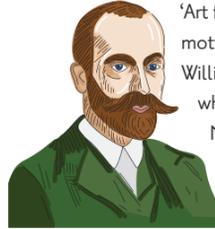


'ART FOR ARTS SAKE'



'Art for Arts Sake' was the motto of Glasgow architect William Gardner Rowan, who designed Shettleston New Parish Church.

Rowan's inspiration was medieval Gothic architecture, and after years of what he called 'shoddy' tenement work he began to focus on designing churches.

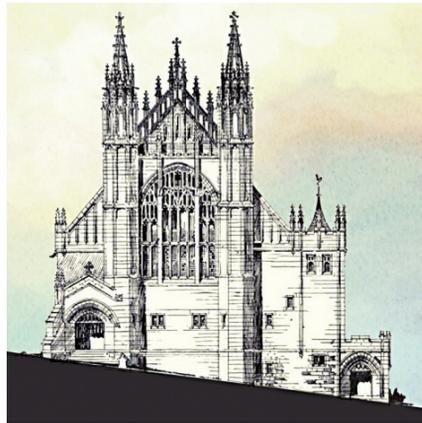
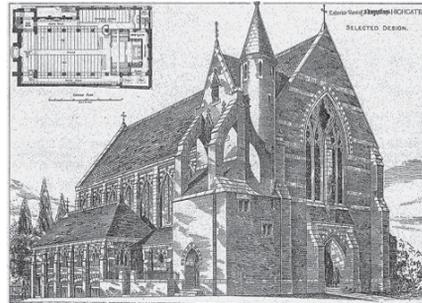
Rowan would spend lots of time on the finer decoration of a church, sometimes pushing the patience of the client and tradesmen. But this attention to detail was his trademark, and his obituary noted that:

"For a bit of carving... he would cheerfully give time and trouble, while ordinary painter work became decoration by his labouring over quaint lettering or ornamental device that cost little but effected much".



Arch and front of church detail

At the time the Arts & Crafts movement was at its height, which celebrated traditional craftsmanship as a reaction to mass produced goods. Glasgow was at the heart of the movement, with highly influential figures such as Charles Rennie Mackintosh.



259. Belmont Church Competition, Front Elevation, W. G. ROWAN, Architect.

Top: Design by JD Sedding whose work influenced Rowan.
Bottom: Belmont Church plan by Rowan.

SHETTLESTON NEW CHURCH DESIGN



The striking sanctuary ceiling is the most notable feature of the interior. It consists of 90 square panels on which the words of the Te Deum are inscribed. Standing in the east aisle, it can be read from the left hand corner diagonally across the roof.



The wood throughout the sanctuary is finest pitch-pine. There are carvings on the panels behind the pulpit and along all the galleries. No two carvings are the same.

A magnificent pipe organ was installed, at a cost of £515, in 1904 and is still in full working order.



The bell was cast in 1904 by J. Miller Reid, Brass and Bell Founders of Glasgow and Greenock.



A large stained glass window designed by Abbey Studio was installed in the south gable in 1920 to commemorate the members of the congregation who died in World War I.



SHETTLESTON ROAD MEMORIES

1 Calder Stores

The original Calder Stores was situated near Vesalius Street when it opened in 1917. It moved in 1979 to the corner of Shettleston Road at Wellshot Road. Ena McDougal Laing and her family ran the shop for many decades until it closed in February 2018. They sold a wide variety of haberdashery, drapery and knitted goods.

2 Co-operative

This was one of the earliest Department Stores. It is reported that people came from as far away as Edinburgh, to shop here. Margaret Barrie remembers being sent by her Gran for bread and milk, with the warning "remember the Divy Number" – a small percentage of your purchases was saved up and paid out to loyal members annually.

3 Fullarton's Emporium

Founded in 1898 and possibly the oldest shop in Shettleston, now run by Maureen Fullarton for the last 30 years, with two generations before her.

4 Italian Barber

The McChesney family visited here about every three weeks. As a small boy Robin would have sat on a board placed across the arms of the chair. This was for two reasons, firstly so the barber to reach him and also so he could see himself in the mirror!

5 McKenzie

This was one of the many Bakers shops. Dorothy Ralston remembers buying cakes and buns for a penny on the way home from school.

6 TC Houston

Houston's the bakers back windows opened on to one of Eastbank Academy 'sheds'. Anna McWee recalls that the smells were amazing and it was a warm place on a cold day!

7 The State Picture House

It was always busy here, showing children's matinee films on a Saturday and the latest blockbuster films in the evening.

8 Mary Macks

This was one of the many sweetie shops on Shettleston Road and one of the most popular. It sold every kind of sweet available from one penny potato cakes or liquorice whirls to jars full of boilings or caramels. Mmmm!!! Enough to make your mouth water.

9 Eastbank Academy

The original building for Eastbank Academy was opened in 1894. The current Academy was built in 1986. Many memories have been shared about being a pupil in the Academy.

10 Baths & Wash House – The Steamie

Many a child, as Margaret Barrie recalls, remembers going with her Granny to the wash house, their prams filled with the dirty laundry of the week. The hugeness of the building, and the size of the washing areas, with massive spin dryers that you could sit in, or the heated airers that came out of the wall, terrified the bravest of us as it swallowed your school uniform, sheets and towels, into oblivion.

10 Swimming Pool

The swimming baths were well used, as most homes did not have inside toilets never mind bathrooms. The attendants would call out the numbers of the cubicles as your session finished. Sometimes you would pretend that you didn't hear your number called and carry on swimming... but the attendants would go into the cubicles and take out your towel and threaten to throw it into the water!

11 Boyd's Foundry

In 1935 Nancy Cairns father got a job in J&T Boyd's Foundry as a precision grinder, where he worked until he retired in 1968. "He told us about using a micrometer and how detailed his work was. It was long hours standing and he ended up having varicose veins!"

12 United Glass and Bottle Works

The North British Bottle Works opened in 1904 on Old Shettleston Road and the name was changed later to United Glass. The works closed in 1983. Bill Winning worked there between 1958 and 1961, and remembers starting as part of the team who manually unloaded the trains coming into the siding at the Shettleston Juniors football pitch.