BUDDHIST RETREAT

Leaflet — Acquired 2007, herewith.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION

AJ, 16.6.1993 — Competition Launched. Submissions to be in by 19.11.1993. 5 new buildings for the Samye Ling Tibetan Centre: 2 Buddhist retreat centres, a master's lodge, an interdenominational centre, and a visitor centre. Prizes of £8000, £4000, and £2000.

RIBA Journal, v.100, no.6, June 1993

Project includes, as well as new build, conversion of existing buildings and a Zen garden. Samye Ling has been at Eskdalemuir since 1967, and has 80 residents. The community wish 'to find an architect with whom it can develop designs and also highlight the issues involved in designing new buildings for such a unique environment'. issues 'such as the quality and use of natural lighting and energy conservation will be prime considerations when choosing the winning scheme'.

RIBA Journal, v.101, no.2, February 1994 Competition Results.

The RIAS's international competition for a Tibetan Buddhist retreat on Holy Island ... has been won by the young Amsterdam based architects **John Bosch and Gordon Haslett**.

The competition, which attracted hundreds of entries from all over the world, was to design five new centres, a retreat masters' lodge, an international centre for peace and reconciliation and a heritage centre for the samye Ling community which is based on the remote Scottish island. 'The response to the competition was most gratifying' said the assessors, who included Andy MacMillan, Enric Miralles and Hiroki Kimura, the Venerable Lama Yeshe Losal and Dr Aking Tulku Rinpoche. Almost 200 entries were received and 20 short-listed. Liverpool-based Gladys Martinez and Paul Archer were awarded second place and Barcelona architect Sart Arquitects came in third. Six other entries were highly commended. In choosing a winning scheme, the jury looked for simplicity, modernity and sympathy with the environment - all building locations set down in the brief were chosen in accordance with the ancient eastern arts of feng-shui and geomancy. A scheme that made good use of natural light and energy conservation was also sought. In its report, however, the jury states that it looked more at the overall approach taken by the architect tahn at the final submission.

The winning and commended schemes, together with a further 35 submissions, will now go on display in a travelling exhibition that will tour throughout the UK while the Buddhist community continues its fund-raising campaign. Although it has a number of sponsors, the community does not have the capital to build at present. The exhibition will promote further fund-raising in the UK and abroad.

John Bosch and Gordon Haslett's winning scheme impressed the judges with its elegant minimalist solution. The three main buildings - the men's and women's retreat centres and the retreat masters' lodge - are conceived as a series of separate but related rooms on the island's southern point. The fourth building, the interdenominational centre, is located to the north. All four buildings have an impenetrable, cliff-like quality, designed to encourage contemplation. A Buddha sits in a niche in the wall of the men's retreat centre.

[See also photocopies herewith]

GENERAL

McLaughlin, Molaise, 70 — Buddhists took possession 18 April 1992.

HOUSE

glasgowhistory.co.uk/Books/Mansion Houses/MansionChapters/Dalmarnock.htm

(1878) The house still standing on Holy Isle was built by 'Holmhead' (William Allan Woddrop of Holmhead and Dalmarnock, &c). He died in 1832. He "was as well-known in society in the west of Scotland as any one of his day. He was a man of fine presence, scrupulous in dress, and punctilious in manner, and of good ability. But he was best known as one of the old school of Scotch Lairds, who made a point of honour that no guest should rise from their table sober. Of this horrible school he was a most zealous scholar. Happily he was among the last on the roll; and, as some amends, he was among the first here who took to the healthy sport of yachting. He and James Oswald of Scotstoun (who had been in the navy) owned the first Clyde yacht, properly so-called, the first sea-going vessel expressly built here for pleasure. She was a cutter, named the *Lamlash*, from her anchorage in Lamlash Bay."
Latterly he lived in a villa he built at Ardrossan. (Is this 4 South Crescent. W A Woddrop of Dalmarnock inherited Holmhead from Hamilton relatives, and may have changed his surname.)

ASH, Sa 5.5.1866, 1a — To let for the summer, "the mansion house on Holy Isle" - 9 apartments, WC, water, "with use of garden and boat".

Scots Magazine, 80/5, February 1964, 466-470

W K Holmes, "Holy Island". 468: "The island was bought a few years ago by an American of Arran ancestry who visits it from time to time. The farmhouse is kept in good order…"

Scots Magazine, 93/2, May 1970, 192,194

University Federation for Animal Welfare. Their field study centre on Holy Isle opened in a house at the north end of the island last year.

Roger A Redfern, Setting Foot on Holy Island, CL 13.9.1979 [In my Arran file]

The whitewashed farmhouse is now Field Study Centre of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare.

HOLY ISLE (INNER) LIGHTHOUSE

ASH, Sa 6.10.1877, 4d — The light at SW entrance of Holy Isle will be lit on and after 1.10.1877.

Redfern, *op cit* — Both lights were automated in 1977.

nr — **D & T Stevenson**

HOLY ISLE (OUTER) LIGHTHOUSE, also known as PILLAR ROCK

IOAH, 141 — 1905.

nr — **D.A. (& Charles) Stevenson**.

ST MOLIO'S CAVE

D Wilson, PSAS, vol 17, 11.12.1882, 47

Description of cave given in 'Origines Pariochales Scotiae, ii, 245; 'famed for a cave bearing a Runic inscription, and traditionally said to have been the residence of a saint named Molingus, Maeljos or Molios. This cave, elevated about 25 feet above the present level of the sea, its inscription, a shelf of rock within it called the saint's bed, a large flat stone near it called his table (or sometimes called his chair), and his well, celebrated for its healing virtues, are still shown; while Baul Muluy (the stone globe of St Molingus), a smooth green stone about the size of a goose's egg, which was believed to have the virtue of curing diseases, and of procuring victory for the Macdonalds (whose chaplain the saint is said to have been) has now disappeared'. Table, or saint's Chair, is a large block of stone with several recessed seats cut

along its circumference, and with flat top in centre; so it furnishes both table and chairs.

RUNES

Wilson, ibid

Runes said to have been made by followers of Haco, King of Norway, who retreated here following Haco's defeat at Battle of Largs in October 1263.

Cave is worn sandstone recess. Sloping roof and side of recess are covered with rude marks, crosses, monograns, and other carvings of different periods, amongst which can still be seen, high up on left, the clearly cut Runi inscription, executed with regularity, in characters about an inch and a half in height. This is the well known 'Niculos' Rune: 'Nicholas of Haen who cut these runes' - this inscription is now defaced (1882) since my last visit in 1850.

Other inscriptions, very lightly graven into stone are: 'Saeviethir made me' and other names of pilgrims who visited the cave. Another set of runes discovered in 1863 near the Nicholas runes are 'Of Amdvar the Raisting', 'Ontur engraved these runes', and on a sloping face of rock in characters nearly 8 inches in length, but slightly scratched and weathered is satirical inscription, 'A tall (or stout) fellow is Sea-Elk Seal's nose!'.

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