

Found in Translation: An Architectural Exchange Between Glasgow, Berlin and Japan

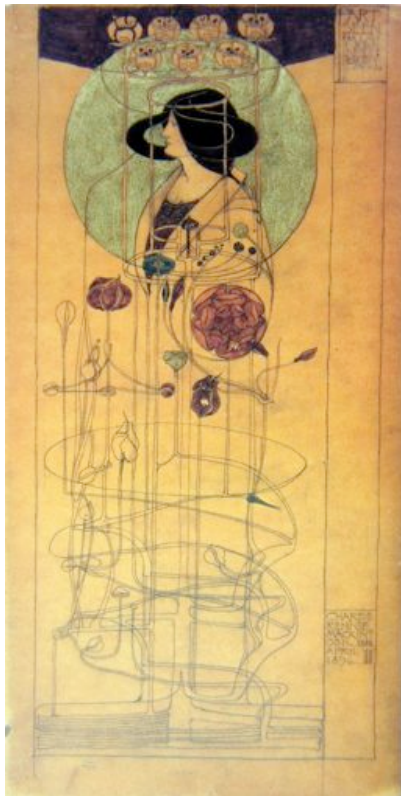
In 1866, Yamao Yōzō, one of the Chōshū Five, came to work and study in Glasgow and there began a relationship between that great port city and Japan which developed to such an extent that, by the end of the century, there were more Japanese living in Glasgow than in any other British city outside London. The effect of Japanese culture upon the artists and architects of Glasgow was soon apparent, from the paintings of the Glasgow Boys to the graphic design and architecture of Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Although Mackintosh, unlike the Glasgow Boys, never visited Japan, there is a presence in his work which extends far beyond the *Japonisme* of late nineteenth-century fashion. The connection to Japan, which made this possible, came through his close friendship with the German architect and writer, Hermann Muthesius. This illustrated lecture argues that it was Muthesius's first-hand knowledge of Japan, as well as Glasgow's Japanese *zeitgeist*, which allowed Mackintosh's most famous building, the Glasgow School of Art, to assume such an idiosyncratic yet, at the same time, recognisably Japanese appearance.

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C R Mackintosh, *Part Seen, Part Imagined*, 1896