

CAROLIE SMILLIE LAUNCHES THE DIGITAL MACKINTOSH PROJECT

This April GSA alumna Carol Smillie launched the online Digital Mackintosh Project allowing friends, alumni and Mackintosh aficionados to adopt a brick of the internationally famous Mackintosh façade.

Following months of careful scanning, planning and testing www.digitalmackintosh.co.uk went live, attracting alumni and friends from all over the world to support the Mackintosh Conservation and Access Project through its easy to use donation process.

Conceived by the campaign team and directed by Doug Pritchard of the GSA's own Digital Design Studio, ecentricarts inc – a web design company who specialise in unique and creative interactive forums – developed the site, already recognised by Adobe as Site of the Day on 2nd June.

Carol, a current student of the School's Continuing Education Programme, was eager to support the School in order to ensure that the building remains used for generations to come.

The site was an instant success, raising nearly £2,000 within minutes of going live. To date the site has brought in a fantastic £19,000 with the most



Carol Smillie advises you to put your money where your mouse is!

decorative elements, such as the wrought iron finial and entry archway, snapped up for £1,000 a piece. However, many more items are still available from as little as £10, so browsers with any budget can support the campaign.

With more than 3,500 elements, the site has the potential to raise over £85,000 for the conservation of the Mackintosh Building fabric, the

archives and collections, and to increase access to all of these for more than 20,000 visitors a year; a number which is set to grow.

The Campaign Team will also be happy to secure your chosen element by phone or post; contact details are below.

A huge thank you to our supporters. Your names are online at:

www.gsa.ac.uk/campaign.

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Mackintosh Project will:

- Conserve and protect the building fabric, and restore original features
- Increase access to enhance the visitor experience
- Improve the care, exhibition and access to the archives and collections
- Meet future visitor demand, expected to rise to 33,000+p.a.
- Manage visitor access to a working art school

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List continues overleaf...

£8.6 MILLION WORKS START ON THE MACKINTOSH BUILDING

On Monday 2nd July, the refurbishment project that has been in the pipeline for nearly ten years finally became a reality as Morris & Spottiswood began work on Phase 1 of the four year Mackintosh Conservation and Access Project.

Until December this year, works will be carried out primarily in the basement and sub-basement of the Mackintosh Building with the majority of disruptive works completed before the students return in September.



Morris and Spottiswood begin the much needed building works

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART CAMPAIGN

INTERVIEW WITH A CONSERVATOR SARAH GERRISH - FURNITURE AND WOODEN ARTEFACTS

Sarah Gerrish is a private conservator who has worked professionally in furniture and wooden artefact conservation for 15 years. She will be the lead conservator for the 200 pieces of Mackintosh furniture for the duration of the Mackintosh Conservation and Access Project.

What has been your favourite object to date? I am in the fortunate position of conserving many varied and exciting pieces of furniture from seventeenth century armoires to 1950's Bauhaus furniture. Each project brings with it different conservation considerations so they are all interesting and challenging.

What might surprise people about your work? I think the range of artefacts that I work on

is surprising; I work on furniture but also large wooden artefacts. I have even conserved a collection of carriages. I carry out treatments that stabilise and preserve the artefact but are minimally interventive, not removing any original material so as not to detract from the social value or historical importance of the piece.

What are you particularly looking forward to working on in the Mackintosh Collection? Mackintosh furniture is recognised worldwide and is extremely popular with members of the public. I'm looking forward to conserving the iconic pieces of furniture such as the high backed chairs but it's also wonderful to conserve the less known pieces such as the small Windsor chairs in the library.

Why is the Mackintosh Project appealing to you? The project is one of the biggest conservation projects in Scotland at this time and concentrates on the collection of one of Scotland's leading designers. The project involves conservators across disciplines specialising in different materials but working towards a common goal; to be part of this team is something to look forward to.

The School's collection is the largest collection of Mackintosh furniture in existence. To be able to work on such an important Scottish collection in Scotland is a privilege.

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DID YOU KNOW? DRACULA'S CREATOR RETURNS TO THE GSA EVERY JUNE...

For over 100 years, the Bram Stoker Prize has been awarded to a GSA graduating student since its donor, Bram Stoker, gifted a Gold Medal to the School in 1903.

Strangely, no one really knows why Stoker, the author of *Dracula* (1897), should make such a generous gift and what his link with the School was.

Stoker (1847-1912) was an Irishman who moved to London in 1878 to work in the Lyceum theatre with English actor Henry Irving. It has been asserted that his friendship with Irving and the touring of the Lyceum company

allowed him to form many friendships with others in the Arts; friendships which may have included Francis Newbery, the Director of School who originally commissioned Charles Rennie Mackintosh with the new School building.

Even without knowing the provenance of the prize, Stoker's generosity continues to be remembered annually, with the Bram Stoker Prize awarded by the Director to the student producing the best imaginative work - though Stoker's medal remains safely in the School archives.



The gold medal Bram Stoker donated to the School in 1903, engraved with the name of the first winner: D Broadfoot Carter

ACROSS THE SEA...

Following last year's successful fact finding mission to New York and Chicago, the Campaign Team have recruited a US consultant, Caroline Cracraft, to escalate our fundraising efforts across America, which we hope will be very successful.

In Autumn, Seona Reid and Jan McKenzie will also be visiting Japan, contacting museums, galleries and friends to research potential support and the possibility of a future international Mackintosh Tour.

THANK YOU!

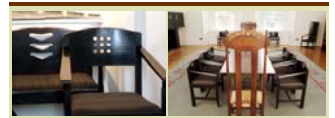
Since the last bulletin in November, nearly half a million pounds has been donated to the Mackintosh Conservation and Access Project. With the £19,000 raised by Digital Mackintosh donors, our new fundraising total comes to over £7.6million.

We would like to sincerely thank you for your continued interest and support of the School and hope that you will help us to raise the remaining million pounds this project

requires.

If you feel you would like to become more involved with the campaign, either through continuing support or working as an ambassador for the project, we would love to hear from you. You can help the project through one-off cash donations, recurring gifts and gifts in kind.

Please contact the Campaign Team for more information (see below).



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