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## **TENEMENT STYLE SEARCH TO UNCOVER DESIGN TASTES FROM THE TURN OF THE CENTURY**

- **National Trust for Scotland conducting research to develop first ever archive of wallpapers used throughout tenements across Glasgow.**
- **The small homes, synonymous with the city, featured various styles of wallpaper since their construction in the 1800s.**
- **Appeal to residents of Glasgow to share old photographs, wallpaper scraps and stories to uncover 'Tenement style'.**

Residents of Glasgow have been urged to dig out old photographs, wallpaper scraps and receipts to share their memories of interior design of the city's distinctive tenements to help the National Trust for Scotland develop a new archive of wallpaper designs.

The conservation charity's appeal to inhabitants of Scotland's largest city, is hoping to piece together a more accurate account of the varying styles of decoration used to adorn the walls of the compact dwellings that have been a mainstay of Glasgow's cityscape since the 1800s.

The National Trust for Scotland, which protects Scotland's natural and cultural assets for future generations to enjoy, cares for and shares the Tenement House, Glasgow's very own time capsule of life in the city dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Trust is aiming to develop an exhibition of interior design tastes from the 1800s until the 1950s at the property in the city's Garnethill area if it receives sufficient interest and examples from residents.

Emma Inglis, National Trust for Scotland Curator for Glasgow and the west, said: "We're curious to know more about the decorating choices of the past, and we're calling on the people of Glasgow to help by sharing evidence and memories of interior design styles in their homes to uncover the different tastes of folk who called these apartments home in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

"At the Tenement House we are fortunate to have been left a few clues in the form of old wallpapers. Some have been re-created for the interiors visitors see today, while other scraps are tucked away in our store, offering a tiny glimpse of former tastes. One of the best examples of these has a design of beautiful dark pink roses arranged in a wreath, set against a dark green background and reminiscent of the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century

Glasgow Style. Other pieces are less distinctive, although most are variations on leaves and flowers. They would have brought much-needed colour into rooms that were originally subdued under gas light. The kitchen and hall wallpapers were varnished to make them easier to clean and more hard-wearing.

“Of course, the Tenement House is just one tenement home among the many thousands that spread across the city. Occasionally, a black and white photograph gives us a further glimpse of a patterned wall, with wallpaper turning up in even the most modest, single-roomed homes, yet sadly the colours can only be imagined. In many tenements, the kitchen doubled as a living and sleeping space and was often decorated with wallpaper to reflect these functions.

“Our collection of wallpapers at the Tenement House is complemented by a small archive of wallpapers from other buildings in our care. At Moirlanich Longhouse in Killin, Perthshire, the layers of early 20<sup>th</sup> century wallpaper at the rural property provide a fascinating insight into the lifestyle of that time.

“My historical research of typical tenement style décor has shown that the popular wall coverings haven’t been well studied and so we’re appealing to residents of Glasgow to look out old photographs, scraps of wallpaper, even old receipts from wallpaper purchases to help fill the gaps in our knowledge and to document the different styles used around the turn of the century. We are hoping to develop a small exhibition at the Tenement House if we receive enough examples and those wishing to send in their examples can do so via our Facebook page. Together, let’s start to build a picture of interior decorating, tenement-style.”

Those wishing to submit photography, wallpaper scraps and other items can share them via the National Trust for Scotland’s [Facebook post](#).

The ‘Tenement Style’ project supports the National Trust for Scotland’s vision to provide access to nature, beauty and heritage for everyone, as outlined in its 10-year strategy, launch in 2022. This project contributes to its conservation and engagement objectives to speak up for heritage that doesn’t have a voice and provide inspiring heritage visitor experiences.

## **ENDS**

### **Note to Editors:**

**Images:** <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/UK3g4iewg4>

### **About the National Trust for Scotland**

Established in 1931, the National Trust for Scotland is Scotland’s largest conservation charity and cares for, shares and speaks up for Scotland’s magnificent heritage.

Over the last 90 years the Trust has pioneered public access to and shared ownership of some of the most magnificent buildings, collections and landscapes in Scotland. It cares

for more than 100 sites, from ancient houses to battlefields, castles, mills, gardens, coastlines, islands, mountain ranges and the plants and animals which depend upon them.

In March 2022 the National Trust for Scotland launched *Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone*, its ten-year strategy which sets out the ambitions of the charity over the coming decade. From speaking up for Scotland's heritage which doesn't have a voice, to improving the lives and wellbeing of people across the country, and responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis, the Trust will build on its work in recent years to grow its impact and conserve and restore more of Scotland's heritage, as it moves towards its centenary in 2031.

Scotland's largest membership organisation, the National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).

The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.