

MX.03 Interiors for Westdel, 2 Queen's Place

Introduction

Mackintosh designed furniture and decoration for a second-floor bedroom and adjoining bathroom for Robert Maclehose, at his home, Westdel, 2 Queen's Place in the affluent West End district of Dowanhill. The imposing red-sandstone house was designed for Maclehose by George Washington Browne in around 1889 and extended by Alexander N. Paterson in 1896. ¹ Robert and his brother, James, ran the publishing and bookselling firm James Maclehose & Sons founded by their father, and the business of their uncle, Robert Maclehose & Co. Ltd, printer to the University of Glasgow. ²

The furniture in the bedroom included the bed, a large wardrobe with repoussé metal panels and broad hinges, a tall shelf unit, and an upholstered settle fitted under the eaves of the dormer window, all of which were painted white. There was also a free-standing, white-painted dressing table and an elaborate metal light-fitting. A metal panel decorated with a peacock motif was fitted over the fireplace. Above the frieze rail the white wall was painted with a frieze of botanical motifs similar to that in the Bruckmann dining room. The adjoining bathroom was fitted with white-painted shelving and decorated with inlays of coloured glass.

The bedroom has been described as Mackintosh's first white room; the specific white is unknown but is likely to have been a toned white. Based on the forms of the furniture and style of decoration, the scheme has been dated to 1898. ³

This work appears to have been carried out as a private commission as there are no related entries in John Honeyman & Keppie's job books or cash book.

The house was bequeathed to the University of Glasgow by Maclehose, who died in 1907, with a life interest in the property for his sisters. The surviving Mackintosh furniture and fittings were removed to the University collection in 1975. ⁴

Drawings of the furniture and decoration for Westdel were exhibited at the Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts in 1899 under Mackintosh's name (702).

Authorship: The bedroom is known from Mackintosh's drawings and from photographs published in *Dekorative Kunst* in March 1902. ⁵

Status: Standing building; interiors removed

Current name: Westdel

Current use: Residential (2014)

Listing category: B (Listed as '2 Queens Place (Westdel), 10 Kinnoul Lane and 10 Crown Road North, (Royston); with boundary walls and gatepiers')

Historic Scotland/HB Number: 32579

RCAHMS Site Number: NS56NE 1996

Grid reference: NS 56202 67207

Chronology

Description

People

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

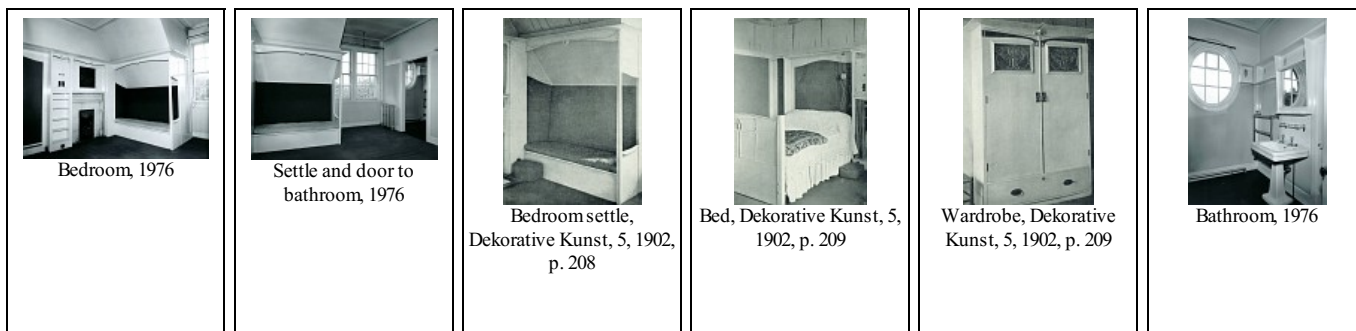
data for MX.03 is entered in the tables below.

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 MX.03 has been extracted from the job books:

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- Roger Billcliffe, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs*, Moffat, Dumfriesshire: Cameron & Hollis, 4th edn, 2009, pp. 11–12, 51–5
- Alan Crawford, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh*, London: Thames & Hudson, 1995, pp. 50–1
- Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 363
- *Dekorative Kunst*, 5, March 1902, pp. 208–9

Unpublished

- Hiroaki Kimura, 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh: Architectural Drawings', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Glasgow, 1982, p. 33, pp. 127–9

Notes:

- 1: Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 363.
- 2: George Eyre-Todd (ed.), 'James Maclehose', *Who's Who in Glasgow in 1909*, Glasgow: Gowans & Grey Ltd, p. 132.
- 3: Roger Billcliffe, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs*, Moffat, Dumfriesshire: Cameron & Hollis, 4th edn, 2009, pp. 11–12, 51–5; Alan Crawford, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh*, London: Thames & Hudson, 1995, pp. 50–1.
- 4: Roger Billcliffe, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs*, Moffat, Dumfriesshire: Cameron & Hollis, 4th edn, 2009, p. 51; The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: GLAHA 52574, GLAHA 52693, GLAHA 52699, GLAHA 53132, GLAHA 53132a–aa, GLAHA 53133.
- 5: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: GLAHA 41106, GLAHA 41107, GLAHA 41108, GLAHA 41699, GLAHA 41700, GLAHA 41701, GLAHA 41702, GLAHA 41703; *Dekorative Kunst*, 5, March 1902, pp. 208–9.

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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