

Celebrate the Art Nouveau World Day with the **Réseau Art Nouveau Network**...

... and Helen Kendrick from **Glasgow** (UK)!

What does your job consist in?

Helen K.: I am Helen Kendrick, Programme Manager at the University of Strathclyde, and I've been lucky enough to work with Glasgow's Art Nouveau heritage for ten years.



Helen Kendrick (third from right) with a school group in the iconic Mackintosh Library at the Glasgow School of Art, June 2011.

Could you describe the Art Nouveau heritage of Glasgow in one word?

Helen K.: If I had to describe the city's Art Nouveau heritage in one word it would be "seminal".

Which is, in your opinion, the most significant Art Nouveau work/building in your city?

Helen K.: The most significant Art Nouveau work/building in this city for me is the Glasgow School of Art (GSA). It is such a unique and influential building and has a massive effect on the whole city.



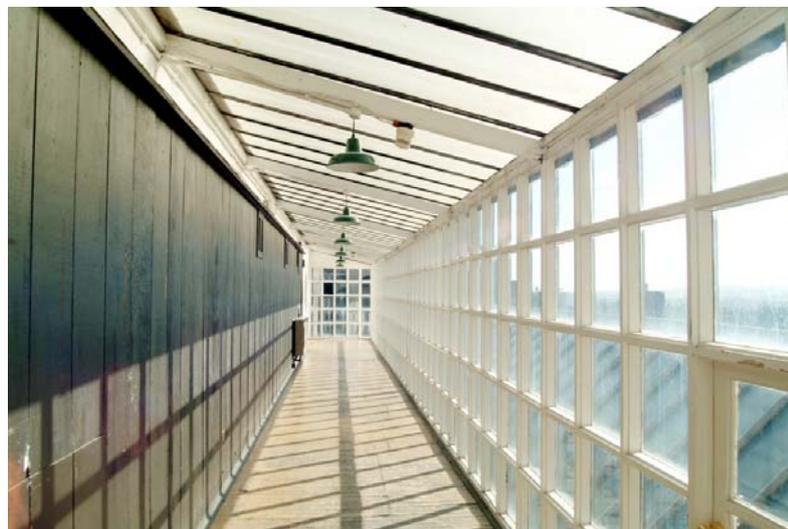
GSA front view, © GSA (left)
Signage of the main entrance, © GSA (up)

Which is your most powerful memory linked to an Art Nouveau work?

Helen K.: The first time I visited Glasgow, as soon as I got off the bus I went straight up to the GSA for a tour. It was completely spellbinding and the fact that this amazing building was still so full of life, as a working art school, made it even more special. I was offered a job in Glasgow the next day and couldn't say "yes" fast enough, and the GSA was a big part of what made me fall in love with the city so quickly.



Mackintosh library, GSA, © GSA (left); Mackintosh Room, GSA, © GSA (right)
"Henrun" 2 Mackintosh Building, © GSA (down)



Which are the current or next Art Nouveau projects in Glasgow?

Helen K.: So the current Art Nouveau project in Glasgow is how we recover from the devastating fire last month at the GSA. To quote the School's Chairwoman Muriel Gray, the building was "bruised and battered but most certainly not destroyed" and there is a lot to be grateful for. It looks almost certain the building will remain as a working art school despite the fire, which is, we imagine, what Charles Rennie Mackintosh, former GSA student and architect of this iconic building, would have wanted.

By the end of the 19th century, Glasgow was a leading industrial powerhouse and the sixth largest city in Europe. By the 1890s, Glasgow School of Art had established itself as a leading centre for both contemporary painting and the decorative arts under the direction of Francis Newbery its influential headmaster.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a former pupil of the School was the leading protagonist of the so-called Glasgow Style in the decorative arts. Alongside him, artist/designers such as Margaret and Frances Macdonald, Herbert MacNair, George Walton, Ann Macbeth and Jessie King introduced a more controlled less floral approach to their designs in metal, wood, glass, textiles and illustration, in contrast to their Art Nouveau colleagues in mainland Europe.

Through high-profile exhibitions and features in *The Studio* and *Dekorative Kunst*, Glasgow designers, in particular Mackintosh, became increasingly influential amongst the Secessionists in Austria and Germany during the early years of the 20th century. Mackintosh's buildings and interiors, especially Glasgow School of Art, the Willow Tea Room, and The Lighthouse reflect the energy, spirit of innovation and confidence inspired by the great industrial wealth generated in Glasgow in that period.

Glasgow is part of the Réseau Art Nouveau Network since 1999.

HAPPY ART NOUVEAU WORLD DAY!

More information: www.artnouveau-net.eu

