

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Hill House Box approaches completion

Neil Oliver, the President of the National Trust for Scotland, has thanked the thousands of donors who have supported the campaign to build the box and save the Hill House, the domestic masterpiece, created by Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

The appeal to build the Box around Hill House was the first time the conservation charity wrote to its entire membership for a single project, reflecting the urgency needed to protect this iconic building.

In an update video from the conservation charity, he reveals that the innovative mesh Box being installed around it is going up fast and thanks donors for raising £1.3 million so far in support of the Hill House. Since it was built over a century ago, the Helensburgh landmark and its unique interiors have suffered years of poor weather. As part of a plan to protect the property from further damage and preserve it for future generations, the galvanised steel mesh Box will shield the estate from wind and rain and allow the interior to dry out after years of disintegration and water damage.

As well as protecting the building from the weather, the Hill House Box will give visitors the chance to get a new perspective on Charles Rennie Mackintosh's design from elevated walkways looping around the building.

The house and gardens are closed to the public while the build takes place, but are expected to reopen in late spring this year.

In the video, Neil says: "The Hill House was once at the frontier of domestic architecture and thanks to the kind donations through from the people of Scotland, it's now at the frontier of conservation.

"The box is an amazing feat of engineering, which when finished will shelter Mackintosh's masterpiece from the rain and wind that's taken such a toll over the past hundred years. Once under cover, the building can dry out under controlled condition and the Trust's experts will begin the

process of finding the long-term solution that will save this structure forever.

“On behalf of the National Trust for Scotland and everyone who loves Scotland’s heritage, thank you. I hope you’ll do as I’ll be doing and come back to see the results of all of this work.”

The Box is just the first phase of work to save this iconic building – over the course of the next few years as the house dries out, conservation experts will be researching methods to protect the house for the long term.

Donations to the appeal can be made online at:

<https://www.nts.org.uk/Campaign/Help-us-save-the-Hill-House>

Read more about how Hill House is being saved at

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/the-box-your-questions-answered>

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