

**Annual Conference 2012****EDINBURGH****Thursday 30 August – Sunday 2 September***in partnership with the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture,
Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh***PROVISIONAL ITINERARY**

This year's Conference, based at the Pollock Halls of the University of Edinburgh, is being organised by Simon Green of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland and Andrew Martindale of Historic Scotland. The opening lecture will be given by Dr Deborah Mays. The focus will be on the buildings of the city of Edinburgh itself, with some of the pre-conference visits travelling further out into the rural hinterland. The themes of the three days of the main conference will be the Old Town, the New Towns, and the suburbs. Owing to various practical considerations, the running order will be the reverse of that just given.

Please note that the conference will involve extensive walking on city-based days.

THURSDAY 30 AUGUST: Pre-Conference Tours

The Society is offering a choice of four pre-conference tours, all of which will set out from Pollock Halls.

A: Bridges and Viaducts**Start time: 10.00am Price: £15.00**

Edinburgh's unique topography, a city located on a glaciated post-volcanic landscape, in close proximity to the Firth of Forth, led to the construction of a fascinating range of bridges and viaducts. This pre-conference tour, led by Dominic Echlin, will in the morning focus on structures in the city centre and their place in the wider planning of urban development, before an afternoon trip by train to examine the spectacular Forth Bridges at close quarters. This is predominantly a walking tour, using public transport where appropriate. Bus fairs, train ticket included. Lunch not included, but a break in the itinerary will allow delegates to purchase their own sandwiches before the train trip.

B: Houses of Noblemen, Merchants and Smugglers**Start time: 9.00am Price: £45.00**

Alistair Rowan will lead a day tour of Georgian houses, including Hopetoun on the Firth of Forth, Paxton House near Berwick-upon-Tweed, and Gungahlin in Eyemouth. All are closely linked with the Adam family of architects and contractors, and particularly with the character of the eldest brother John. The programme offers an opportunity to compare the work of different decades of the Adams' practice and includes commissions for a variety of patrons with some intriguing social and economic history. This is a full day bus tour including lunch with admissions.

C: The Scottish Church**Start time: 9.00am Price: £40.00**

This pre-conference tour, led by Simon Green, will examine the architectural transformation of the Scottish church brought about by both theological and liturgical changes in the 19th century. As will be seen there is a wealth of ecclesiastical heritage within the city. The opportunity will be taken to examine a wide variety of ecclesiastical buildings from Pre-Reformation churches to purpose built Presbyterian places of worship, from large city churches to diminutive private chapels. Churches in Scotland are notoriously difficult to get into and it is hoped that this tour will enable the detailed examination of this important and unique expression of Scotland's cultural identity. This is a full day bus tour including lunch and donations.

D: Villas and Landscape**Start time: 10.00am Price: £40.00**

James Simpson will lead this pre-conference to examine in detail two important country estates linked to the Clerk family, Penicuik and Mavisbank. Penicuik, designed by its owner Sir James Clerk, 1761, 'represents the ideal of a Scots Palladian house in a romantic, yet classically inspired, landscape' (as described by the late Colin McWilliam). The shell of the house, devastated by fire in 1899, is part way through a multi-phase consolidation

exercise. At Mavisbank, designed by Sir James's father, Sir John, working with William Adam, 1723, the house remains a derelict shell, having suffered long-term neglect for much of the twentieth century, but much remains of the greatest interest, both of the house and its landscape, and finally restoration of this long-standing Building at Risk appears a viable opportunity. This is a full day bus tour including lunch and donations.

Dinner, AGM and Opening Lecture: The AGM and Lecture will follow dinner in the South Hall at Pollock Halls (cost included in the conference price). The lecture will be given by Dr Deborah Mays.

FRIDAY 31 AUGUST

The Suburbs: The Suburbs day will include Edinburgh's historic port of Leith, Duddingston Kirk (12th century with extensive subsequent remodelling, particularly 17th and 18th century) and Duddingston House (Sir William Chambers, 1763), Caroline Park (c1683-96) and the Barclay-Bruntsfield Church (1862-4, Frederick T. Pilkington). Visits will largely be made by coach; the Leith visit will take the form of a walking tour.

Evening Reception and / or free time: It is hoped that this year's conference will see a return of the Friday evening reception. If this goes ahead, delegates will be driven by coach to the venue immediately after the day's tour. Following the reception, delegates will have a free evening in which to explore the city at leisure. If a reception is not given, the whole evening will be free. Delegates planning to eat in the city centre on this evening are advised to book a table well in advance of the conference, as the city's Festival will still be in progress. It is anticipated that any reception will have ended by 6pm; it should therefore be safe to make restaurant bookings from 7pm onward. Delegates wishing to eat at Pollock Halls should indicate this on the Booking Form; should a reception be offered a coach will be made available to ensure those dining at the accommodation are back by 6.30pm. Delegates who wish to return to Pollock Halls at a later stage must arrange their own transport.

SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

The New Towns: Saturday's itinerary in the New Towns will include a visit to the monumental buildings atop Calton Hill (William Playfair and others), which will aid orientation, Charlotte Square (1791 onwards, Robert Adam), the Assembly Rooms (1782-7, John Henderson), as well as buildings from the nineteenth century commercial rebuilding within the First New Town. Following lunch, a walking tour of the Second, or Northern New Town, will include access to characteristic Edinburgh tenement flats and tea at the Glasite Meeting House (1835-7, Alexander Black). The visits will be predominantly by walking tour, with coaches for the beginning and end of the itinerary.

Annual Dinner (£45.00): This will be held at Newbattle Abbey, the former home of the Marquises of Lothian at Dalkeith, on Saturday 1st September. Newbattle is a fascinating multi-period building with architectural interest of almost all dates, from early mediaeval Cistercian work to a residential block by Sir Robert Matthew. It is now a college, but retains many of its historic fixtures and contents. The dinner will include a vegetarian option. Please indicate on your application form any other special dietary requirements. Guests and members of the Society not attending the Conference are welcome. Please note that should you prefer not to attend the Annual Dinner, there will be no alternative dinner provided on this evening.

SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

The Old Town: Highlights of the Sunday itinerary in the Old Town include Riddles Court, the most important aristocratic house to have survived (c1590), and the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle (1924-7, Robert S Lorimer), a late masterpiece of the Arts and Crafts. Visits will be by walking tour, with coaches only between Pollock Halls and the city centre.

Close: There will be a coach dropoff at Edinburgh Waverley at approx. 5pm. Those wishing to leave on an earlier train may leave luggage at Riddles Court for collection later in the day; it is on the Lawnmarket and only 600 yards from Waverley.