

## Glasgow's Iconic Buildings:

ENGLISH-  
SPEAKING  
UNION



# HOLMWOOD HOUSE

61-63 Netherlee Road



### SUMMARY:

Holmwood is a large house, built in what was the village of Cathcart that today has become part of the city of Glasgow. It is the finest and most elaborate house designed by Alexander 'Greek' Thomson. It is also rare in retaining much of its original interior decoration, and being open to the public.

Holmwood was originally constructed for James Couper, a paper manufacturer in 1857-1858. Couper owned the Millholm paper mill in the valley of the River Cart immediately below the villa. Thomson used a Classical Greek style which he adapted to fit in with Scottish taste in the 1800s. Many rooms are richly decorated in wood, plaster and marble. Thomson's original room decoration, based on themes from the classical world, is being uncovered after being painted over by previous owners.

Holmwood is considered to be very influential by architectural historians, because the design was published in *Villa and Cottage Architecture* in 1868 and may have influenced Frank Lloyd Wright and other architects.

Holmwood was bought by the National Trust for Scotland in 1994 and was restored by Page \ Park Architects in 1997-1998.

### THINK ABOUT:

- Alexander Thomson is one of Glasgow's most famous architects. Find out about Alexander Thomson and how he earned the nickname 'Greek' Thomson.
- Both Thomson, and another famous Glasgow architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh have very distinctive styles. Compare the two architects.
- At Holmwood the interior of the house is equally as special as the outside. Find out about the decoration of the rooms and how the original decorations are being uncovered.
- Unfortunately lots of Thomson's buildings have been demolished. Find out about some of the buildings designed by Thomson that have been lost.

### FIND OUT MORE:

Historic Environment Scotland website, Holmwood List Description, <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB33944>

The National Trust for Scotland website, Holmwood, <http://www.nts.org.uk/Property/Holmwood/>

Alexander Thomson Society website, <http://www.alexanderthomsonsociety.org.uk/>

Canmore database, Holmwood, <https://canmore.org.uk/site/43816/glasgow-61-63-netherlee-road-holmwood-house>

Dictionary of Scottish Architects website, Alexander 'Greek' Thomson, [http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full.php?id=100095](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=100095)