

# M334 Design for a monument to Lt Col. Oswald Arthur Gerald Fitzgerald

## Introduction

This project, for an upright stone monument with inscription tablet, is known only from an undated drawing.

**Authorship:** The drawing is by Mackintosh. The monument to Fitzgerald erected in Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, may have been influenced by it, but it is not a realisation of Mackintosh's design.

**Status:** Unbuilt

## Chronology

## Description

Lt Col. Oswald Arthur Gerald Fitzgerald (1875–1916) was personal military secretary to Lord Kitchener (1850–1916).<sup>1</sup> Both men died in the sinking of HMS *Hampshire* off Marwick Head, Orkney, on 5 June 1916.<sup>2</sup> Fitzgerald's body was not buried at Lyness on the island of Hoy, with others recovered from the sea, but was taken instead to Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex, where his father was buried.<sup>3</sup>

The design shows an upright stone slab 7 feet (2.13 m) high and just over 3 feet (0.91 m) wide at the base, framed at the top and sides by mouldings of stepped profile. Within this border, but slightly overlapping it, is an oval tablet laid lengthways, bearing the inscription and enclosed by a wreath. The angular mouldings have similarities with some of the stone carving at Scotland Street School, and with later decorative work by Mackintosh, especially the hall fireplace at 78 Derngate, Northampton. The classical victor's laurel wreath and the military badges above and below the inscription speak the familiar language of soldiers' memorials. Combined with these traditional elements, Mackintosh's angular, abstract ornament appears all the more unusual.

It is not known how Mackintosh came to make the design, or who commissioned it. Fitzgerald had served for some years with Kitchener in India, and it may have been through Mackintosh's association with Patrick Geddes's Indian town planning work in 1915–16 that the job came his way. The monument ultimately erected over Fitzgerald's grave is very much simpler, and in no sense a realisation of Mackintosh's design. Nevertheless, it contains faint echoes of the drawing, which suggests that whoever carved it may have had access to Mackintosh's design. The oval panel bearing the inscription overlaps the mouldings to either side, as it does on the drawing, and the inscription itself is similar to the one shown in Mackintosh's design: it includes part of W. J. Birkbeck's translation of the Russian Orthodox prayer for the dead from the liturgy of St John Chrysostom (also sung at Kitchener's memorial service in St Paul's Cathedral).



## People

**Clients:**

- 

**Contractors:**

- 

**Other:**

- 

## Job Book

The job books of Honeyman & Keppie (later Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh) are now held by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow and include four volumes related to the Mackintosh period. The books were used by the firm to keep a project-by-project, day-by-day record of contractors, suppliers and expenditure. The name of a project and/or client is usually at the top of the left-hand page, followed by information about tradesmen who tendered. The name of the measurer (quantity surveyor) is usually at the top of the right-hand page, followed by information about payments to contractors and suppliers. All of the data for M334 is entered in the tables below.

Page numbering is not consistent in the job books. Sometimes a single number refers to a double-page spread and sometimes each page is individually numbered. Here, each image of a double-page spread is identified by the number given at the top of the left-hand page. (Images of all of the pages from the four job books can be found at [Browse Job Books, Visit Book and Cash Book.](#))

The following information about M334 has been extracted from the job books:

Job book: Page: NaN
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**Client:**

**Tenders:**

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted

**Payments (trades):**

Name	Type	Payment out sum

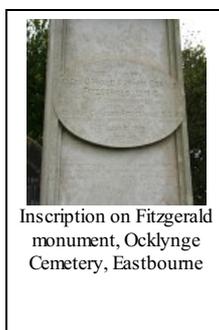
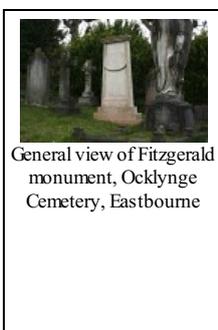
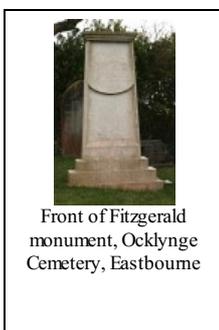
**Payments (suppliers):**

Name	Service

**Total cost:**

## Documents

## Images



## Bibliography

Published

Notes:  1: <i>The Times</i> , 7 June 1916, p. 10.
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2: *The Times*, 7 June 1916, p. 10.

3: *The Times*, 9 June 1916, p. 9.

## Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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