

History



Find out about The Mackintosh Building's past...

Hello! Welcome to The Mackintosh Building. My name is Dougie and I'm 11 years old. I work for Mr Macpherson in the rooms above the shop as a tailor's apprentice measuring men up for suits. I'm hoping that if I work hard and learn all the tricks of the trade, I'll have my own tailoring business one day! What do you want to be when you're older?

The building didn't always look like this – there used to be a set of stairs that went up the outside of the building. This is how Charlie, the head tailor, and I used to get into work. However, in 1903 a huge fire here changed everything.

I live just down the road with my ma, da and two sisters and can still remember seeing the giant flames from my bedroom window! It took two fire brigades to get the fire out using water from nearby river Earn.

After the fire, an **architect** (say *ark-ee-tekt*) called Charles Rennie Mackintosh, was asked to redesign the building for Mr Macpherson. He's the one who added the turret – my little sisters think it looks a bit like Rapunzel's tower, what do you think?

Ma says that Mr Mackintosh is quite famous and doesn't just design buildings, he's also an artist and furniture designer. Have you spotted any of his unusual designs in the house? Write them down here.

Fact:

A **tailor** (say 'tay-lor') is a person who makes fitted clothes like suits, trousers and jackets.



An **architect** is someone who designs buildings.



The Mackintosh Building today



I like living here, even if I am kept quite busy. When I get home from a long day, I still have to help ma out with the chores – apparently my sisters are too little to help!

My least favourite job is refilling the kerosene lamps – our house doesn't have electricity so we use these for light, but the kerosene smell really sticks to your skin and it gives me headaches.

Do you have to help around your house? What chores do you do?



A traditional kerosene lamp

Fact:

The **Highland Boundary Fault** crosses Scotland diagonally and separates the Highland and Lowland plates. The north of Scotland is made up of hard metamorphic rock (made through heat) and the south, of softer sedimentary rock (made from mud in rivers). When the plates rub together, they cause earth tremors or quakes.

When I'm not working or helping out around the house I like to go on long walks with my best friend Logan. The last time we went hiking we felt the earth tremor. Have you studied earthquakes at school? Mr Macpherson told me that Comrie sits on something called the '**Highland Boundary fault**' and this is why we feel mini earthquakes here sometimes.

Da says there used to be an **observatory** on top of the building that was used to measure the earthquakes – apparently, there was a really big one here in 1839. Have you felt anything during your stay?



The **seismic observatory** on Comrie Main Street, which has since been taken down.

Unruly Rulers

Who were the Saxe-Coburgs and Windsors?

Saxe-Coburg was the surname of German Prince Albert who was Queen Victoria's husband. When Victoria died **Saxe-Coburg** continued as the royal family surname. It changed to **Windsor** in 1917 because England was fighting against Germany in World War One and the King was worried British people wouldn't like a German royal family anymore - so he changed them to **Windsors**, after the castle.



King Edward VII

He loved shooting game and had an eye for the ladies! A grandad by the time he became king, he wanted peace not war.

1837

Queen Victoria

A good queen who was never 'amused'. She ruled more than a fifth of the earth's population as Empress – Wowza!



1901

1910

King George V

A boring but good king. He loved stamps but also loved his country, always trying to do the best for it.



1936

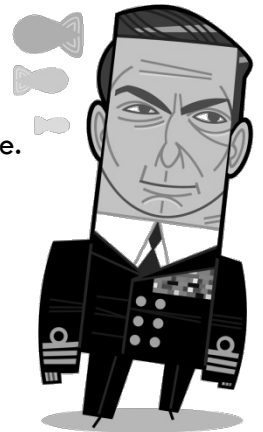
King Edward VIII

A romantic and selfish king. Married the woman he loved and 6 months later gave the throne away to his brother, George.

1936

King George VI

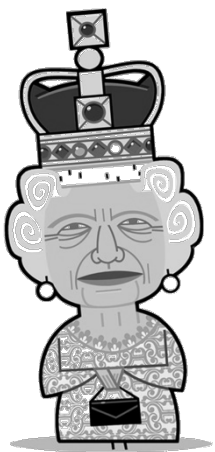
A very good king who loved his people. Even when Buckingham Palace was bombed in World War Two he stayed in London with his family to show everyone was in it together!



1952

Queen Elizabeth II

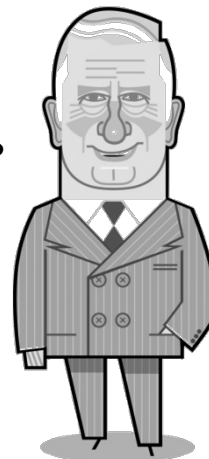
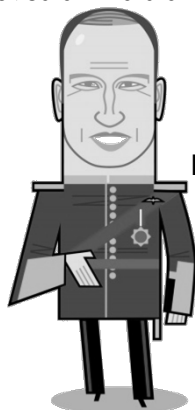
Good queen Lilibet has been on the throne the longest of all the rulers! She loves animals and has 5 corgis. Woof woof!



Who's next???

Prince Charles

Prince William





Meet King Edward VII

– who ruled when The Mackintosh Building was built



Hi Eddy!

So when did you become king?

I became king on the 22 January 1901 when I was 60.

What's your nickname?

I had a few! One was Tum-Tum (I loved to eat). You can call me Bertie.

What is your favourite thing to do?

Eating, shooting and leaving parties with new friends. I was a favourite at parties all around the world, you see.

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever

done? Mummy (that's Queen Victoria) would say there are too many naughty things to list!



What does The Mackintosh Building look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Does The Mackintosh Building look like other buildings in the area? What's different? What's the same?

The Mackintosh building that you see today was built in 1903-4 and was designed by architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh. It stands on the site of an earlier building that was destroyed by a great fire in 1903.

The exterior walls of the building are **harled** and limewashed. **Harling** is typical of Scottish **vernacular** (say *ver-nak-yu-lar*) buildings. Lime (not the fruit, silly!) mortar mix is used to cover the building and then pebbles or stone chips are thrown onto the surface. This creates a weatherproof surface which is needed in wet and windy places like Scotland.

Fact:

Vernacular buildings are traditional buildings in the style of their region..

Take a look at each side of the building, they are all very different. Can you spot the two blind dormers on the roof at the front of the building? Why do you think these were added?

It's said that the architect added them to make that side of the building appear taller and balance the building out.

What other features catch your eye as unusual?

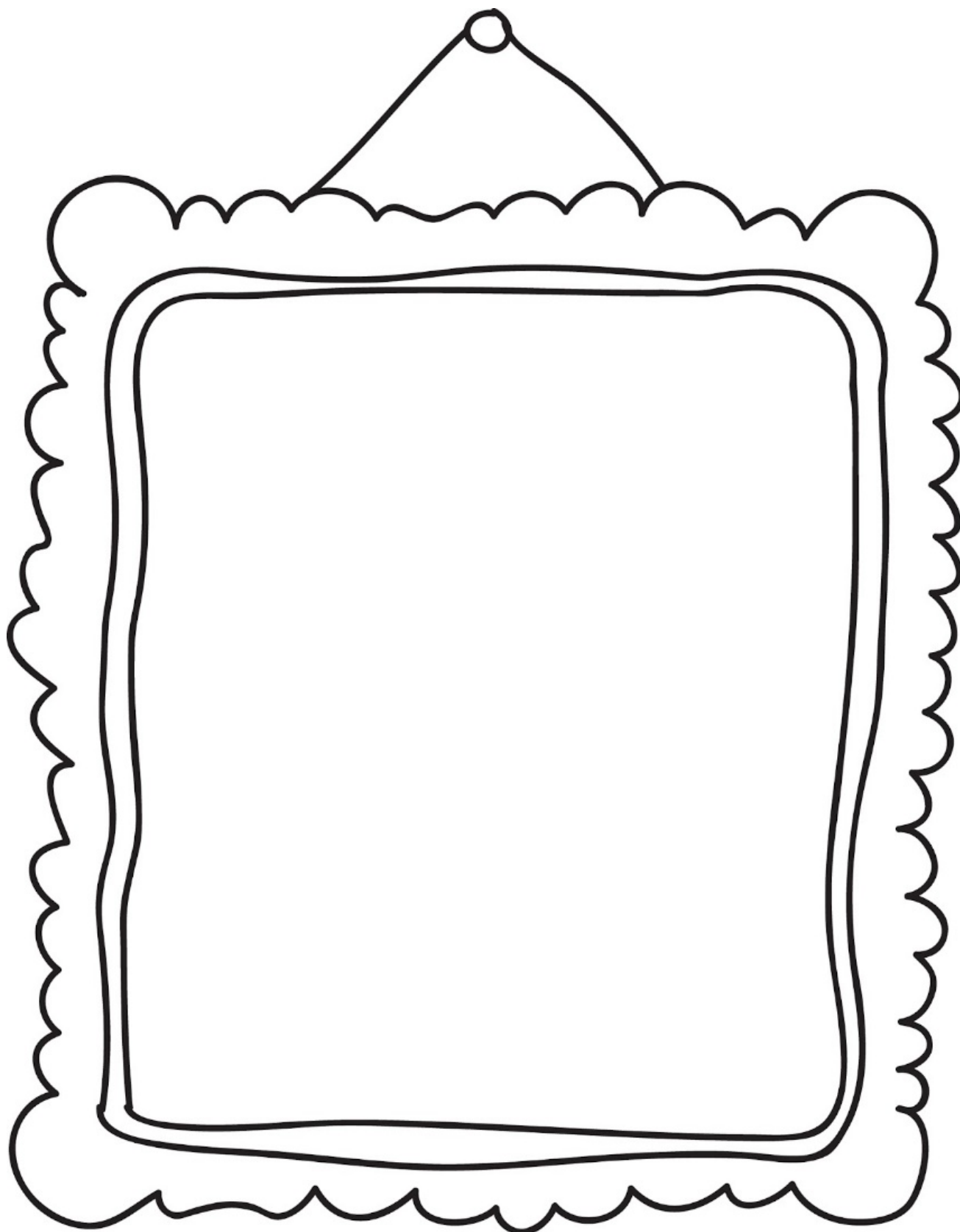




Buildings are quite easy to draw, particularly those with repeated patterns. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

Have a go at drawing The Mackintosh Building.

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are!





What is The Mackintosh Building built from?

Stone is the solid foundation of the earth. It exists as huge mountains, rocks, stones or small pebbles washed smooth by water. There are lots of different types of stone, with different colours and textures. Some are better to build with than others.

Fact:

Some buildings were built from stone that was dug out of the ground when farmers ploughed the fields, other buildings were made from stone that was quarried and cut into neat shapes and sizes. There are still many stone quarries around the country today, where people get stone out of the ground.

Stone houses were once cheaper to build than brick ones. Once we could transport bricks up and down the country on the canals and railways, brick buildings become cheaper and more popular.



The stone to build The Mackintosh Building is called Ashlar and likely came from a nearby quarry. A quarry is a place where stone is blasted out of the ground with explosives! The one in the picture shows what quarries look like now.

People who work with stone are called stonemasons. They build walls, carve the stone into shapes or add patterns to its surface. The stone window below has been carved into shapes called ogees. They use a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone.



Quest

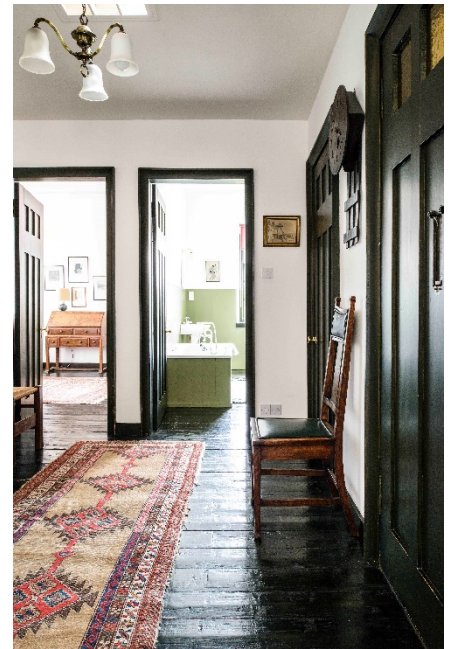


Discover more about The Mackintosh Building

The Mackintosh Building was built in 1903 by Charles Rennie Mackintosh for Peter Macpherson. That's over 100 years ago! Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Coloured floors...

Look at the floorboards, what colour are they?
All of the woodwork inside the building was originally stained dark green. When Landmark took on the flat, a lot of the green stain had been painted over.



Unique Fireplaces...

Mackintosh was not just an architect; he was an artist and designed furniture and interiors, including the distinctive fireplaces. Why not have a go at copying the pattern from the fireplace tiles on the left, into the box?
Have you seen that the curtains reflect the same pattern?

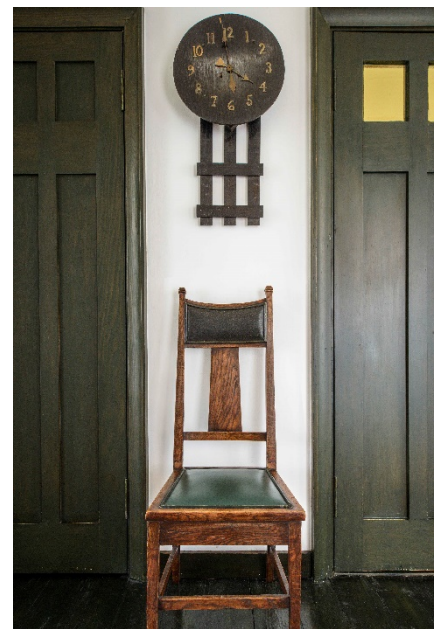


Attic Rooms

Have you been into the attic rooms? They are set up in a similar way as Dougie would have known them when he worked here as a tailor's apprentice.

Doors and Furniture

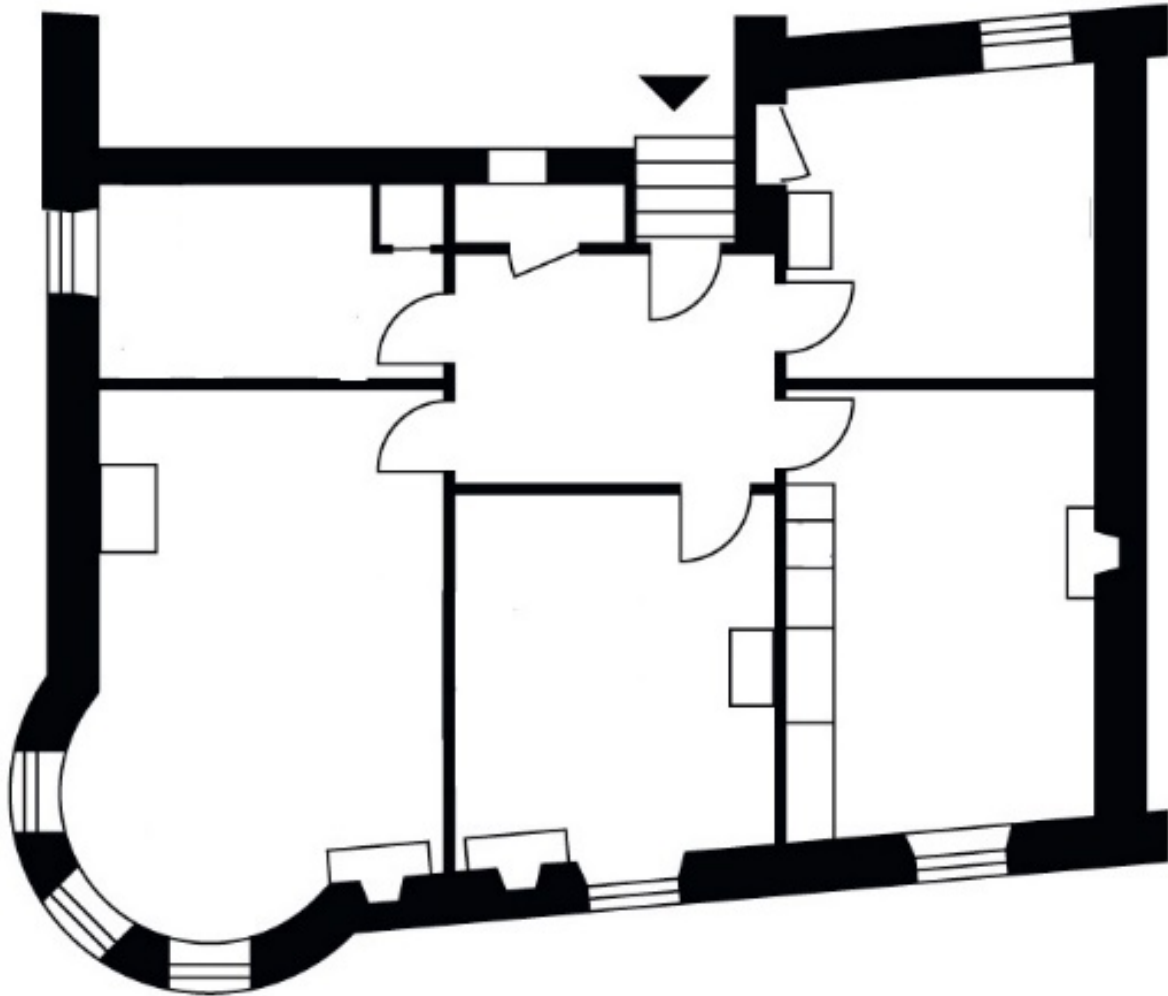
The furniture in the flat is **reproduction** Mackintosh which means they are copies of his style. The doors are all original. Do they look different from the doors in your home? In what way?





Living in The Mackintosh Building

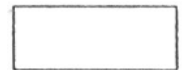
The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. The Mackintosh flat has one floor. The plans below show you the shape of each room on the ground floor. Take a walk around each room and write on the plan what each room is used for. Can you mark the bedroom you are sleeping in with a star? ★



We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Draw the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is.



Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table



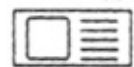
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside The Mackintosh Building. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite piece of furniture

A large empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing or describing a favourite piece of furniture.

The fireplace (is it an open fire or does it have a stove?)

A large empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing or describing a fireplace.

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

A large empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing the pattern of a rug.

In the box below, why not have a go at drawing the curved window in the sitting room?

A large empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a curved window.

Puzzle



Mackintosh Wordsearch

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and the surrounding area. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

H A E Z H W T U A E O H R T
S R R C A X P R N B I I E A
O C I R G C T E S G J K N I
T H F Z C I S E H H A Z G L
N I C I S O R L N U G G I O
I T Y T R V A A Q O R V S R
K E X E A N F H E K T G E B
C C K T D C T J F C S S D T
A T O S D R A O B R O O L F
M R X W A E R U T I N R U F
Y E V E R N A C U L A R L X
H A R L I N G E I R M O C R
G S W V B U H T A Y U R G O

MACKINTOSH
HARLING
FIRE
TAILOR

OBSERVATORY
EARTHQUAKE
ARCHITECT
DESIGNER

STONE
ARTIST
COMRIE
HIGHLANDS

VERNACULAR
KEROSENE
FLOORBOARDS
FURNITURE

How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

| |
|----|
| / |
| 16 |



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. When was The Mackintosh Building built?

1603-4

1808-9

1903-4

2001-2

2. What was Dougie's job?

A miller

Tailor's apprentice

Greengrocer

Errand boy

3. What disaster happened in Comrie 1903?

Earthquake

Flood

Fire

Hurricane

4. Who was on the throne when The Mackintosh Building was built?

(Psst... look at unruly rulers!)

Edward VII

George V

Victoria

Elizabeth II

5. What is harling?

An Olympic sport

A building technique

A dance

A type of hunting

6. Which of these did Mackintosh not design?

Interiors

Buildings

Cars

Furniture

7. Who asked Mackintosh to design his new shop?

Mr Petersen

Mr Macpherson

Mr McDougall

Mrs Pennyworth

8. Which river runs nearby?

Nile

Earn

Thames

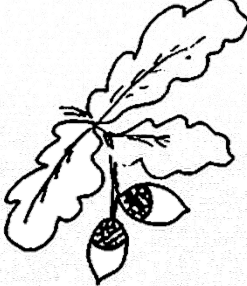
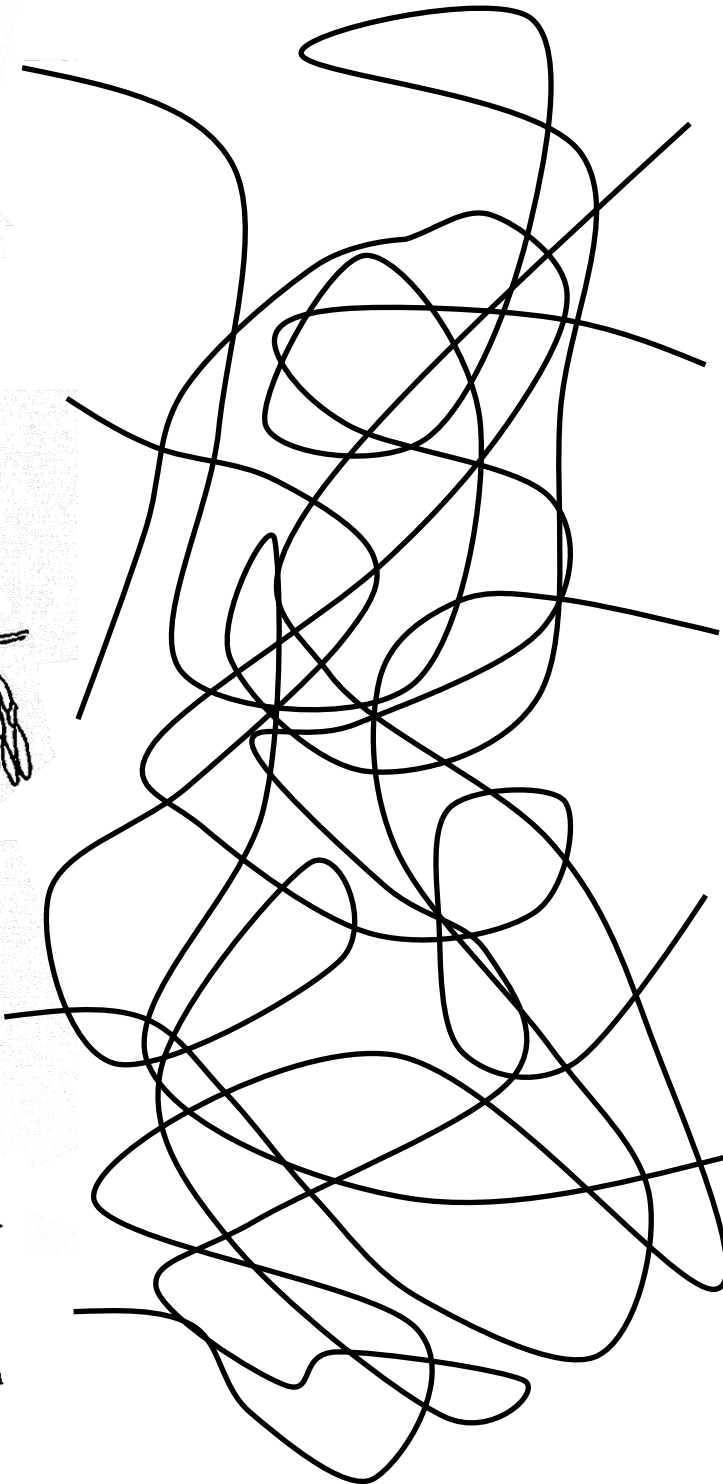
Amazon

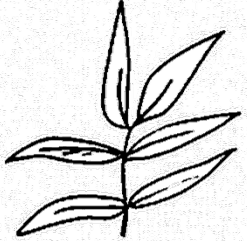
To find the answers skip a page...

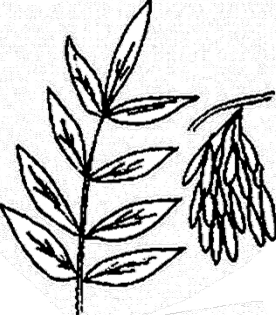


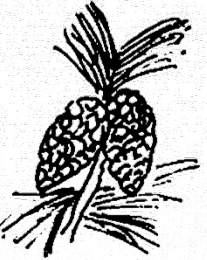
Which leaf belongs to which tree?


Match the leaf to the correct tree.

1.  

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

Horse Chestnut

Willow

Pine

Ash

Oak

Did you match them correctly? Put your score in the box.

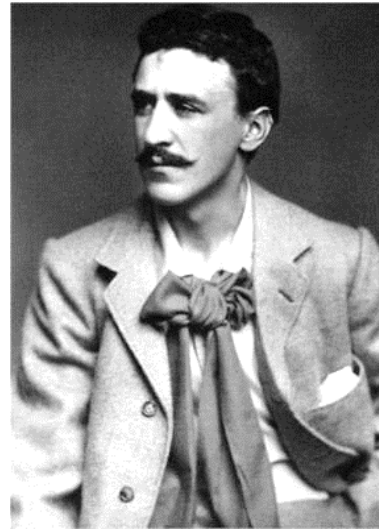
Look out for these when you go for a walk!



Answer sheet:

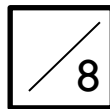
Quiz answers:

1. 1903-4
2. Tailor's Apprentice
3. Fire
4. Edward VII
5. A building technique
6. Cars
7. Mr Macpherson
8. Earn



Charles
Rennie
Mackintosh –
designer of
The
Mackintosh
Building

How many did you get right?



Imagine you worked here in 1905. Write an acrostic poem describing life at The Mackintosh Building. Each line has to begin with the letter shown.

M

A

C

K

I

N

T

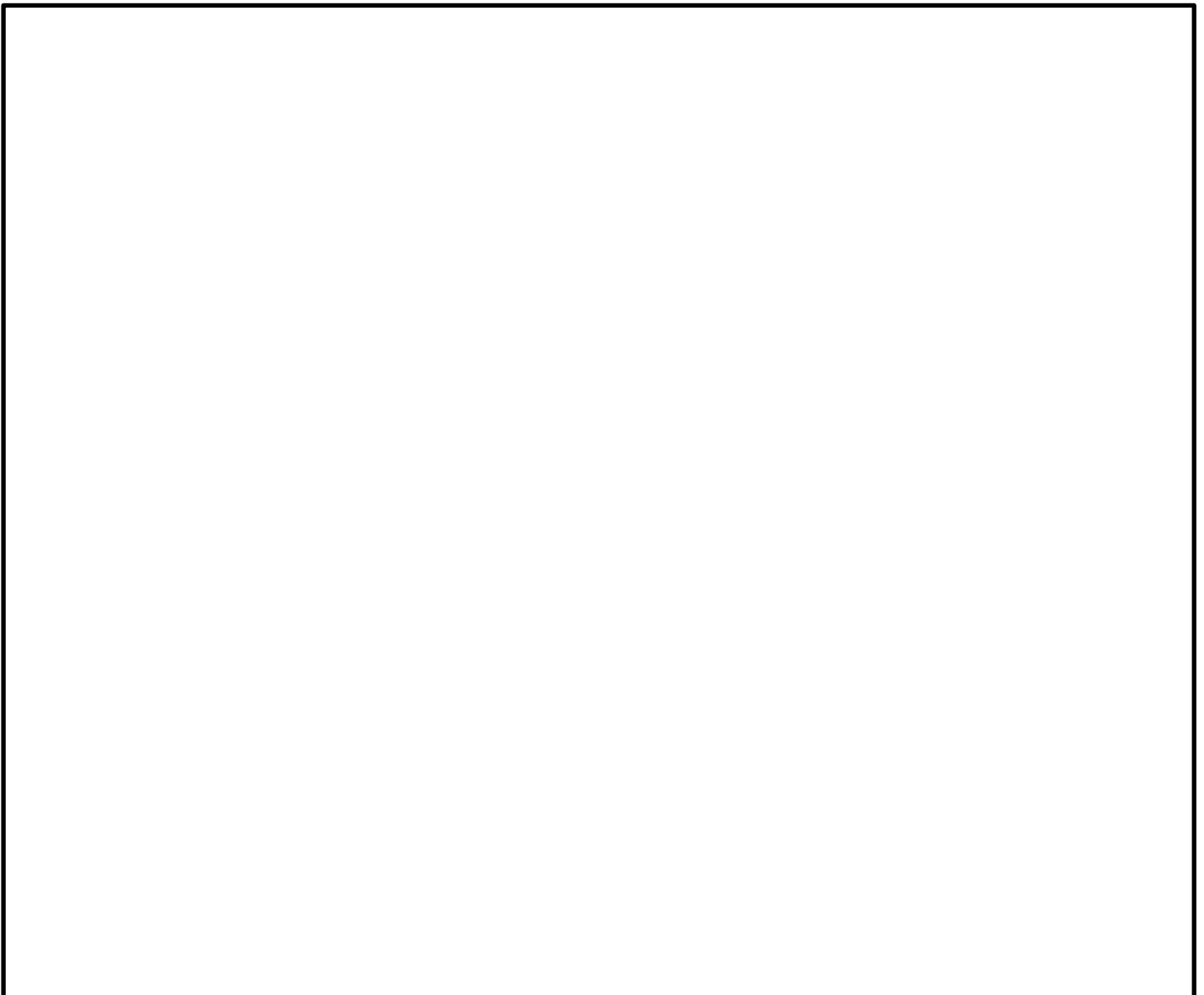
O

S

H

Design your own Scottish home

Architects like Mackintosh use blue prints to design new buildings – blue prints are plans or technical drawings that show what the finished building will look like. Why not have a go at designing your own building below using blue prints like the examples shown.





Bake some shortbread

Shortbread was originally a Scottish medieval biscuit bread. The left over ingredients from the bread was made into biscuits. Through time butter was added to make the shortbread that we have today. Butter was an expensive ingredient so shortbreads became a special treat for special occasions like Christmas.

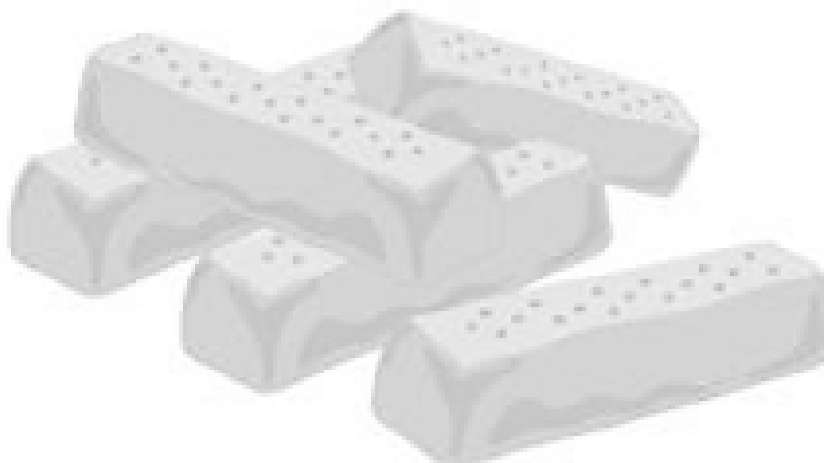
Here's a simple recipe for you to try. You might need the help of an adult.

200g plain flour
50g caster sugar plus extra for
sprinkling
75g fine semolina

Zest of ½ lemon
160g cold unsalted butter
Pinch of salt

Remember to pre-heat the oven: fan 150 °C or electric 170 °C: Gas 3.5

- Grease a shallow cake tin
- Mix the flour, caster sugar, semolina and a pinch of salt in a bowl
- Add the lemon zest and butter and rub them into the mixture until it feels like breadcrumbs
- Lightly press the mixture into the cake tin (don't press it in too much). Use a knife to draw the lines where you want it to break when it's cooked and prick it all over with a fork.
- Bake for 30-35 minutes until golden
- Leave to cool and then sprinkle some sugar on top
- Carefully cut into fingers or slices along your lines and then they're ready to eat!

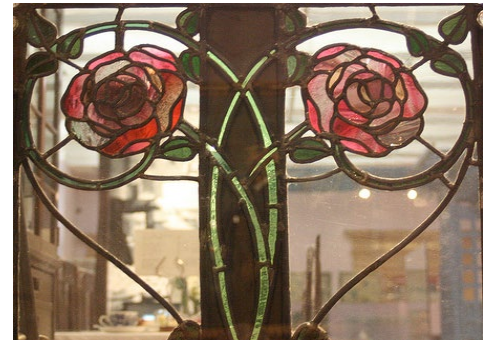
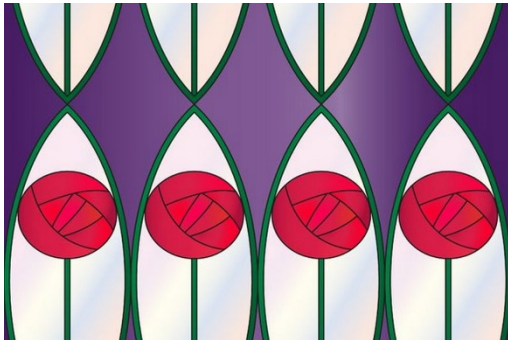




Mackintosh, the artist...

As well as being an architect, Charles Rennie Mackintosh was a designer and artist.

A lot of his work contained a repeated rose **motif** (say *moh-teef*). In the box below, have a go at creating your own repeating design. It doesn't have to be a rose, it can be anything you like.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to create their own repeating design.