



Scottish
Historic
Buildings
Trust

Law's Close, Kirkcaldy

Restoration and adaptation of a 16th Century Merchant's House into mixed-use premises including flexible offices, educational facilities, and retail units.



BEFORE:

The exposed facade in disrepair



AFTER:

The restored exterior and retail units



AFTER:

Restored interior decoration

'It is a privilege to work in such a significant and interesting historic building which has been carefully restored and conserved. Law's Close provides a refreshing alternative to the bland offices typically available to lease, and a cost-effective alternative to home-working'

CRAIG FREW,

LAING TRADITIONAL MASONRY GROUP; TENANT.

Law's Close is one of the finest surviving 16th Century townhouses in Scotland which took its present form when it belonged to a ship owning family called Law in the late 1500s. The high status of the building is expressed in the fine interior decoration found throughout the building such as painted beam ceilings, plaster mouldings, multiple glazed windows and the use of cut-stone (ashlar work).

The architectural and historically important details within its walls include timber panelling, 16th century painted ceilings, a late 17th Century plaster-work ceiling and a 17th century wall painting of a ship, possibly commemorating the arrival of Anne of Denmark to Scotland in 1589.

The building had been used for a variety of purposes over the years before falling into disrepair. Scottish Historic Buildings Trust became involved in the 1980s and raised funding to restore and save this important A-listed building. The project consisted of

several phases over a 20 year duration and included archaeological investigations and historic research identifying different building phases, significant features and unique details, all of which were recorded and informed the restoration work.

The building now contains a variety of office spaces and two retail units available to let. The Education Room offers workshop space and hosts a permanent exhibition detailing the work carried out during the restoration project. A beautiful long rigg garden has been designed, as part of the Kirkcaldy Riggs Gardens Project, with the aim of relating a modern garden design to the history of the house. Managed as a community garden, it is open to the public and includes an outside performance space.

Law's Close was officially opened to the public in 2005 by the former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.

BUILDING DEVELOPER AND OWNER:
Scottish Historic Buildings Trust

PROJECT COST:
Building - £950,000
Garden - £80,000

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

Registered Charity No SC 034507

www.shbt.org.uk