

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Society of Architectural Historians Conference Will Explore Glasgow's History and Heritage

(GLASGOW) May 25, 2017 — Over 500 architectural historians, architects, conservationists and others from around the globe will meet in Glasgow for the **70<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference** of the **Society of Architectural Historians** (SAH). The conference will run from June 7–11 at the University of Strathclyde's Technology & Innovation Centre (TIC) and marks the first time SAH has met outside North America in over 40 years.

"We're delighted to welcome SAH members to Glasgow, recognizing the city's rich architectural heritage, which seems particularly fitting during Scotland's **Year of History, Heritage, and Archaeology**," said SAH Conference Local Chair **Marina Moskowitz** of the University of Glasgow. "The paper sessions feature an international roster of speakers, and the conference also features a wide variety of public tours and events that showcase everything from Glasgow's best-known architects, **Charles Rennie Mackintosh** and **Alexander 'Greek' Thomson** to Scotland's vernacular and industrial heritage."

**Aileen Crawford, Head of Conventions at Glasgow Convention Bureau**, said, "It is a privilege to welcome the Society of Architectural Historians to Glasgow for what will be its first-ever visit to Scotland. As well as enjoying an international reputation as a world-class conventions centre, Glasgow is globally renowned for the legacies of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Alexander 'Greek' Thomson. This milestone meeting for SAH will celebrate the city's rich architectural heritage and give delegates the chance to experience some of the treasures of our built environment; from the Glasgow School of Art, City Chambers and Queen's Cross Church to the Barony Hall, Kibble Palace and our state-of-the-art Technology and Innovation Centre."

The conference kicks off on June 7—Mackintosh's 149<sup>th</sup> birthday— with the symposium "**Mackintosh: Materials & Materiality**" presented with The Glasgow School of Art (the GSA). This public program will examine the material aspects of Mackintosh's work by looking at several restoration projects underway. **Pamela Robertson**, professor emerita at the University of Glasgow, will deliver the keynote, and speakers will represent four major Mackintosh projects, including the GSA. This event is open to the public. Ticket details can be found at [gsa.ac.uk/life/gsa-events/events/m/mackintosh-materials-materiality](http://gsa.ac.uk/life/gsa-events/events/m/mackintosh-materials-materiality).

**Brian Page** of Page\Park Architects will give the conference's introductory address, "**The Architects Who Made Glasgow.**" His talk will provide conference delegates with a whistle-stop tour of the city's origins and architectural history and set the context for the work of Glasgow's great architects. For over 20 years Page has been involved as a conservation architect for the Glasgow School of Art's Mackintosh Building, including planning the reconstruction following the 2014 fire.

SAH members will present new research on the history of the built environment during the paper session portion of the conference on June 8 and June 9. Sessions covering Scottish topics include "Landscape and Garden Exchanges between Scotland and America" and "'A Narrow Place': Architecture and the Scottish Diaspora."

On June 8, SAH will delve into the latest developments in the restoration of the Mackintosh building at the GSA with the roundtable "**State of the Mack.**" Dr. **Robyne Calvert**, Mackintosh Research Fellow at the GSA, will moderate the discussion and panelists will include experts working across the project from Page\Park Architects, Historic Environment Scotland, and the GSA. This roundtable is sponsored by Historic Environment Scotland.

Conference delegates will experience the works of Mackintosh and 'Greek' Thomson, along with those of other architects, on **33 architecture tours** presented throughout the duration of the conference. Local experts from the academic, heritage, and cultural sectors will lead tours in Glasgow and nearby locations such as New Lanark and Edinburgh. All tours are open to the public.

The SAH Glasgow Seminar, "**Making and Re-Making Glasgow: Heritage and Sustainability,**" will be held at Mackintosh's Queen's Cross Church on June 10. The seminar will explore how local identity can be cultivated around the city's built heritage, how Glasgow might benefit from a culture economy that looks to both the past and the future, and how preservation interests can be

aligned with development pressures. The program will feature a screening of the short film *(Re)Imagining Glasgow* by local artist Chris Leslie and speakers from University of Glasgow, Historic Environment Scotland, Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, National Trust for Scotland, and Glasgow Museums. The SAH Glasgow Seminar is sponsored by the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts and Historic Environment Scotland. This event is open to the public and tickets may be purchased at [sah-glasgow-seminar.eventbrite.com](http://sah-glasgow-seminar.eventbrite.com).

SAH will celebrate the close of the conference with “**The Architects’ Birthday Party**” on the evening of June 10. This year is the bicentenary of the birth of ‘Greek’ Thomson, Mackintosh’s 149<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of the renowned American architect **Frank Lloyd Wright**. The festivities will take place at the Glasgow Botanic Gardens’ iconic Kibble Palace.

**Rory Archibald, Associations & Sectors – Business Events VisitScotland**, commented, “The decision by the Society of Architectural Historians to hold its Annual International Conference in Glasgow is a reflection of both our academic credentials and the city’s world-class conferencing facilities. Glasgow has a strong reputation for architectural innovation, and the city will provide the ideal backdrop for SAH members to meet and share knowledge during Scotland’s 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.”

“We are delighted to support the SAH Annual International Conference through VisitScotland’s National Conference Bid Fund. The benefits of conferences such as these extend well beyond delegate spend, reinforcing Scotland’s expertise in key sectors—such as architecture and design—in addition to leaving a lasting legacy on the city.”

For more information on the SAH 2017 Glasgow conference, please visit [sah.org/2017](http://sah.org/2017). Onsite registration will be available at the TIC. See [sah.org/2017/registration](http://sah.org/2017/registration) for rates and details.

#### **About SAH**

The Society of Architectural Historians is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes the study, interpretation and conservation of architecture, design, landscapes and urbanism worldwide. Founded in 1940, SAH serves a network of local, national and international institutions and individuals who, by profession or interest, focus on the history of the built environment and its role in shaping contemporary life. SAH promotes meaningful public engagement with the history of the built environment through advocacy efforts, print and online publications, and local, national and international programs. Learn more at [sah.org](http://sah.org).

#### **Public Event Details:**

##### **Mackintosh Symposium**

“Mackintosh: Materials & Materiality”

Wednesday, June 7

Glasgow School of Art, Reid Bldg

164 Renfrew Street, Glasgow

Tickets: \$40 (purchase at [gsa.ac.uk/life/gsa-events/events/m/mackintosh-materials-materiality](http://gsa.ac.uk/life/gsa-events/events/m/mackintosh-materials-materiality))

##### **SAH Glasgow Seminar**

“Making and Re-Making Glasgow: Heritage and Sustainability”

Saturday, June 10

Mackintosh Queen’s Cross

870 Garscube Rd, Glasgow

Tickets: \$20 (purchase at [sah-glasgow-seminar.eventbrite.com](http://sah-glasgow-seminar.eventbrite.com))

##### **SAH Architecture Tours**

Wednesday, June 7–Sunday, June 11

Tickets: \$25–90 (+ one-time \$25 processing fee)

Purchase tickets onsite at the TIC (Level 2 Foyer), 99 George Street

View complete list of tours at [sah.org/2017/public-programs](http://sah.org/2017/public-programs).

##### **VisitScotland National Conference Bid Fund**

- Business events are hugely significant to the national economy and represent 20% of all tourism expenditure in Scotland.
- The National Conference Bid Fund, distributed by VisitScotland Business Events, has helped secure 168 conferences for Scotland, with 167,119 delegates expected between 2012 to 2023 with an estimated delegate spend of £283.5 million.

### **2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology**

- 2017 is the year to delve into the past and discover Scotland's fascinating stories through a wide-ranging variety of new and existing activity to drive the nation's tourism and events sector, boosting tourism across Scotland.
- The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology begins on 1 January 2017 and will end on 31 December 2017. It will build on the momentum generated by previous themed years in Scotland including the 2015 Year of Food and Drink, Homecoming Scotland 2014, the Year of Creative and the Year of Natural.
- The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology is a Scottish Government initiative being led by VisitScotland, and supported by a variety of partners including Creative Scotland, Scottish Tourism Alliance, Scottish Enterprise, The National Trust for Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Built Environment Forum Scotland, Heritage Lottery Fund, Museums Galleries Scotland and Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland.
- The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology is supported by £570,000 of Scottish Government funding.
- The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology events fund is managed by EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate.
- For more information visit [visitscotland.com/HHA2017](http://visitscotland.com/HHA2017) or join the conversation at #HHA2017

###

Press Contact: Helena Dean, [hdean@sah.org](mailto:hdean@sah.org), 312-543-7243

High-resolution images available upon request.