

Highland Fling: October 17-28, 2008

Scotland with Barton Phelps, FAIA and Stephen Harby, FAAR



Scotland offers the traveler a richly layered experience. We will peel back these layers of geology, history, architecture, food, and—most notably—drink! Our specially crafted itinerary offers our small group of friends many special private visits beginning upon arrival with our stay at Grey Walls the 1901 Edwardian country house designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens; we have the house to ourselves! Our ten night sojourn will offer the best of Edinburgh and Glasgow (Scotland's and the world's two exceptional cities of art and history) and a stay by the sea in Argyll. Forays to the Hebrides and to the Highlands will be made, and we will make in depth visits to the work of architecture greats, Mackintosh, the Adam brothers, and Alexander "Greek" Thomson. In addition to indulging ourselves with a "wee dram" from time to time, pursuits on the links as well as with brush and pen may be indulged!

This unique itinerary has been conceived and crafted by Barton Phelps, FAIA and Stephen Harby, FAAR. Both Yale trained architects, Barton Phelps is Principal of Barton Phelps & Associates, Architects and Planners, Los Angeles. He studied with Sir James Stirling and later assisted with design of the British Library in the London office of Sir Colin St. John Wilson. A noted designer, he is a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and has served as national chair of its Committee on Design. He currently serves as design reviewer for Overseas Building Operations of the U.S. Department of State. A former Professor at UCLA, he teaches and writes about cultural geography of the built environment. Stephen Harby was a fellow at the American Academy in Rome in 2000 and is a visiting lecturer at the Yale School of Architecture where he directs the summer program in Rome. A painter in watercolor, he will conduct workshops in sketching and watercolor during the trip.

Above, view of Edinburgh. Below, Grey Walls, Gullane, Sir Edwin Lutyens



Daily Itinerary

Day 1, Friday, October 17, 2008, Travel

Depart from home independently for next day arrival in Edinburgh.

Day 2, Saturday, October 18, Gullane

Arrive Edinburgh to be met and transferred individually to Grey Walls in Gullane (near Edinburgh), our private home for the next two nights.

Grey Walls was designed in 1901 for the Hon. Alfred Lyttleton by Sir Edwin Lutyens. The core of the house is a geometrically ingenious plan with a diagonal approach to a semi-circular motor court and an axial shift to the orthogonally planned house and walled-gardens beyond—the latter designed by Lutyens life-long collaborator Gertrude Jekyll. An addition designed by noted

Edinburgh from Neoclassical Calton Hill

Scottish architect, Sir Robert Lorimer was built in 1911.

For the rest of the day you will be able to explore the house and gardens, play golf at Muirfield, which the house overlooks (with prior booking), or participate in the first of several sketching workshops.

Tonight we will gather and toast our good fortune for being here together before tucking into our first of many hearty Scottish meals!

Day 3, Sunday, October 19, Gullane

Today we will make an excursion to St. Andrews passing by the engineering marvel of the Firth of Forth Railway Bridge (1883-90). In St. Andrews we will visit the Cathedral (1160-1318), now a ruin where Robert the Bruce rode his horse down the aisle at the consecration just to let the bishop know who was in charge!

At the University, Scotland's oldest, dating from 1411, we will tour the old colleges as well as Andrew Melville Hall, a 1967 residential project by noted English architect James Stirling.

Lunch will be at the Old Course Hotel, overlooking the the terminal moraine of the world's oldest and perhaps most picturesque golf course that has set the look of all courses since!

Following our late afternoon return to Grey Walls drinks and dinner will be served.

Day 4, Monday, October 20, Gullane to Edinburgh

Bidding farewell to Grey Walls this morning, we will head south to the Borders region for a visit to Floors Castle, the largest inhabited castle in Scotland, built for the dukes of Roxburghe in 1721 by William Adam and modified





by Thomas Playfair with the addition of turrets and towers in the 1840s. From Floors moving on in time, we will visit Mellerstain House considered to be one of Robert Adam's finest creations, completed in the 1770s.

Then, we will head north to Edinburgh to check into the Caledonian Hotel (built 1898-1902 as the flagship for the Caledonian Railway) where a refreshing dip in its indoor pool or a walk along Princes Street awaits us and later we gather together tonight for dinner in one of the hotel's restaurants.

Day 5 Tuesday, October 21, Edinburgh

Edinburgh's many sites beckon! We'll fill the day with the best from a list which could occupy us for weeks focussing on the "Athens of the north" as a seat of power (Royal and parliamentary today) dramatically expressed through the siting of its monuments and the planning of its New Town from the mid-18th century.

There is no planned group dinner tonight so that Edinburgh's many fine restaurants can be explored.

Old Quadrangle, University of Ediburgh, Robert Adam

Day 6, Wednesday, October 22, Edinburgh to Oban (Isle of Eriska)

Today we head to the west and the coast of Argyll. Along the way we will make stops at Hopetoun House, an other grand assay of Robert and John Adam from 1767 and at the town of Stirling, home of Scotland's oldest castle.

The Isle of Eriska is on the west coast in Argyll, and we have chosen it for its dramatic scenery, located as it is in "one of the of the world's most celebrated rift valleys, and born of the cataclysmic upheavals of more than 600 million years ago, the formation of the island is largely of schist and slate with the lower ground to the west as a raised beach from the island. The partly



Hopetoun House

submerged Crannog, or fortified dwelling, dating from the Bronze Age around 200 B.C and situated some 200 metres in the channel to the east of the bridge, marks the earliest recorded human history of the island." We will spend the three nights here in a baronial house from 1884 designed by Hyppolite Blanc and built by a branch of the Suart family.

Day 7, Thursday, October 23, Isle of Eriska

The seventh day...we will have a well earned day of leisure with the possibility of walks, another watercolor sketching workshop, and a possible visit to nearby Oban to sample the wares of the eponymous single malt distillery, one of the oldest in Scotland.

Day 8, Friday, October 24, Isle of Eriska

Today we will make an excursion to the Hebrides Islands of Mull, Staffa and Iona. St. Columba (521-97) came to Iona in 563 and founded a monastery there, establishing this place as the first seat of Christianity in Scotland.

Day 9, Saturday, October 25, Isle of Eriska to Glasgow

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship awaits us today at Blair Castle in the Highlands, so we will make an early departure for the two to three hour drive north to Perthshire. The Glenfiddich Piping Championship was established in 1974 to inspire and stimulate the world's finest individual pipers, and to seek the best overall exponents of ceol mor or piobaireachd (the great music) and ceol beag (the little music).

Nearby, in Queen Victoria's beloved Pitlochry is Blair Castle, the ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl, which enjoys one of Scotland's finest settings.

With its roots in the 13th century, Blair Castle's history extends over some 740 years. At the gateway to the Grampian Mountains on the route north to Inverness, the location was highly strategic. Today we can enjoy the wild beauty of the surrounding landscape but centuries ago it was a threatening and dangerous place.

We will continue on to Glasgow, where One Devonshire Gardens, a small hotel in adjacent townhouses will be our home for three nights. Dinner tonight will be in the hotel's restaurant.



Day 10, Sunday, October 26, Glasgow

If Edinburgh symbolizes Scotland's royal and political heritage, Glasgow is its city of commerce and industry, which came of age in the 19th century. In Britain's imperial era it was considered the "Second City" of the Empire after London.

Our focus here will be exploring that great Victorian cityscape and the work of the architects who shaped it, Alexander "Greek" Thomson (1817-1875) and Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928).

Among the buildings we will see are Glasgow School of Art (1897-1909), Willow Tea Rooms (1904, where we will have lunch), Hill House in Helensburgh (1902-03), Queen's Cross Church (1897-99); all by Mackintosh; and St. Vincent's Street Church (1859), Holmwood House (1857-58), Egyptian Chambers; all by Greek Thomson.

Museums will include the Burrell Collection and the Kelvingrove Art Gallery at the University.

Dinner tonight will be on your own.

Day 11, Monday, October 27, Glasgow

For our final day together, we have planned an excursion south to visit two gardens, an art form central to the experience of Scotland but not explored until this point in our itinerary, left for last so as to bring together our convergent themes of geology, history, and architecture.

We will tour the Garden of Cosmic Speculation created by the late Maggie Keswick and architectural historian Charles Jencks. This garden, located in the borders area near Dumfriesshire uses free-form landforms architectural

Left, Glasgow School of Art, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Right, Detail of Capital Vincent Street Church by Alexander "Greek" Thomson

"follies" and stone outcroppings to express themes from the history of garden design and of this unique place.

Another garden that also expresses the convergence of place and thematic idea is Ian Hamilton Finlay's (1925-2006) garden Little Sparta. "Imbued with a high idea content, the garden is created from the artistic fusion of poetic and sculptural elements with the natural landscape which is shaped and changed to become an inherent part of the concepts realised at Little Sparta."

Returning to Glasgow, we will fête our last evening together at the restaurant Rogano whose 1935 art-deco interior is modeled on the contemporary great ocean liners like the Queen Mary built not far away on the banks of the Clyde River.

Day 12, Tuesday, October 28, Depart

Individual transfers will be arranged to Glasgow's airport for the flights home.

This itinerary is subject to change based on local conditions and schedules, and in the event that a site cannot be included substitutions may be made from the many other potential interesting sites.

