

AN INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION



Our love of the Art & Craft of Architecture gives Clients solutions which are effectively and uniquely suited to every demanding brief.

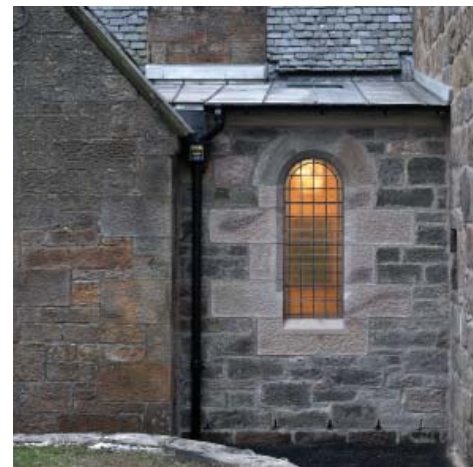
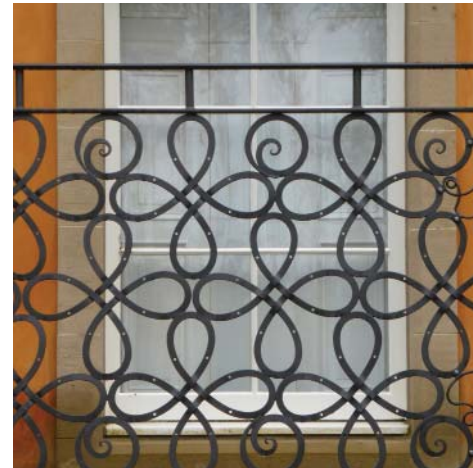
Our Clients vary from community groups to institutions of international renown, from sole traders to multi-national companies and from tenements to country houses. For all these, the breadth and depth of our experience offers unique solutions. For us, style is not an issue, modernist to vernacular, what matters is the sensitivity and effectiveness of the solution.

Our projects vary from Masterplanning new settlements to Conservation Plans, new buildings, interventions, repairs and exhibitions to furniture design. All this is done with an emphasis on environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Our effectiveness is based on listening to the client's wishes and meeting their budgets and programmes. We use our deep knowledge of architecture and the breadth of our experience to help produce results with sensitivity and lasting integrity. Our creativity is often linked with collaboration with leading artists and craftspeople. We tailor services to our Clients' needs.

The Practice is located in a studio in Edinburgh's Old Town, and for more than 30 years has limited itself to approximately 8 Architects and a Practice Manager to ensure that Clients always get personal attention.

We encourage Clients to visit our studio on Victoria Terrace to see for themselves how we work and what we are designing at the moment.



SUSTAINABILITY



The Practice invented* the simplest rule in Sustainable thinking - the '400 Yard Rule', where building materials that are within 400 'yards' (excepting transport over water) can be said to be ecological, vernacular and sustainable. Social and economic sustainability are just as important as energy in use; and embodied energy used in a buildings construction often provides a very good reason for retaining existing fabric.

Long lasting solutions, materials, good workmanship and the orientation of buildings are equally important. Good Business Planning and economic realism, along with cost control, are key to the long term success of our projects. A degree of built-in flexibility can accommodate shifts in use or changing requirements.

When work is appreciated and loved by people then its social sustainability is ensured. Beauty and practicality are essential components of this.

**Historic Scotland Traditional Buildings Conference 1997, Proceedings, p.43*

THE ART & CRAFT OF ARCHITECTURE



Our work relates to the hand as well as the eye; making buildings a pleasure as well as useful depends on satisfying all the senses. A large proportion of our projects include the design of furniture and lighting. We enjoy collaborating with artists, craftsmen and landscape architects from an early stage to produce unique work.

Art that is integrated into the building is a powerful tool in making successful projects; we avoid frames and plinths. The Practice is good at commissioning a broad range of art, often resulting in innovative work which does not rely on standard solutions or choices. We are familiar with carving and work in bronze and marble as well as contemporary media, always encouraging the best from the artists.

Craftspeople provide an enthusiasm that brings lasting satisfaction to clients and users. Knowing how to commission it is part of the Practice's work, and we challenge craftspeople to achieve the very best through dialogue and collaboration. Many of the best craftspeople in the country working in wood, metal, stone and plaster have collaborated with the Practice.

NEW BUILD



The Art & Craft of Architecture applies to new design at all scales. Whatever the scale, our approach of how to achieve good design applies. The Practice aims to get a very thorough understanding of the Client's wishes, the issues and context before considering the most appropriate design and style.

At a large scale, the Practice has experience of several 'Scottish Sustainable Community Initiative' projects, eg. An Camas Mòr in the Cairngorms National Park. As professional members of the Princes Foundation, the Practice places emphasis on community consultation and properly understanding a place before considering place-making. We consider employment a fundamental requisite, along with the pleasure an attractive place can bring. Our expertise in economic, social as well as environmental sustainability gives practical solutions that people like and our fundamental aim is to make places where everyone would wish to live. Work of this scale is always done in association with other firms.

At a smaller scale, our knowledge of materials and workmanship gives us an approach which is not so common. The Practice enjoys working on new houses and their landscape setting where appropriate. Some of the intangibles which are given close attention are lighting and acoustics, along with pattern, colour and texture. Ironmongery, furniture, carpets and stained glass are many aspects covered by the Practice.

At whatever scale, our approach is methodical, based on good communications and aims to see excellent results.

REPAIRS, ALTERATIONS & CONSERVATION



A thorough and sometimes radical approach is taken to dealing with existing buildings, based on a love of history, an understanding of the spirit behind the original building and a huge amount of practical experience.

Repairs treat the fundamental issues. We use design to give economic and long lasting solutions, using local materials and excellent craftsmanship wherever practicable. The Practice has considerable expertise in penetrating damp, rot treatment, stonework, timber and woodwork and slating.

Alterations have to work in harmony with the existing whilst giving the building new life that will allow it to function well for the future. Immense creativity and sensitivity is required to do this in a way that is sympathetic.

Preparing Feasibility Studies and looking at all different aspects affecting a building often forms the start of a new project and well researched Conservation Statements support Applications to the Local Authorities. We are versed in providing Quinquennial Inspections through our longstanding relationship with a number of Churches and other bodies.

Conservation Management Plans provide the most cost-effective way of preserving or enhancing cultural significance and often much improve the understanding of the building. They also often provide welcome public and expert support and make a good basis for fund-raising.

Fund-raising assistance is a normal part of working with many historic buildings projects and the Practice has achieved extremely high levels of grant assistance for many clients.

Ben Tindall is RIAS Conservation Accredited at the highest level and the Practice is engaged with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in Scotland (SPABiS), the Sir Patrick Geddes Trust, the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland (AHSS), the Garden History Society and many similar organisations.