

Charles Rennie Mackintosh

Charles Rennie Mackintosh was a Scottish architect, watercolourist and designer born in the Victorian era. His designs are instantly recognisable around the world. 2018 marks 150 years since the day he was born.

Early Life

Mackintosh was born on 7th June 1868, in Glasgow. As a child, it was clear that Mackintosh had a talent for drawing and design. At around the age of 15, he began evening classes at Glasgow School of Art. A year later, he became an apprentice architect in Glasgow. His talent grew and he won prizes for his work. With his prize money, Mackintosh took a tour of Italy to study classical architecture.

During his time at Glasgow School of Art, Mackintosh met three friends. The group became known as 'The Four'. They were Mackintosh, James Herbert McNair, and sisters; Margaret and Frances Macdonald. They produced new art and designs which became known as the 'Glasgow Style'. In 1899, McNair and Frances Macdonald married. Mackintosh married Margaret Macdonald the following year.

What is an Architect?

An architect is a person who designs, plans and supervises the construction of buildings.

Did You Know?

The Four were also called the Spook School because many people thought their work looked distorted.

The Willow Tearooms

Glaswegian woman, Miss Catherine Cranston, asked Mackintosh and his wife to design one of her famous tearooms. When it opened in 1903, it was the place to be seen! The Willow Tearooms was the only tearoom designed both inside and out by Mackintosh. Diners could sit on Mackintosh's famous high back chairs, surrounded by his unique works of art. The original Mackintosh-designed tearooms are currently being restored in time for the 150th anniversary of Mackintosh's birth.





Although Mackintosh died in 1928, his metalwork, textiles and stained glass are still popular today. His delicate 'Glasgow Rose' design is used on fabric, stained glass, furniture and jewellery.

Mackintosh's greatest achievement was Glasgow School of Art. His designs were used when the school was rebuilt in 1896.

In May 2014, part of the building was destroyed by a fire. A project to restore it quickly began and it was due to be completed in 2018. Unfortunately, just over a week after what would have been Mackintosh' 150th birthday, Glasgow School of Art was devastated by another fire. This time, the Mackintosh masterpiece was extensively damaged.

Did You Know?

Charles Rennie Mackintosh features on the Scottish £100 note.



Questions

1. Where was Charles Rennie Mackintosh born?

2. Name two buildings Mackintosh designed.

_____ and _____

3. Which word in the text means 'to repair'?

4. Tick the sentences to show if they are true or false

T F

Charles Rennie Mackintosh travelled to France to study classical architecture.

The Four were also called the Spook School.

Mackintosh married Frances Macdonald in 1899.

2018 is the 150th anniversary of Mackintosh's death.

5. Why do you think Charles Rennie Mackintosh's rose design is still popular today?

6. Match the sentences

1883 ●

● Glasgow School of Art is destroyed by a second fire.

1900 ●

● The Willow Tearooms opened.

2018 ●

● Charles married Margaret Macdonald.

1903 ●

● Charles began evening classes at Glasgow School of Art.

7. Find two words that describe Charles' architecture or pieces of art.

8. Find two facts in the text which tell you Charles Rennie Mackintosh is a significant individual today.

Answers

1. Where was Charles Rennie Mackintosh born?

Charles Rennie Mackintosh was born in Glasgow, Scotland.

2. Name two buildings Mackintosh designed.

The Willow Tearooms and Glasgow School of Art

3. Which word in the text means 'to repair'?

restore

4. Tick the sentences to show if they are true or false

T F

Charles Rennie Mackintosh travelled to France to study classical architecture.

The Four were also called the Spook School.

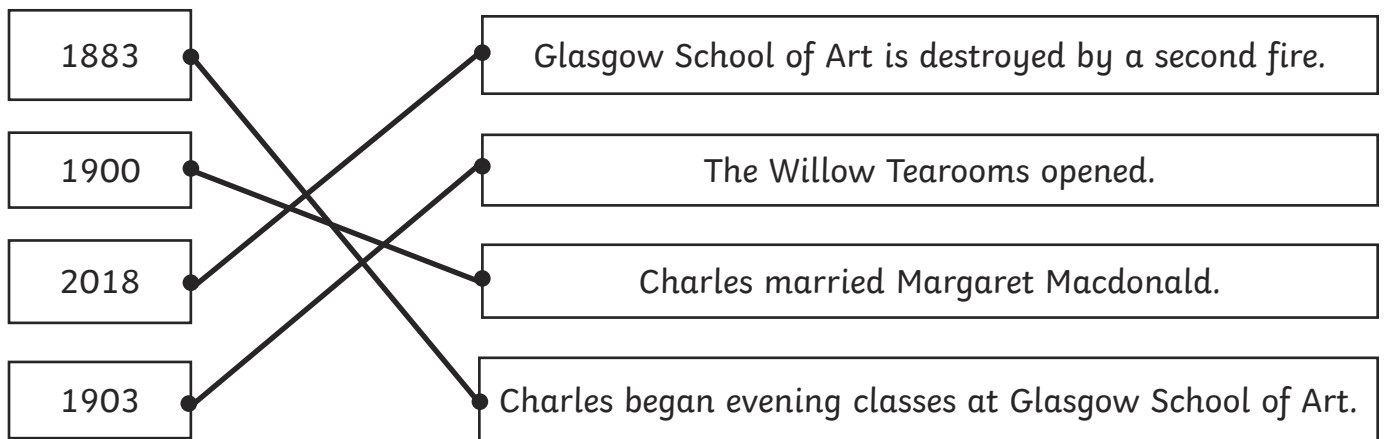
Mackintosh married Frances Macdonald in 1899.

2018 is the 150th anniversary of Mackintosh's death.

5. Why do you think Charles Rennie Mackintosh's rose design is still popular today?

Example answer: Charles' rose design is still popular today because the design is unique.

6. Match the sentences



7. Find two words that describe Charles' architecture or pieces of art.

Accept any of the following: colourful, delicate, distorted, unique.

8. Find two facts in the text which tell you Charles Rennie Mackintosh is a significant individual today.

Accept any of the following: His face is on a Scottish £100 note, his designs are still popular today, Glasgow School of Art was refurbished at a cost of £35 million and the Willow Tearooms are reopening in 2018.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh

Charles Rennie Mackintosh was an influential Scottish watercolourist, designer and architect. His beautiful metalwork, textiles and stained glass are still admired all over the world. 2018 marks 150 years since the day he was born.

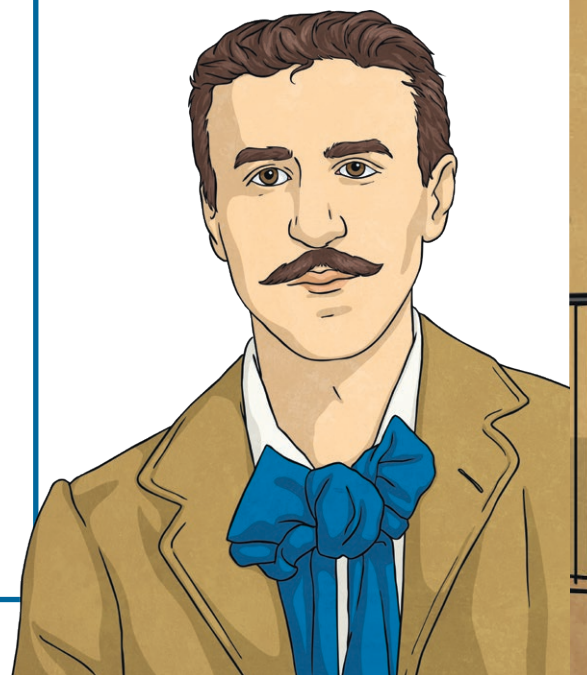
Mackintosh was born on 7th June 1868, in Townhead, Glasgow. He was the fourth child of Margaret Rennie and William Mackintosh. From a young age, Mackintosh had a natural flair for drawing and design.

At around the age of 15, Mackintosh enrolled at Glasgow School of Art. A year later, he became an apprentice architect for John Hutchison in Glasgow. His talent grew and he quickly began to win prizes for his unique pieces of work. In 1890 Mackintosh won the 'Alexander Thomson Travelling Studentship'. With his £60 prize money, he embarked on a tour of Italy to study classical architecture. The trip had a profound influence on his style.

During his time at Glasgow School of Art, Mackintosh met three friends. The group became known as 'The Four'. They were Mackintosh, James Herbert McNair, and sisters; Margaret and Frances Macdonald. They produced new art and designs and formed the 'Glasgow Style'. They were also referred to as the Spook School because many Glaswegians thought their work looked like distorted figures.

In 1899, McNair and Frances Macdonald married. Mackintosh married Margaret Macdonald the following year. Mackintosh and Margaret worked together on many projects, the most famous being the Cranston tearooms.

Glasgow woman, Miss Catherine Cranston, asked Mackintosh and his wife, to design one of her famous tearooms. When it opened in 1903, it was the place to frequent. The Willow Tearooms was the only tearoom with both its interior and exterior designed by Mackintosh. Diners could sit on Mackintosh's stylish high back chairs, surrounded by his iconic works of art and Art Nouveau light fittings. The original Mackintosh-designed tearooms are currently being restored in time for the 150th anniversary of Mackintosh's birth.





What is Art Nouveau?

Art Nouveau is a decorative style of art that was popular between 1890-1910. It was inspired by the curved lines of plants and flowers. Mackintosh's delicate 'Glasgow Rose' design is still used on fabric, stained glass, furniture and jewellery.

Mackintosh's Legacy

Although Mackintosh died in 1928, his work is still celebrated in Glasgow today. Art lovers visit the city to admire and celebrate his work, from iconic pieces of furniture in museums to architectural masterpieces such as Mackintosh's greatest architectural achievement, Glasgow School of Art.

His distinctive designs were used when the school was rebuilt in 1896.

In May 2014, part of the building was destroyed by a fire. A project to restore it quickly began and it was due to be completed in 2018. Tragically, just over a week after what would have been Mackintosh' 150th birthday, Glasgow School of Art was engulfed by another fire. This time, the Mackintosh masterpiece was extensively damaged.



Questions

1. Which of these art mediums did Charles Rennie Mackintosh not specialise in? Tick one.
- Drawing Painting Sculpting Architecture

2. Find the word in the text that means 'respected'?

3. Why were 'The Four' also referred to as the 'Spook School'?

4. Which phrase demonstrates that Charles was artistic from a young age?

5. Draw a line to match the date with the event

1903 ●	● Mackintosh marries Margaret MacDonald.
1928 ●	● The Willow Tearooms open.
1896 ●	● Mackintosh dies at the age of 60.
1900 ●	● Glasgow School of Art was rebuilt with Mackintosh's designs.
1890 ●	● Charles travels to Italy to study classical architecture.

6. What do you think was an important event in Mackintosh's life? Explain your answer.

7. Find two words that describe Mackintosh's artistic style.

8. Why are the Willow Tearooms described as unique?

9. State two facts which provide evidence that Charles Rennie Mackintosh is a significant individual today?

Answers

1. Which of these art mediums did Charles Rennie Mackintosh not specialise in? Tick one.
- Drawing Painting **Sculpting** Architecture

2. Find the word in the text that means 'respected'?

admired

3. Why were 'The Four' also referred to as the 'Spook School'?

The Four were also referred to as the 'Spook School' because their designs looked like distorted figures.

4. Which phrase demonstrates that Charles was artistic from a young age?

He had a natural flair for drawing and design.

5. Draw a line to match the date with the event

1903	Mackintosh marries Margaret MacDonald.
1928	The Willow Tearooms open.
1896	Mackintosh dies at the age of 60.
1900	Glasgow School of Art was rebuilt with Mackintosh's designs.
1890	Charles travels to Italy to study classical architecture.

6. What do you think was an important event in Mackintosh's life? Explain your answer.

Example answer: Charles' trip to Northern Italy was a key event in his life because it influenced his artistic style.

7. Find two words that describe Mackintosh's artistic style.

Accept any of the following: beautiful, unique, distorted, decorative, iconic, delicate.

8. Why are the Willow Tearooms described as unique?

The Willow Tearooms are unique because it is the only tearoom Mackintosh designed both inside and out.

9. State two facts which provide evidence that Charles Rennie Mackintosh is a significant individual today?

Example answer: two facts are; Glasgow School of Art was being restored at a cost of £35 million and the Willow Tearooms are being renovated and will reopen in 2018.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh

Charles Rennie Mackintosh is Scotland's most celebrated architect, watercolourist and designer of the 20th century. He is a well-known figure of the British Arts and Craft movement and his bespoke furniture, stained glass, metalwork and textiles are instantly recognisable today. 2018 marks the 150th anniversary of his birth.

Mackintosh was born on 7th June 1868, in Townhead, Glasgow. He was the fourth child of Margaret Rennie and William Mackintosh, a chief clerk for the City of Glasgow Police. From a young age, Mackintosh had a natural flair for drawing and design.

At around the age of 15, Mackintosh enrolled in drawing and painting classes at Glasgow School of Art. A year later, he became an apprentice architect for John Hutchison in Glasgow. His talent grew and he was quickly rewarded for his illustrious style. He won several awards, including the prestigious 'Alexander Thomson Travelling Studentship', which took him on an architectural tour of Italy. During his tour, Mackintosh spent hours sketching classical buildings around Northern Italy. His style was greatly influenced by this experience.

During his time at Glasgow School of Art, Mackintosh met three lifelong friends who would have a profound impact on his artistic style. The group became known as 'The Four'. They were Mackintosh, James Herbert McNair, and sisters; Margaret and Frances Macdonald. They produced new art and designs and defined the 'Glasgow Style'. They were also referred to as the Spook School because many Glaswegians thought their work looked like distorted human forms.

In 1899, McNair and Frances Macdonald married and Mackintosh married Margaret Macdonald the following year. Mackintosh and Margaret worked together on many projects, the most famous being the Cranston tearooms.

Glasgow woman Miss Catherine Cranston, a renowned tearoom entrepreneur, asked Mackintosh to design one of her famous tearooms. Cranston was known to be one of Mackintosh's biggest supporters even though at the time he was a relatively unknown artist.



When it opened in 1903, The Willow Tearooms was the place to frequent. It was the only tearoom whose interior and exterior was designed by Mackintosh. Diners could sit on Mackintosh's distinctive high back chairs, surrounded by his iconic works of art and Art Nouveau light fittings. Even the menus were said to be designed by Mackintosh. The original Mackintosh-designed tearooms are currently being restored in time for the 150th anniversary of Mackintosh's birth.



What is Art Nouveau?

Art Nouveau is a decorative style of art that was popular between 1890-1910. It was inspired by the curved lines of plants and flowers. Mackintosh's delicate 'Glasgow Rose' design still features on fabric, stained glass, furniture, and jewellery.

Although Mackintosh died in 1928, his creativity is still celebrated in Glasgow today. Art lovers visit the city to admire and celebrate his work, from exquisite pieces of furniture in museums to architectural masterpieces such as Mackintosh's greatest architectural achievement, Glasgow School of Art.

In May 2014, part of the historic building was destroyed by a fire. A project to restore to its former glory quickly began and it was due to be completed in 2018. The cost of the restoration was said to be around £35 million.

Tragically, just over a week after what would have been Charles' 150th birthday, Glasgow School of Art was engulfed by another fire. This time, the Mackintosh masterpiece was extensively damaged. The fire ripped through the building leaving just a blackened carcass. Art enthusiasts from around the globe still believe it is important to preserve the world-famous Mackintosh building.



Questions

1. What is said to be Mackintosh's greatest achievement?

2. Who was **not** a member of The Four? Tick one.
 Margaret MacDonald Catherine Cranston
 James Herbert Nair Frances MacDonald
3. Which word in the text means 'custom made'?

4. What does the phrase 'restore to its former glory' mean?

5. Which aspect of Charles' life do you think was the most important? Explain your answer.

6. State two facts which provide evidence that Charles Rennie Mackintosh is a significant individual today.

7. Find three words in the text that describe Mackintosh's style.

8. Write in chronological order 4 key events in Charles' life.

9. Why is it ironic that Charles was given little recognition in Glasgow whilst he was alive? Give a reason for your answer.

10. Summarise Charles Rennie Mackintosh's life in 30 words or less.

Answers

- What is said to be Mackintosh's greatest achievement?
Mackintosh's greatest achievement is Glasgow School of Art.
- Who was **not** a member of The Four? Tick one.

<input type="radio"/> Margaret MacDonald	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Catherine Cranston
<input type="radio"/> James Herbert Nair	<input type="radio"/> Frances MacDonald
- Which word in the text means 'custom made'?
bespoke
- What does the phrase 'restore to its former glory' mean?
The phrase 'restore to its former glory' means to bring something back to its original condition.
- Which aspect of Charles' life do you think was the most important? Explain your answer.
Example answer: Charles' trip to Northern Italy was a key event in his life because it influenced his artistic style.
- State two facts which provide evidence that Charles Rennie Mackintosh is a significant individual today.
Example answer: Two facts are; Glasgow School of Art is being restored at a cost of £35 million and the Willow Tearooms are being renovated and will reopen in 2018.
- Find three words in the text that describe Mackintosh's style.
Accept any of the following: illustrious, distorted, distinctive, decorative, delicate, exquisite bespoke.
- Write in chronological order 4 key events in Charles' life.
Example answer: 1890 – Mackintosh travels to Italy, 1900 Mackintosh marries Margaret Macdonald, 1903 The Willow Tea Room opens, 1928 Mackintosh dies at the age of 60.
- Why is it ironic that Charles was given little recognition in Glasgow whilst he was alive? Give a reason for your answer.
Example answer: It is ironic because Glasgow celebrates his creativity today for example, the opening of the Willow Tearoom and renovation of Glasgow School of Art.
- Summarise Charles Rennie Mackintosh's life in 30 words or less.
Example answer: Charles Rennie Mackintosh was a Glaswegian designer, architect and artist. He designed several iconic buildings around Glasgow including the Glasgow School of Art. His work is still popular today.