandoned, a new use will have to be found for it, and this task is made easier by the fact that the interiors are of little value. It is therefore eligible for a 'cut conservation' job, which will make it attractive to more possible users. The floor area is less than the Glasgow Herald's, but the plan is long and narrow, which means that sufficient daylight should reach most floors except perhaps the ground and first. This might suggest multiple use of the building.

The essential thing is to restore the facades to as near their original condition as possible, and to maintain them in this state.

* Howarth, op. cit. pp 174-175
  1. Howarth, op. cit. pp 174-175
  2. Walker, op. cit. pp 133
  3. Howarth, op. cit. pp 174
  4. Mansley, op. cit. p 7
INGRAM STREET TEAROOMS *

• not listed
• designed 1900, 1906, 1911, for Miss Catherine Cranston
• now owned by Clackmannan District Council
• at present stored in Sandlebridge
• drawings from: D Goodman (survey) and Keppie Henderson (assembly drawings only)

Introduction

When the interiors of the Ingram street tearooms were dismantled some years ago, assembly drawings were made so that they could be reconstructed at a later date. This reconstruction has not yet materialised and they are still in store.

It is difficult to establish their present condition, but it seems that they may have been partially destroyed by fire while in store. If this is so, it is deplorable that Glasgow Corporation should not have taken more care of them and it may explain the long delay in their reconstruction.

However, the museum department of Glasgow District Council is currently looking at the idea of incorporating them into Scotland Street School (after it has been abandoned as a school) as the basis for a museum of Modern Interior Design. They might possibly be used in part as a working tearoom, perhaps with new furniture made to Mackintosh's designs, but the idea is still very fluid and no feasibility study has yet been officially carried out.

Interior settings present different problems from buildings.

They are insertions into existing buildings and are neither fixed to them nor to a particular place in the townscape. They are therefore relatively mobile, provided a suitable shell can be found or designed for them, and are good candidates for room settings within museums. All the same, I think it is preferable to see them in use, which brings them into conflict with the building regulations.

* Howarth, op. cit. pp 131-136
  *clodd, op. cit. pp 100-102, 145
THE HILL HOUSE *

- or Colmahoum street, Helensburgh
- listed category
- built in 1902-04. For Mr W W Blackie
- owned by the RIAS
- in use as a museum, and for conferences, functions, etc., and private flats
- drawings from Gillespie, Kidd & Coia, architects

Introduction

The design of the Hill House followed a period of observation of Blackie family life by Mackintosh, and Mr Blackie himself claimed that 'Mackintosh's first purpose was always practical one' — the architectural ideas were generated by functional decisions. Much has been written elsewhere on this domestic tour de force: I shall merely add that its future role seems ensured in the hands of the RIAS.

Accommodation

Public section: ground floor: hall, library, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, cloakroom
first floor: hall with winter lounge, four bedrooms, bathroom

Private section: ground floor flat: living room, dining room, two bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, C
first floor flat: living room, dining room, three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen
second floor flat: living / dining room, three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, attic

Condition

The house is now divided into two parts — the former kitchen and servants' quarters have been converted into three luxury flats, which are now let, and the remainder of the house is now open to the public as a museum, for conferences, functions, etc., and for overnight accommodation on bed and breakfast basis. The division between the
The Hill House (cont.)

two sections has been fairly easily made, and the parts which have
been altered are mainly those to which Mackintosh paid less attention
in the first place.
The entire building has recently been restored externally. The banding
has been reinstated and painted, the slates and leadwork on the roof
have been overhauled, a chimney on the front elevation has been totally
reinstated and a slapping has been made at the foot of the stair tower
as an entrance to the flats.
The next part of the programme which is now being carried out is the
restoration of the interior of the public part of the house. This
involves reinstating the stencilling on the walls of the living room
and main bedroom, replacing five wall lamps in the living room and two
lamps in the hall, replacing the carpet in the living room and restoring
the paneling in the dining room to its original dark colour.
At some time in the future it is hoped to repair or replace the metal
frames to the windows.

Future

Once the initial restoration of the house is complete, the rents from
the flats will hopefully cover the upkeep of the public section, aided
of course by donations from visitors.
While it is excellent that the public should have such easy access to
Mackintosh's work, thanks to the efforts of the HMS, it is sad that
a house designed with such care and attention to practical detail-
like a lifestyle should have had to become a 'museum piece' because the
private housing market failed to find anyone who could afford or would
have liked to live in such a big house.

* Howarth, op.cit. pp 98-107
Macleod, op.cit. pp 80-90
Reynolds, op.cit. pp 171
Macmillan, A. 'The Hill House, Helensburgh' The HMS Broadsheets on
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1. Macleod, op.cit. pp 80
2. Howarth, op.cit. pp 97
3. Macmillan, op.cit. , acleod, op.cit. , etc
TILLION HOUSES *

Scotchhall street. 71 snow
listed category
* built 1903-04. For Miss Catherine Cranston
* named by the House of Fraser, Ltd
* incorporated into Daly's store for a
variety of uses
* no drawings available

Introduction

With the ill or tearooms, Mackintosh had his first chance to design
the entire building - all his previous tearoom work was interior
draperies. The whole scene was based on the willow tree motif.

Nothwithstanding that the facade was rather unhappy because it was
made up of two unrelated parts, but this has now been effectively
destroyed in the conversion of the ground floor section to part
of Daly's shopfront.
The centrepiece of the scheme was the "Room de Luxe" which had an
elaborate mirror frieze round the walls, and a marble panel by Mackintosh's
wife inspired by one of Rossetti's sonnets.

Accommodation (present day)

Ground floor and mezzanine: shop
First floor: the willow coffee room, office, nursery
Second floor: offices
Third floor: kitchen

Condition

The building has been substantially altered since it was incorporated
into Daly's, and only the former "Room de Luxe" remains in its near
original condition (as the "Willow Coffee Room"). It has lost its
original furniture, but retains its mirror frieze, marble panel, fire-
place, inlaid and doors.
The second floor tearoom has been partitioned into offices, but still
has its original windows, dado and fireplace. The staircase has been
crudely enclosed in a timber and wired glass screen to comply with the
building regulations, and the ground and mezzanine floors have lost
COTLAND SPRING SCHOOL *
Scottland street, Glasgow

- Listed category I
- Built in 1904-06, for the School Board
- Owned by Strathclyde Regional Council
- Still in use as a school
- Drawings from: T. T. Davie, architect (survey)

Introduction

Scottland street school was Lockintsh's version of a fairly standard school plan of the day - a symmetrical building with separate entrances for boys and girls, a central spine corridor and the main bank of classrooms to the south. Particularly notable are the twin stair towers which he used to light the spine corridor 'in the centre of the building, and the cloakrooms stacked on either side. The infant entrance is so low that an adult can barely walk through it.

The remainder of the building is fairly plain; the classrooms are arranged with false screens between them.

The school is currently occupied by 300 pupils (it was designed for 1200) and functions mainly as a modern school.

Accommodation

Twenty-one classrooms, hall, large art room, six cloakrooms, six staff rooms, two staircases.

Condition

Scottland street school is in excellent physical condition as a result of comprehensive restoration programme carried out by Glasgow Corporation just before local government reorganisation. £35,000 to £30,000 was spent, mainly on external repairs. The stonework was cleaned, using muriatic acid and high pressure water, the stones were successfully indented on the south facade. The stair in was re-tiered and the leading replaced. The flat roofs at the sides were replaced in lead. The front railings were restored and some of the bars and straining brackets replaced, and the gate was replaced rather unsatisfactorily in mild steel. The little arch at the side was rebuilt.
Internally, there was a check made for dry rot, and one patch was eliminated. The internal stonework to the stair towers was washed and the timber construction above painted, the timber floors in the lower ones were cleaned and revarnished and the entire interior was redecorated. Rather crude new floor finishes have been put into the corridors, cloakrooms and stairs, and one wonders if more care could not have been taken in choice of colour and texture.

The worst aspect of the restoration programme has been the insertion of fire doors and partitions, designed by architects appointed by the Corporation, into the central spine corridor. There have completely recollected the original spatial experience within the building, and again it might be possible to question if they were necessary. After all, a school is occupied by young and fit people who are subjected to frequent fire drills and can be evacuated from a building rapidly. They might not require the strict provisions laid down in the statutory acts; after all, if the building had not been restored, the corridors and stairs would probably still be in their original state. It is a question of establishing a tolerable level of safety based on the needs of the occupants and working to that level.

Surroundings

Scotland street’s surroundings have altered greatly since it was built. It was always situated in an industrial context, with the engineering works on one side, small scrappy industrial/commercial buildings on the other, and a row of shops behind, but across the street to the north was an area of densely packed tenements which housed the support population for the school.

Today the tenements have disappeared (with their population) to make way for part of the urban motorway, which is now being constructed on a high embankment, and the school is surrounded on the east, south and west by the oppressive buildings of ‘advanced’ engineering works. The nearest houses in the Kinzing Park 3DA area are to be half a mile away.

Threats

The main threat to Scotland street’s survival as a school is the removal of its support population as a result of road building policy.
SCOTLAND STREET SCHOOL (contd)

and zoning requirements, and it looks as though there is little that can be done at this late stage to avert it.

The present Education department policy is to phase out all schools built before 1911 as they are now 'obsolete', whatever this means. It is probable that more than 99% of the schools in Glasgow are obsolete. At any rate, Scotland street is scheduled to become redundant by 1980, although current policy will probably not be carried out due to cuts in local authority spending.

By the time the motorway is finished, access to the school will be complicated by road. Although access by subway is relatively easy. This could have implications on finding a new use for the building if it does become redundant.

Future

Because of the recent restoration programme carried out by Glasgow Corporation, it would seem unlikely that Scotland Street School will be demolished when it becomes redundant.

It is present the Museums' department of Glasgow District Council are looking at the idea of converting it into a Museum of Modern Interior Design, based on the insertion of the interiors of the Ingram street tearooms on the ground floor. The upper floors would house displays of room settings and furniture, plus library and lecture facilities.

As the planning of the building is fairly flexible, it could be adapted to a number of new uses without destroying the spatial experience, given that the building regulations should be relaxed.

The real problem is its location and its isolation from the population it is likely to serve. Perhaps an improved direct link across the Clyde to the city centre would help communication and encourage more prospective new users.

* Nowarth, op. cit. pp 137-190

Proland, op. cit. pp 115

Gomme and Walker, op. cit. pp 220-221

Walker, op. cit. pp 133

1. Walker, op. cit. pp 133

2. Nowarth, op. cit. pp 199-199

Gomme and Walker, op. cit. pp 220-221

3. Nowarth op. cit. pp 139
73 S UTPARK AVENUE (formerly 6 Claremont terrace)*
now located in Hillhead street, Glasgow

- not listed
- designed in 1906 by the self and wife
- interiors now owned by Glasgow University
- at present being reconstructed
- drawings from city archives (original alterations)
  - architect: architects (reconstruction)

When Glasgow University demoli... for 75 Southpark avenue some years ago, it made a commitment to reconstruct the interiors designed by Mackintosh elsewhere. (As this was a conversion in the first place, the exterior is irrelevant). The reconstruction is currently in progress within a specially designed section of the new Fine Art Gallery now being built in Hillhead street. The external shell has been built in concrete with the appropriate window openings, and an elaborate air conditioning system has been installed inside to protect the fittings.

The reconstruction will become a museum displaying the furniture and fittings of 78 Southpark avenue: the hall, stair, dining room, drawing room, studio and main bedroom will be faithfully reconstructed. The upper part of the house will be used to display changing exhibitions of Mackintosh's drawings, and one room will be used to illustrate the history of the house from the time it was altered by Mackintosh until its demolition.

Provided that the university can find enough money to pay for the work, the building is due to open some time in 1976.

* Dowarth, op.cit., pp 117-119
AUCHINIBERT *
Kilmarnock, Stirlingshire
- Listed Category B
- Built in 1906 for W J Shand
- Now owned by Mr and Mrs Peniston
- In use as a private house
- Drawings from: Glasgow University collections
- Hyslop, Colich and Humphray, architects

Introduction

Auchinibert is less well known than other houses and is generally considered to be a lesser architectural achievement, possibly because he did not finish the building. It was taken over during the site supervision stage by another architect. But was built however was basically architect's design.

The house was reputedly based on a Cotswold cottage, apparently according to the client's wishes, and is built in stone.

Although based on the Hill House plan, the design of Auchinibert differs in the layout of the hall in relation to the main public rooms: it is carried right through the building from the front door on the north side to a terrace on the south, and becomes a room in its own right in the process. The dining and drawing rooms are on either side. The staircase is very restrained, and the upstairs landing poorly realised. The most successful rooms on the upper floor are the daughter's bedroom and the bathroom.

Accommodation

Basement: workroom, double garage
Ground floor: hall, dining/hall, living room, study, kitchen, pantry, utility room, store, cloakroom/WC
First floor: six bedrooms, four bathrooms
Second floor: living/dining room, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom

Condition

The house is in fine physical condition and the stonework still looks magnificent.

Very few art nouveau fittings or decorations are in evidence, but it
is difficult to know how many were there in the first place. At some time in the past, the study was extended at one end, and the fireplace flue had to be housed within a little hipped roof structure on the north facade. This has spoiled the composition looking from the gate to the front door.

The present owners have converted the existing wash house and kitchen yard into a double garage, with a stone front and two shallow arched doorways. They have also converted the two of the servants' quarters into a two person flat for their gardener and his wife.

Future

The open outlook to the south is assured by planning restrictions on the field in front, and so it looks as though Auchinibert's setting will remain unchanged.

It seems likely to remain as a family house for some time - the present owners are fairly young and have a young family, and if they found it an acceptable house to buy five years ago and can still afford to live there now, it should be able to be sold on the open market. In any case, it could be readily converted into two, along the lines of the Till House conversion, and sold to two families.

* Howarth, pp 106-111

1. Howarth, op.cit. pp 111
2. ibid.
FLATS, SHOP and LICITOR’S OFFICES

Corrie, Perthshire

- Listed Category B
- Built in 1806 for F MacPherson
- Shop and flat now owned by Messrs ‘Tong’ MacPherson
- Flat owned by R and L. Roe with
- Offices now owned by Mr Prior
- No drawings available

Introduction

It is not known how Mackintosh came to get this commission; at any rate it is a very plain, austere example of his work, and was probably built on a tight budget.

The building, which is white harled and has large circular turrets on the corner, stands in the middle of Corrie at the corner of the small square. On one side it is attached to the ivy-covered Royal Hotel, and on the main street elevation there are two blind dormers with distinctive stone skew details. The only other distinguishing features are the panelled timber doors, the counter in the shop and the fireplace in the first floor flat.

The turret is a powerful landmark in Corrie and was apparently built in response to a similar one on a nearby existing building, which was unfortunately demolished not long after Mackintosh’s was built.

Accommodation

The building is roughly L-shaped and is in two parts. Access to the first floor flat from the street is by the stair up to the first floor flat from the street. To the left is a two storey solicitor’s office which was possibly added at a later date by Mackintosh, and to the right is the shop on the ground floor with the flat above. There is a small two roomed attic flat, originally reached by a small external stair at the back but now inaccessible except by door.

Condition

The building is at present owned by three separate people, but maintaining its unity in spite of this, it has recently been washed.
COMRIE (contd)

There is no sign of gutter or inwater pipe deterioration and the roof is in fine condition. The store at the back of the shop is probably an addition.

Future

There are no development plans for Comrie - only residential plans are given planning permission. The village is about to be made a conservation area which means that radical changes in the village centre are unlikely to be permitted. And the by-pass site across the road is not likely to be built up. There is a possibility that the listing of Houstoun's building will be upgraded to category 1 in the new Perthshire area, but at present being carried out.

It seems that the building's context is safe, and it is unlikely that any radical proposals to change the building would be accepted.

* Walker, cit. p. 170
PART THREE
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This bibliography contains articles and books on Mackintosh written since 1950. It is intended to supplement Round's* and thus provide a complete up-to-date bibliography. I would like to thank Joan Bevan for her help in compiling it.

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# Appendix (i)

**Chronological list of Lockwood's buildings**  
(*) denotes a building now demolished)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Redclyffe</td>
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<tr>
<td>1893-94</td>
<td>Glasgow, Her Id Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>1894-95</td>
<td>Queen Margaret College</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Martyrs' School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1896-97</td>
<td>Glasgow School of Art (First phase)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1899-99</td>
<td>Buchanan at tea rooms - decorations only *</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1897-99</td>
<td>Queen's Cross Church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899-94</td>
<td>Ruchill Church hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Gravestone, Kilmacolm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1899-1901</td>
<td>Windyhill, Kilmacolm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1900-1901</td>
<td>Inram street tea rooms decorated *</td>
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<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Thompson's west lodge, Kilmacolm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900-01</td>
<td>Daily Record building</td>
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<tr>
<td>1902-04</td>
<td>The Hill House, Killearn</td>
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<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Touns'hill alterations and furnishings *</td>
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<td>1903-04</td>
<td>Willow tea rooms</td>
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<td>1904-06</td>
<td>Scotland street school</td>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>Gravestone, East Wemyss, Fife</td>
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<td>1906</td>
<td>Archibald, Kilmacolm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1906-07</td>
<td>Luss, south-west (now Cloch), Kilmacolm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>The Rose, Dunoon - extension *</td>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>Corrie</td>
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<td>1907-08</td>
<td>Abbey Close church, Paisley - decorations only *</td>
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<td>1908-11</td>
<td>Inram street tea rooms - 'The Hutch Kitchen' *</td>
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<td>1911-12</td>
<td>Inram street tea rooms - 'The Oak room'</td>
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<tr>
<td>1912-13</td>
<td>Southpark Avenue - conversion</td>
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<tr>
<td>1907-08</td>
<td>Glasgow School of Art (second phase)</td>
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<td>1908</td>
<td>Doorway to Lady Artists' Club, Lothian Road</td>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>Inram at tea rooms - 'The Chinese room' and the 'Winter room'</td>
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<td>1912-13</td>
<td>Alterations to one-side, Kilmacolm</td>
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<td>1915-16</td>
<td>78 Overtoun, Kilmacolm</td>
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<td>1916</td>
<td>Willow tea rooms - the 'Durou' added</td>
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<td>1919</td>
<td>Cottage, East Grinstead</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Studio, Chelsea</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX (ii)

Organizations involved or interested in Mackintosh and his buildings

*Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society, 1307 Argyle Street, Glasgow
041-3340202

*New Glasgow Society, address and telephone as above

*Scottish Civic Trust, 24 George Square, Glasgow
041-2214466

*University of Glasgow, Department of Fine Art, Glasgow
041-3393855

*Glasgow School of Art, 167 Renfrew Street, Glasgow
041-3329797

*Glasgow District Council, Department of Planning (conservation section), 4 Queen Street, Glasgow
041-2219895

*Glasgow District Council, Department of Museums and Art Galleries, Kelvingrove, Glasgow 041-3341134 also People’s Palace, Glasgow Green, 041-5540223

*SDD, Argyll House, Edinburgh (David Walker)
031-2290190 ext 195

*National Monuments Record, 52 Elville Street, Edinburgh
031-2255994

*RIAS, 15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh
031-2297205