



The National Trust for  
Scotland Foundation USA

MEDIA RELEASE  
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**FACT SHEET: Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the Hill House**

- Charles Rennie Mackintosh, son of a police superintendent, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on June 7, 1868. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth will be celebrated in 2018.
- He enrolled at Glasgow School of Art in 1884. After completing his apprenticeship in 1890, he met his future wife Margaret Macdonald and her sister Frances. Together with his friend Herbert McNair, they became known as ‘The Four’ who created the ‘Glasgow Style’ of architecture and interior design.
- In 1902, Scottish publisher Walter Blackie purchased a plot of land at the top of a hill in the Glasgow suburb of Helensburgh with views overlooking the Firth of Clyde.
- Blackie already had an interest in the Glasgow Style and Mackintosh was recommended to him as architect for his new family home.
- Mackintosh was heavily influenced by the traditional plain style of historic Scottish towns and villages and disliked the then-current vogue in architecture that copied Tudor, Gothic and Classical detailing. It was a meeting of minds with Blackie.
- At a cost of £5,000, Mackintosh, along with his wife Margaret MacDonald, oversaw the design and construction of every detail of the Hill House, which was completed in 1904.
- The Hill House proved to be incredibly influential in Europe, becoming especially inspiring to the German Bauhaus school and architectural/design movement, which in turn inspired much mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture.
- The National Trust for Scotland acquired the Hill House in May 1982.
- In 2015, the Getty Conservation Institute allocated a grant of \$127,000 (£95,000) from its *Keeping It Modern* program to the Hill House.
- The total cost of the Hill House conservation project is estimated at \$6 million (£4.5 million).

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**FACT SHEET: The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA (NTSUSA)**

- NTSUSA, based in Boston, is the American friends group of the National Trust for Scotland. The Foundation has more than 1,000 members across 49 US states. Since 2000, NTSUSA has provided more than \$8.5 million in funding for the National Trust for Scotland's most urgent conservation priorities
- NTSUSA is partnering with the National Trust for Scotland on *The Campaign for the Hill House*, with a goal of raising \$2 million by mid-2018 to erect a temporary superstructure that will protect Charles Rennie Mackintosh's iconic building from the elements while allowing urgent conservation work to take place.
- Past projects that have received NTSUSA support include:
  - Conservation of the Burns Memorial and Glenfinnan Monument
  - Consolidation and restoration of original painted wall decoration at "Greek" Thomson's Holmwood
  - Digitization of the John Lorne Campbell and Margaret Fay Shaw collection of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Gaelic recordings at Canna House
  - Installation of kitchen gardens at Culzean Castle & Country Park and Burns Cottage
  - Construction of a visitor center on Iona
  - The purchase of goats to "mow" Culloden Battlefield
- Donations to NTSUSA, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.
- NTS properties have been seen in films and television programs including *Outlander* (Culross, Falkland Palace, and Culloden Battlefield); *Harry Potter* (Glenfinnan Monument); and *Braveheart*, *Skyfall*, and *Capitan America* (Glencoe)
- NTS is Scotland's largest conservation organization, with nearly 400,000 members and more than two million annual visitors. NTS owns and manages 129 visitor properties across 200,000 acres. NTS's Royal Patron is HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay.

**2018 A Celebration of Scotland's Treasures to be Themed to Charles Rennie Mackintosh and His Hill House**

- The gala is held each spring at The Metropolitan Club in New York City. Attended by more than 300 guests from across the US, *A Celebration of Scotland's Treasures* raises \$400,000 annually for NTSUSA.
- Event sponsors include The Macallan, Lyon & Turnbull / Freeman's, ANTA, and Connoisseurs Scotland.
- At the event, NTSUSA honors an individual who has contributed to Scotland and America's shared culture. Past "Great Scot" honorees include Alan Cumming, Sir Billy Connolly, Ken Burns, *Downton Abbey's* Phyllis Logan, and Alexander McCall Smith.
- Robert Burns' *Ode to a Haggis* is recited by Alasdair Nichol, Chairman and Director of Fine Art at Freeman's and frequent appraiser on *Antiques Roadshow*. Mr. Nichol also leads the evening's live auction.
- The evening ends with Scottish dancing and signing of Burns' *Auld Lang Syne*.