



THE ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE FUND

CASE STUDY

The Architectural Heritage Fund has helped Building Preservation Trusts and other charities regenerate historic buildings, create community and education facilities, workspace and homes for nearly 30 years. We have provided grants, loans and advice on more than 750 projects to date. This is one of many examples.

Rescue of an architectural gem: 78 and 80 Derngate, Northampton

No 78 Derngate contains a stunning decorative scheme by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, his only major domestic work outside Scotland. Purchased as a wedding present for Wenman Joseph Bassett-Lowke by his father in 1916, the narrow late-Georgian house was not to his taste and a local architect, Alexander Anderson, was commissioned to remodel the front elevation. At around the same time, Mackintosh was commissioned to carry out further modifications. The guest bedroom has a decorative scheme of bold ultramarine, black and white stripes, and almost all of the furniture, fixtures and fittings in the house were specially designed. The Basset-Lowkes moved out of the house in 1926 and Mackintosh's scheme gradually became hidden under layers of modern paint. The furniture was sold, some pieces to the Victoria & Albert Museum and others to the Hunterian Art Gallery in Glasgow.



Before restoration



Completed project



The Trust was established specifically to preserve No 78 Derngate acquired both Nos 78 and 80 from the local authority on a 99-year lease. No 78 has been reinstated to its original design and No 80 provides essential visitor support and access facilities and space for interpretation displays. The house opened permanently in March 2004, and further details on the project can be found on the website www.78derngate.org.uk. Despite a large number of other funders, the AHF loan was an essential element of the project's resourcing package.

Organisation: The 78 Derngate Northampton Trust
Listed Grade II*(No 78), Grade II (No 80)
Architectural Heritage Fund assistance: £150,000 loan in 2003

Please contact us if you require further information.

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