

The Chronicle – full version now on-line

The Chronicle is now being published on-line on our website crrmackintoshfrance.com. This allows us to present a fuller pictorial coverage than is possible in print. For those who wish, we are continuing to send this text-only version but if you have access to the internet we encourage you to visit the site which is now our principle means of communication

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New Interpretation Centre at Palalda

At the beginning of June 2009, the mayor of Amélie-les-Bains-Palalda Alex Reynalt, officially opened a new Mackintosh Interpretation Centre, as part of the museum complex in the château of Palalda. It is the first of three centers which, in three episodes, will tell the story of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Margaret MacDonald and their final years spent painting and discovering Roussillon. The second centre will replace the temporary exhibition at Port Vendres and will be completed this winter and third will be in Ille-sur-Têt once the renovations to the Maison Gai (due to start before the end of this year), are completed.

The museum includes reproductions of incorporates reproductions of architectural drawings, paintings, models, stained glass, ironwork, textiles, videos and period photographs/ Part of the museum is also the old church of Saint Martin. Consecrated in 933 it was the castle chapel. Its magnificent reredos traces the life of St Martin - *“carved and gilded wood - wood that is not carved but not carved but cut showing an cut showing every mark of the tool, not gilded but clothed in gold leaf (thick) – the first brought back from America to Spain. Very rococo but very beautiful. [C.R.M]*

For full picture coverage see Centres web page

Committee:

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Artists in Residence – Collioure 2009

Jock MacInnes and Simon Laurie were the 2009 Scottish artists in residence invited by the municipality to spend the month of May in Collioure. During their visit, they undertook a project working in the école maternel with Brigitte Pioch and her class of 4-5 year olds. The remarkable results were exhibited at the end their stay.

The two artists will exhibit their own work in the RGI Kelly gallery in Glasgow during the first week of February in 2010.

For full picture coverage see Art web page

Landscape Painting course 2009 (full report see **courses web page**)

During the last week of May, the annual painting course was based at Le Boulou. The group particularly appreciated the tutelage of Robert Kenny Smith who stimulated a good deal of experimentation with new techniques and ways of seeing and resulted in some exciting results.

Landscape Painting course 2010 (full details see **courses web page**)

The course next year will run mid-week to mid-week to benefit from the cheaper flights and will take place from Wednesday 19th May to Wednesday 26th May. The course is residential but you can also inscribe on a non-residential basis. Teaching is 5-6 hours a day in the medium of your choice and is geared to beginners as well as more experienced artists. By popular request we are re-engaging Robert Kenny Smith for a second year. To ensure maximum individual attention the course is geared to 8/9 artists.

For full information see the website or contact Robin Crichton on [<crichton.efp@gmail.com>](mailto:crichton.efp@gmail.com) Bookings are on a first come basis with a 20% deposit.

Midsummer in Orkney June 2009 (full report see **study**)

A village, a tomb and a stone circle from before the time of the pyramids, a 1st century AD village and broch (fort), a 19th century farm and the oldest distillery in Scotland (18th century). Add to this a Second World War Italian prisoner of war chapel in a Nissan hut decorated with magnificent frescoes and a trip with an underwater camera to visit the German Imperial fleet, scuttled in 1919. Then along the north and north-west coastline of the Scottish Mainland down to Loch Ness for a quick hunt for the monster. Finally visits to the ruins of mediaeval Urquhart, Castle, Culloden battlefield where the Stuarts finally lost the British crown and Fort George, the biggest 18th century artillery fort in Europe – not to mention a night at the opera and a classical concert. The programme was very full but the weather was fine, the sea was calm, the sun was still shining at midnight and we all enjoyed six days of excellent company..

2011 Barcelona Exhibition Postponed

What was to have been the biggest-ever Mackintosh exhibition, being developed by the Caixa Foundation for La Pedrera in 2011, has had to be postponed due to the economic crisis. The projected dramatic downturn in Caixa Bank profits over the next two years will seriously reduce the Foundation's funding. The matter is further complicated by a proposed programme of mergers, reducing the current ten Catalan banks down to probably three by the end of this year. Once this situation is resolved we hope that the exhibition will be reprogrammed. This seems preferable to the alternative of scaling it down

Visit to the Artists Cottage and Studio in Invernessshire

The Association were invited by Hans and Ria Van Kessel to visit *The Artists Cottage and Studio* in Invernessshire. Charles Rennie Mackintosh completed the design in 1900 and followed it in the following year, with a complementary set of drawings for *A Town House For An Artist*. It is thought that perhaps they were conceived as dream houses for himself and Margaret,. But it was not until 90 years later that the building was actually constructed, and in the intervening century, living standards changed radically. The original design allowed for two toilets and the house was to be heated by open coal fires in every room. These would have been serviced a live-in domestic staff which would have included a cook and probably a groom as well.

In adapting the design for the modern age, the heating is electrical under floor. The chimneys were retained as an external design feature but internally the extra space has been used to provide en suite shower rooms for all five bedrooms. And of course nowadays there are no live-in domestic staff.

Mackintosh's interest in Europe and the influences on him from Europe came to maturity in this project in a design predating the International Style. If the building has not received the recognition it deserved, it is because it was not built at the time. It anticipated Frank Lloyd Wright's *Prairie Houses* and his *Fireproof House for 5000 Dollars* of 1906 in the USA and there are parallels with Adolf Loos's Steiner House in Vienna which appeared in 1910.

The house is a private home but the Kessels will offer bed and breakfast accommodation to members visiting Scotland and would like to stay there. It is situated at Farr just south of Loch Ness and details can be obtained on the internet , <h.vankessel@lineone.net>. If you contact them, mention that you are members of the Association

New panels at Ille-sur-Têt

Early in the summer, the reproduction of the Héré de Mallet which is positioned beside the bridge over the river at Ille-sur-Têt was destroyed and the picture stolen – clearly there is a passionate art lover in the community. This being replaced by a reprint on metal which should prove more resistant and reproductions of the two mas which are on the Ancien Chemin à Boulternère are being placed as part of a marker outside the Hôtel du Midi where the Mackintoshes stayed from November 1924 until May 1925.

L'Association Charles Rennie Mackintosh En Roussillon

is the French affiliate of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society and was registered in 2004. The objectives are to make known the work and life of CRM in France and abroad, and also to develop cross-cultural relations between France and Scotland.