

**NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE  
27 March 2020**

## **It's in the bag! National Trust for Scotland's Hill House shop wins top award**

- **Shop at Mackintosh's Hill House takes national cultural enterprise award**
- **Conservation charity beats The Science Museum and The Globe Theatre**
- **First ever national win for a National Trust for Scotland shop**

**IMAGES OF SHOP AND PRODUCTS:** <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmLBtfk4>

The shop at National Trust for Scotland's Hill House in Helensburgh today (Friday 27 March) has been announced as the best in the country by the Association for Cultural Enterprises, beating London's Science Museum and The Globe Theatre.

Created as part of the pioneering conservation project undertaken by the Trust to protect Charles Rennie Mackintosh's domestic masterpiece Hill House, judges were impressed with both the look of the shop and the bespoke design-led products.

The retail team sourced hundreds of new products ranging from badges and scarves to bespoke jewellery pieces and a model Hill House made from Lego bricks. A series of tea towels, mugs, T shirts and notebooks using designs created by Glasgow's Hole in my Pocket was also shortlisted for the award in the 'Best Range' category.

Judges noted that the shop was 'smart and sleek' and commended the display of the products. Praise was also given for the incorporation of the vast chainmail box structure in to 'innovative and unique ranges'.

This is the first time in the history of The National Trust for Scotland that the charity has won a national award for one of its shops. The awards were due to be announced at a ceremony last week at the ACE annual conference in Harrogate, which was postponed due to the Coronavirus emergency. Instead, the results of the award were revealed to winners by email.

Driving force behind the shop, National Trust for Scotland Retail Development Manager Alex Miller said: "It's been such a difficult time for everyone in the last few weeks but getting the news that we'd won has been so heartening. In achieving this award, we've held our own against key heritage sites The Science Museum and The Globe Theatre.

“This means a great deal to everyone who was involved in The Hill House Box project last year and I am incredibly proud of the outstanding collaboration, hard work and sheer team effort that we collectively achieved on this project.”

– ENDS –

Issued on behalf of National Trust for Scotland by Frame PR.

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**Editor’s Notes:**

Owned by the Trust since 1982, The Hill House in Helensburgh is considered to be the finest example of domestic architecture by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. However, Mackintosh’s experimental design, combined with his trial of new materials has meant that the house has been soaking up water like a sponge for over 115 years.

Battered by around 190 days of rain a year, the long-term survival of the building is in doubt and there is a real danger of its priceless, Mackintosh-designed interior being lost forever. The Hill House Box is the National Trust for Scotland’s innovative solution to the problem of water damage at the Hill House and to permanently save the property and its irreplaceable collection.

The Hill House Box is a vast semi-transparent shelter around the main house, consisting of a 165 tonnes steel frame swathed in chainmail made up of 32.4million rings, themselves weighing 8.3 tonnes.

Opened to the public on Friday 7 June 2019 - Charles Rennie Mackintosh’s 151<sup>st</sup> birthday - the Box acts as a giant shield covering the entire building. It will protect it from the rain while allowing the house to dry out and let conservators begin their work rescuing this iconic home.

For more information visit [www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/the-hill-house](http://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/the-hill-house).

The National Trust for Scotland is the charity that celebrates and protects Scotland’s heritage. It relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland exists to protect the national and natural treasures we all love. To plan your visit today, enter your postcode at [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).



