

M303 Additions to Queen's University, Belfast

Introduction

Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh obtained details of the 1910 architectural competition for additions to Belfast's 19th-century university buildings, but it is unclear if they submitted a design.

Authorship: Mackintosh made a site visit and took notes on the existing university library.

Alternative names: Queen's College.

Status: Unbuilt

Grid reference: J334 726

Chronology

1910

July: Terms of architectural competition for additions to Queen's University, Belfast, published. ¹

14 July: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh pay two guineas for a copy of the competition conditions. ²

October: Results of competition announced. ³

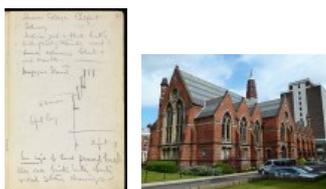
28 November: Mackintosh receives expenses for visit to Belfast. ⁴

Description

Following its elevation to university status in 1908, the former Queen's College, Belfast, embarked on a major programme of expansion. In March 1910, an architectural competition was announced with Aston Webb as assessor, and in July the terms of the contest were published. ¹ The original Tudor-style building, designed by Charles Lanyon and completed in 1849, was to be joined by new blocks for Botany, Zoology, Physics and Geology; there were to be extensions to the medical building, students' union and library (itself an addition of 1865–8 by William Henry Lynn); ² a drill hall and offices were to be provided; and sites were to be set aside for the future erection of a university hall and a vice-chancellor's house. The intended expenditure was £52,000. Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's cash book records that on 14 July 1910 they paid two guineas for a copy of the competition conditions. ³

57 entries were received, and in October the assessor's report was published. ⁴ W. H. Lynn of Belfast was awarded first place; H. Tanner and F. Dare Clapham of London came second; and in third place were A. Marshall Mackenzie & Son of London and Aberdeen. There is no mention of Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh among the unpremiered entries described in the *Builder*, and it is unclear if they submitted a design. ⁵

Mackintosh's Sketcher's Notebook includes a single page headed 'Queen's College Belfast Library', with brief notes recording the materials of Lynn's detached polychrome Gothic library: 'Interior red & black bricks / with faintly stained wood / Small columns black & / red marble', and '[Sm] size of hard pressed brick / All red brick with Bath & red stone dressings.' ⁶ Alongside these notes is a rough sketch with measurements, entitled 'Magazine Stand'.



This is the kind of information someone intending to enter the competition might have gathered on a site visit, and indeed the cash book records a sum of £6 18s for 'CRM expenses to Belfast'. ⁷

People

Clients:

-

Contractors:

-

Other:

-

Job Book

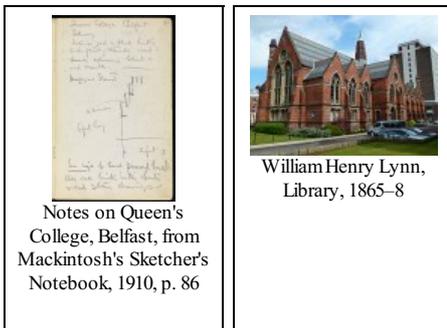
The job books of Honeyman & Keppie (later Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh) are now held by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow and include four volumes related to the Mackintosh period. The books were used by the firm to keep a project-by-project, day-by-day record of contractors, suppliers and expenditure. 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 M303 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 M303 has been extracted from the job books:

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- *Builder*, 98, 5 March 1910, pp. 266-7; 99, 9 July 1910, p. 34; 15 October 1910, pp. 443-4; 22 October 1910, pp. 460-3

Unpublished

- The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie/Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh cash book, GLAHA 53079, pp. 135, 137
- The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Sketcher's Notebook, GLAHA 53015/62

Notes:

- 1: *Builder*, 99, 9 July 1910, p. 34.
- 2: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889-1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 135.
- 3: *Builder*, 99, 15 October 1910, pp. 443-4.
- 4: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889-1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 137.

5: *Builder*, 98, 5 March 1910, pp. 266–7; *Builder*, 99, 9 July 1910, p. 34.

6: Dictionary of Irish Architects 1720–1940: www.dia.ie [accessed 11 January 2012].

7: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 135.

8: *Builder*, 99, 15 October 1910, pp. 443–4.

9: *Builder*, 99, 22 October 1910, pp. 460–3.

10: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Sketcher's Notebook, GLAHA 53015/62.

11: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 137. Mackintosh did not receive these expenses until 28 November 1910, six weeks after the competition had been decided.

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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