



Strathleven House, Dumbarton

Formerly a derelict building, this 18th Century Palladian mansion on the outskirts of Dumbarton was restored and sympathetically converted for modern office use.



BEFORE:

The building in disrepair



AFTER:

The restored exterior and pavilions



AFTER:

The restored Oak Room

“This exemplary restoration is a fitting outcome for an extremely important house in Scottish architectural history”

ROBERT HISLOP, HISTORIC SCOTLAND

Strathleven House is as important as it is impressive. Built in 1700 it is attributed to the Palladian pioneer, James Smith, the most significant Scottish architect of his time and the person generally credited with introducing Palladianism into Scotland. It is A-Listed and considered to be the earliest surviving example of the classic Palladian country house in Scotland.

For nearly 250 years the property and the large private estate in which it was set was a cherished family home, only changing hands twice. Following the Second World War, however, the house and its large estate were compulsory purchased for redevelopment. The magnificent house was ignored and by the 1980's it was abandoned and encompassed by an industrial estate.

The building was at risk and almost derelict with substantial parts of the roof and floors to the main house missing. Despite this, significant parts of internal decoration

survived including carved oak panelling in one of its principal rooms, remains of a painted dado and a hand crafted timber balustrade to the main stair.

Strathleven House became the first major challenge for Scottish Historic Buildings Trust. In recognition of its significance, despite its condition, it was acquired by SHBT in 1986 and following a period of fundraising, a long programme of repair work began in 1993 to create a business centre for start-up businesses. After three phases of work over 7 years the building was opened for business in 2000.

Today the property offers high quality serviced office accommodation for a range of businesses. The feature ‘Oak Room’ and large ‘Board Room’ now serve as lettable conference, meeting and function rooms, combining period detail with fine views of the grounds and surrounding countryside.

BUILDING DEVELOPER AND OWNER:
Scottish Historic Buildings Trust

PROJECT COST:
£2.4 million

FUNDERS:
SHBT are grateful to numerous funders for their generous contributions to the project. Please refer to our website for details on project funding.