



# M216 House at Kilmacolm

## Introduction

This design for a house in the prosperous Renfrewshire village of Kilmacolm is in a style influenced by Scottish 17th-century architecture. It appears not to have been built.

**Authorship:** The unsigned drawings appear to be in Mackintosh's hand, and they were in his possession at his death.

**Status:** Unbuilt

## Chronology

### 1902

December: Drawings inscribed with month and year. <sup>1</sup>

## Description

The commission for a house at Kilmacolm may have come about as a result of Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's completion of Dunottar in the village in December 1901. This was just a few months after Mackintosh's nearby Windyhill – a private commission – was finished. The drawings are not inscribed with the name of the practice, but they are inscribed with the office address at 140 Bath Street, Glasgow. It is not known who commissioned the design. What may be the client's monogram appears below the oriel window on the E. gable, but it is indecipherable. The footprint does not appear to correspond with any house in Kilmacolm shown on the revised O.S. map published in 1913, and it therefore seems likely that it was not built. <sup>1</sup>

The crow-stepped gables, conical roofed stair turret and gabled dormer with thistle finial are all derived from Scottish architecture of the 17th century, and the design has been described by David Walker as being 'rather in the Franco-Scots style of [William] Leiper'. <sup>2</sup> This use of historical sources harks back to buildings of the 1890s by John Honeyman & Keppie on which Mackintosh worked. The depressed ogee over the front door is familiar from the Glasgow Herald building, Martyrs' Public School and Queen Margaret College Anatomy Department, and this feature was still being used by the practice as late as 1904 at 309–313 Sauchiehall Street.

The drawings are not signed, but they appear to be in Mackintosh's hand, and the fact that they remained in his possession at his death tends to confirm that he was responsible for the design. By 1902, at Windyhill and The Hill House, he had moved decisively away from such overt historicism, but writing in 1905 to F. J. Shand about Auchinibert, he expressed his willingness to design in whatever historical style the client wanted. <sup>3</sup>

## 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 M216 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 M216 has been extracted from the job books:

## Documents

## Images

## Bibliography

### Published

- David M. Walker, 'The Early Work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh', in Nikolaus Pevsner and J. M. Richards, eds, *The Anti-Rationalists*, London: Architectural Press, 1973

### Unpublished

- Hiroaki Kimura, 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh: Architectural Drawings', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Glasgow, 1982, p. 44

### Notes:

- 1: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: GLAHA 41853 (M216-003); GLAHA 41902 (M216-004); GLAHA 41903 (M216-001); GLAHA 41904 (M216-002).
- 2: O.S., Renfrewshire, 1:2500, sheet VII.05, 1913.
- 3: David M. Walker, 'The Early Work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh', in Nikolaus Pevsner and J. M. Richards, eds, *The Anti-Rationalists*, London: Architectural Press, 1973.
- 4: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: letter from Mackintosh to F. J. Shand, 15 September 1905, GLAHA 55480.

## Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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