



# Thomas Robinson Architects

Scottish commuter villages have long provided architects with pockets of space that enable creative ideas to flourish. Some of the best domestic architectural work of giants including Mackintosh, Lutyens, Leiper, Alexander Thomson, and Baillie Scott can be seen in central-belt locations from Kilmacolm in the west to Gullane in the east. We too, hugely enjoy projects in such villages.

Influences on us include the impressive Greywalls, now a luxury hotel, built by Lutyens in 1901 near Edinburgh. Mackintosh's Windy Hill house in Kilmacolm is another favourite, for its castle-like shapes and classic Charles Rennie touches. We were lucky enough to build in the grounds of Leiper's turreted Knockderry House in Helensburgh last year, and discovered that practise director Fiona Robinson's grandfather owned the property when Leiper extended it.

Fiona says, 'Both Tom and I are influenced by these prestigious Arts and Crafts houses. In this new home (picture 1), we used elements of the style – including asymmetry, non-linear design, black-and-white exteriors, and astragaled windows – to achieve a traditional appearance that's obviously native to this central Scottish area.'

What is always present in these fine old buildings is attention to detail – a flourish of stonework, an artistic twist of iron, or a characteristic conical turret or bay window. It's these intricacies that set a property apart.

This smaller house (picture 2), built in an Arts and Crafts village, commutable to Glasgow, also incorporates nods to tradition in its deep slate roof and asymmetric proportions. But here we added extensive glazing and an open-plan interior to give it a 21st-century practicality, warmth and light.



## CONTACT

If you're interested in building or renovating with us, call 01360 661144, or visit [thomasrobinsonarchitects.co.uk](http://thomasrobinsonarchitects.co.uk)