

MacLaren, James Marjoribanks



James Marjoribanks MacLaren [also known as James M. MacLaren and as James MacLaren] was born in Kincardine, Perthshire, Scotland [1] on 12 January 1853 and was articled to [James Salmon](#) (1805-1888) of [Salmon, Son & Ritchie](#) in Glasgow from c.1868 to 1872. After working briefly as an assistant in the office of [James Salmon & Son](#) in Glasgow he moved to London, where he worked as an assistant to [Campbell Douglas](#) (1828-1910) and [James Sellars](#) (1843-1888) of Campbell Douglas & Sellars from 1873 to 1875; to John James Stevenson (1831-1908) and [Edward Robert Robson](#) (1835-1917) of Stevenson & Robson in 1875; to Charles Henry Howell (1823?-1905) from 1875 to c.1881; to Richard Coad (1825-1900) from c.1875 to c.1883; and to William Young (1843-1900) from c.1881 to c.1883.

In 1883 MacLaren formed a partnership with Coad as Coad & MacLaren. The practice had an office at 3, Duke Street, Adelphi, London. The partnership was dissolved in 1887 and MacLaren set up his own independent practice nearby at 21 King William Street. During his years in London, MacLaren attended the Royal Academy Schools and in 1886 was elected a member of the Art Workers Guild.

MacLaren's buildings crystallised the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement of the 1880s and he is acknowledged as "the pathfinder for Charles Rennie Mackintosh's uniquely personal interpretation and development of Scottish traditional architecture" [2]

MacLaren exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh in 1888. He also participated in the 2nd (1889), 3rd (1890) and 4th (1893) exhibitions of the Arts &

Crafts Exhibition Society in London.

His address was given as 21 King William Street, Strand, London in 1888. He died in Hampstead, London on 20 October 1890 at the early age of 37

A biographical file on James Marjoribanks MacLaren is available on request from the Enquiry Desk, Royal Institute of British Architects Library, London

[1] Source: 1861 Scotland Census

[2] Calder, Alan. 'Masters of building. James MacLaren. Making a modern architecture inspired by history'. *The Architects' Journal* vol. 191, no. 3, 17 January 1990 p. 36

Worked in

UK

Works

Avondu House, Grangemouth, Stirlingshire (1877); Avon Hall, Grangemouth, Stirlingshire (1877); Presbyterian Church Schools and Lecture Hall, Longsight, Manchester (1881); St Hydren's Church, Lansallos, Cornwall (1884); Lanhydrock House in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, with Coad (1885); Cottages, Eastnor, Hertfordshire (c.1886); Police housing, Fortingale, Perthshire (1886-89); Hotel Santa Catalina, Gran Canaria (1887-89); Aberfeldy Town Hall, Aberfeldy, Perthshire (1888-90); House and studio, Avonmore Road, London (1888); Kirkton Cottages, Fortingall, Perthshire (1889); Farmhouse and farm buildings, Glenlyon, Perthshire (1889); Presbyterian Church of St James, Dulwich, London, with Dunn & Watson (1889); and 10 and 12 Palace Court, Bayswater, London (1889-91). Other projects by MacLaren included Bowringsleigh, Kingsbridge, Devon; new wing, Ledbury Park, Ledbury, Herefordshire; new wing, High School of Stirling; and Ripple Court, Kent; Wembley Tower, London.

See also [Dictionary of Scottish Architects](#)

Source of Images

[RIBApix](#)

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'Obituary'. *The Builder vol. 59, 1890 p. 348*

Links

- Dictionary of Scottish Architects

https://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/apex/r/dsa/dsa/architects?p8_id=200935&session=5

- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_MacLaren_\(architect\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_MacLaren_(architect))

- The James M. MacLaren Society <https://jmmaclaren.org/james-m-maclaren/biography>

- Historic Environment Scotland - Stirling Highland Hotel

<http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB41133>

- British Listed Buildings <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/site-search/?q=%22James%20M%20Maclaren%22>

- RIBApix

<https://www.ribapix.com/search?adv=false&cid=0&mid=0&vid=0&q=James%20Marjoriba>