

= William Bruce (architect) =

Sir William Bruce of Kinross , 1st Baronet (c . 1630 ? 1 January 1710) was a Scottish gentleman @-@ architect , " the effective founder of classical architecture in Scotland , " as Howard Colvin observes . As a key figure in introducing the Palladian style into Scotland , he has been compared to the pioneering English architects Inigo Jones and Christopher Wren , and to the contemporaneous introducers of French style in English domestic architecture , Hugh May and Sir Roger Pratt .

Bruce was a merchant in Rotterdam during the 1650s , and played a role in the Restoration of Charles II in 1659 . He carried messages between the exiled king and General Monck , and his loyalty to the king was rewarded with lucrative official appointments , including that of Surveyor General of the King 's Works in Scotland , effectively making Bruce the " king 's architect " . His patrons included John Maitland , 1st Duke of Lauderdale , the most powerful man in Scotland at that time , and Bruce rose to become a member of Parliament , and briefly sat on the Scottish Privy Council .

Despite his lack of technical expertise , Bruce became the most prominent architect of his time in Scotland . He worked with competent masons and professional builders , to whom he imparted a classical vocabulary ; thus his influence was carried far beyond his own aristocratic circle . Beginning in the 1660s , Bruce built and remodelled a number of country houses , including Thirlestane Castle for the Duke of Lauderdale , and Prestonfield House . Among his most significant work was his own Palladian mansion at Kinross , built on the Loch Leven estate which he had purchased in 1675 . As the king 's architect he undertook the rebuilding of the Royal Palace of Holyroodhouse in the 1670s , which gave the palace its present appearance . After the death of Charles II Bruce lost political favour , and later , following the accession of William and Mary , he was imprisoned more than once as a suspected Jacobite . However , he managed to continue his architectural work , often providing his services to others with Jacobite sympathies .

= = Early years = =

Little is known of William Bruce 's youth , and his date of birth is unrecorded . He was probably born at Blairhall in western Fife , in around 1630 , the second son of Robert Bruce of Blairhall and Katherine Preston . He may have attended St Andrews University in 1637 ? 1638 , which would suggest that his birth date was as early as 1625 . The Bruces were a well @-@ connected Episcopalian family , strongly loyal to the king , and descended from Thomas Bruce a cousin of King Robert II , who had been granted lands in Clackmannan and Fife . Bruce 's first cousin Edward Bruce was created Earl of Kincardine in 1643 .

Letters in the Earl of Kincardine 's papers show that William Bruce was in exile in Rotterdam during the 1650s with his cousin , Alexander Bruce , brother of the Earl of Kincardine . As Episcopalians , William and Alexander would have sought refuge from the Puritan Commonwealth established by Oliver Cromwell . In Rotterdam , they were in contact with Sir Robert Moray , a soldier and natural philosopher close to Charles II , who then resided at Maastricht . William Bruce was a merchant , based in the Scottish community in Rotterdam , but travelling widely . He owned a ship with Alexander Bruce and John Hamilton of Grange , and was involved in the trade of wine , coal and timber between Norway , France , England , Scotland and the Low Countries . He is recorded as having a house and a mistress in La Rochelle . He may have had a son Normand by this mistress , since in 1672 he figures as a witness to the baptism at Holyrood of a William Bruce , son of Normand Bruce , mason . Moreover , the marriage record of Normand Bruce states that he was employed at Balcaskie . In 1658 , William and Alexander travelled together from Bremen overland to Maastricht to meet Moray . Alexander Bruce and Moray were founder members of the Royal Society in 1660 , and it is likely that architecture featured in their discussions , particularly the new town hall in Maastricht that Moray had recently advised on .

In 1659 , Bruce acted as a messenger between General Monck , Cromwell 's commander @-@ in @-@ chief in Scotland , and the exiled King Charles II . A passport survives , issued to Bruce by Monck in September 1659 , and giving him permission to remain in Scotland until his " returne to

Holland , " and it appears that the messages he brought from Charles persuaded Monck to march his army to London , a decisive event in the Restoration . The nature of their communications is not known , although it would appear that Moray selected him for the task . Sir Robert Douglas stated that Bruce " painted the distress and distractions " of Scotland before the General , and suggested to him " the glory that would be acquired in restoring the royal family . "

= = Political career = =

Following the restoration , William Bruce was appointed Clerk to the Bills in 1660 , and Clerk of Supply to the Lords in Council in 1665 . Both were lucrative positions , involving collection of fees , from Parliament in the first case , and from petitioners to the Court of Session in the latter . Meanwhile , Sir Robert Moray had established himself as a courtier and scientist at Whitehall , London , and employed Bruce as a trusted messenger between Whitehall and the Duke of Lauderdale , Secretary for Scotland .

Moray later served on the Treasury Commission for Scotland , as did Alexander Bruce , now Earl of Kincardine . Bruce reported to this Commission as a revenue collector , and benefited from the patronage of its members . The Commission had responsibility for the King 's Works , and in 1667 Bruce was appointed Superintendent and Overseer of the Royal Palaces in Scotland . Four years later he was made Surveyor General of the King 's Works in Scotland , with a salary of £ 3600 Scots (£ 300 Sterling , or £ 44 @, @ 000 in 2016) , for the purpose of rebuilding Holyroodhouse . In March 1671 , Bruce was part of a syndicate which bought the rights to collect taxes over a five @-@ year period , paying £ 26 @, @ 000 Sterling (£ 3 @. @ 8 million in 2016) for the privilege . As such , it would appear that Bruce was not only the architect of Holyroodhouse , but one of the principal financiers of the £ 21 @, @ 000 project .

As a key figure of the Restoration administration , William Bruce became close to other Stuart loyalists , who included such powerful patrons as the Duke of Lauderdale , Lord Haltoun , and the Earl of Rothes . In 1667 , he undertook his first building work for Lord Rothes , overseeing the extensions to Leslie House , and later worked on several of Lauderdale 's properties , concurrently with Holyroodhouse . In 1668 he was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia .

From 1669 to 1674 Bruce sat in the Scottish Parliament as shire commissioner for Fife , and from 1681 to 1682 as a shire commissioner for Kinross . From April 1685 to May 1686 he reached the peak of his political career , as a member of the Privy Council of Scotland . But , in 1674 , he became embroiled in factional rivalry between his patron Lauderdale , and his rivals the Duke of Hamilton and the Earl of Tweeddale . His actions , which apparently included passing information to Hamilton , invoked the fury of the Duchess of Lauderdale , who tried to persuade her husband to deprive Bruce of his offices . Bruce survived , although his relationship with his patron was damaged . Lauderdale described him as " the bitterest factionalist partie man of his quality in all Scotland " . This breakdown resulted in Bruce 's eventual dismissal as Surveyor General of the King 's Works , on the false pretext that Holyroodhouse was finished .

Bruce 's earnings from his offices had made him a wealthy man , even by the standards of his patrons . This wealth allowed him to purchase the Balcaskie estate in 1665 , and to extend the house and gardens . In 1675 he purchased the larger estate of Loch Leven , Kinross , from the Earl of Morton , which brought him the hereditary sheriffdom of Kinross @-@ shire . In the late 1670s Bruce took on his first architectural projects for entirely new houses .

Following the accession of James VII in 1685 , Bruce gradually fell from favour , and was distrusted by the new regime . After the Revolution of 1688 , and the accession of William of Orange as King , he was once again at odds with his Protestant rulers , and he refused to take up his seat in Parliament . As a staunch Episcopalian , Bruce was considered a potential Jacobite threat . In 1693 he was briefly imprisoned in Stirling Castle for refusing to appear before the Privy Council . He was incarcerated again at Stirling in 1694 , and from 1696 in Edinburgh Castle . Bruce was expelled from parliament in 1702 , his seat passing to his son John Bruce . Despite these imprisonments , he continued his architectural work , indeed the 1690s and 1700s were his most prolific years . Bruce was imprisoned at Edinburgh Castle again in 1708 and was only released a short time before his

death , at the beginning of 1710 . He was buried in the family plot at Kinross Kirk , the ruins of which still stand beside Kinross House .

Bruce 's surviving account books show purchases of books on music , painting and horticulture , as well as numerous foreign @-@ language works , suggesting that William Bruce was a learned man . He studied horticulture extensively , and applied his knowledge of the subject in his own gardens at Kinross . He was a friend of James Sutherland of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden , and may have known John Evelyn and other English horticulturalists .

= = Family = =

Around 1660 William Bruce married Mary Halkett , daughter of Sir James Halkett of Pitfirrane , Bt . They had two surviving children :

Sir John Bruce , 2nd Baronet of Kinross , (before 1671 ? 19 March 1710) married Christian Leslie , widow of the Marquess of Montrose and daughter of the Duke of Rothes . He left no issue .

Anne , upon whom Sir William had entailed his estates if her brother failed to leave issue . She married twice , with issue to both husbands .

After the death of his first wife , Sir William Bruce married Magdalen Scott , widow of an Edinburgh merchant called George Clerk , in 1700 . They had no issue . Magdalen lived until 1752 , and gained a reputation as a Jacobite , establishing a Jacobite cell at her home in Leith Citadel .

= = Architectural works = =

= = = Influences = = =

The Netherlands provided William Bruce with many of his influences . He was in the Low Countries at a time when Italian Classicism was the height of fashion , and similarities have been observed between Bruce 's work , particularly Holyroodhouse , and such buildings as the Amsterdam City Hall (1648 ? 65) , the work of Jacob van Campen , and Maastricht 's City Hall (1659 ? 64) , by Pieter Post . Alexander Bruce had married a Dutch woman with family ties to the House of Orange , and it seems likely that he provided links to the Dutch artisans who worked on some of Bruce 's projects .

Bruce was certainly familiar with northern France , and in 1663 he made a further " foreign journey " at the behest of Lauderdale , although his itinerary is unknown . Whether by visit or through studying engravings , he knew several notable French houses including Vaux @-@ le @-@ Vicomte , Blérancourt , and the Chateau de Balleroy , the last the work of French architect François Mansart . These modern French designs , incorporating features then unknown in Scotland , such as the double @-@ pile of major rooms in two enfilades , ranged back @-@ to @-@ back , were also influential on Bruce 's designs .

English influence is also visible in his work . His country houses took the compact Anglo @-@ Dutch type as their model , as introduced into England by Hugh May and Sir Roger Pratt , but with Continental detailing , such as the rustication on the facade at Mertoun . Roger Pratt 's Coleshill House of 1660 is often cited as a model for Bruce 's Kinross House . Konrad Ottenheim concludes that Bruce employed an " international style " , which was fashionable in France , Holland , and England , and that he was pivotal in disseminating this style in Scotland .

= = = Early works = = =

Bruce 's early work involved advising clients and rebuilding existing houses , rather than designing new buildings from scratch . Panmure House and Leslie House (seat of the Earl of Rothes) had been projects of the king 's master mason John Mylne . At Panmure , although Bruce has been credited with the design in the past , the works were overseen by Alexander Nisbet , although Bruce did design the gates and gate piers . At Leslie , Bruce oversaw the works after Mylne 's death , and probably made his own amendments . Panmure was demolished in the 1950s , and only a small

part of Leslie House remains standing , following a fire in the 18th century . Bruce later advised the Duke of Queensberry regarding his plans for Drumlanrig Castle .

Bruce also worked on his own property at Balcaskie , Fife , which he bought in 1665 , and which does survive intact , although with later alterations . He doubled the L @-@ plan house to a near @-@ symmetrical U @-@ plan , and may have built the curving wing @-@ walls and linking pavilions . Gifford , however , attributes these to a later building phase . The curving walls , a form later seen at Hopetoun , were a new innovation if Bruce did carry them out , possibly inspired by the work of the Italian Gian Lorenzo Bernini . In the gardens he laid out parterres and stepped " Italian " terraces , with a vista leading the eye to the Bass Rock , all inspired by French baroque gardens such as Vaux @-@ le @-@ Vicomte . Internally , Bruce created a new layout of rooms , and it was for his continental @-@ inspired internal planning , as much as his exterior design , that he was sought after as an architect .

In 1670 the Duke of Lauderdale commissioned Bruce to remodel Thirlestane Castle , his 16th @-@ century tower house in the Border country . Bruce , working with King 's master mason Robert Mylne , extended the building with new corner pavilions and a new entrance , and re @-@ planned the interior . Lauderdale continued to employ Bruce , often working closely with Lord Haltoun , Lauderdale 's brother , during the 1670s , on his homes at Brunstane near Edinburgh , and Lethington (later renamed Lennoxlove) , as well as commissioning a design for new gates at his English property , Ham House , near London , in 1671 . At Ham Bruce may have had further involvement with the remodelling works going on there , under the direction of the English architect William Samwell . While engaged at Thirlestane , Bruce also designed the nearby Lauder Kirk , his only complete church . One of very few 17th century cruciform @-@ plan churches in Scotland , it may have been inspired by François Mansart 's similar church at Balleroy in France .

= = = Holyroodhouse = = =

William Bruce 's appointment as Surveyor General of the King 's Works in Scotland was made chiefly for the purpose of rebuilding the palace of Holyroodhouse . Aside from this project , he only carried out minor repairs to Edinburgh and Stirling Castles , and to the fortifications on the Bass Rock . Charles I had intended to extend and rebuild Holyroodhouse , and plans had been drawn up in the 1630s . Nothing was done however , and in 1650 the palace was burnt out , destroying all but the west range . Bruce was contracted to design and oversee the works , with Robert Mylne acting as contractor . Bruce 's plans were drawn up by Mylne , as Bruce himself apparently lacked the technical skills of architectural drawing .

Charles II criticised Bruce 's initial plans for the internal layout , and an improved scheme was eventually approved . Construction began in July 1671 , and by 1674 much of the work was complete . Bruce built a second gothic tower to mirror the existing one built by James V between 1528 and 1532 , and created the courtyard block in a restrained classical style . A second phase of work started in 1676 , when the Duke of Lauderdale ordered Bruce to demolish and rebuild the main west façade , resulting by 1679 in the screen wall , topped by a carved imperial crown , which forms the main entrance .

Also in 1676 , Bruce drew up plans for the completion of Heriot 's Hospital in Edinburgh , which had been started in the 1620s . His design , for the central tower of the south façade , was eventually executed in 1693 .

= = = Country houses = = =

His first commission for a new building was for the construction of Dunkeld House , and came from the Earl of Atholl in 1676 . The house had been badly damaged in 1654 , during the civil war , and Bruce was given the task of building its replacement . (The house was later demolished) . Another early full @-@ scale commission was for Moncrieffe House (1679) , which burned down in 1957 .

In 1675 , Bruce bought the estate of Loch Leven from the Earl of Morton . The estate included an old manor near Kinross , as well as the ruins of Loch Leven Castle , famous as the jail of Mary ,

Queen of Scots . After carrying out repairs on the old manor , and beginning to lay out the gardens , Bruce began work on his new home , Kinross House , in 1686 , employing master mason Thomas Bauchop . The Palladian building bears some resemblance to Roger Pratt 's Coleshill House of 1660 (demolished) , but with features Bruce derived from French sources . These features , ultimately classical and Italian in origin , include the rusticated basement stonework , and the giant order of corinthian pilasters , the latter possibly deriving from Bernini 's first designs for the Louvre . Following Bruce 's fall from favour , he found himself increasingly in debt , which delayed the completion of the house until 1693 . Kinross was one of the earliest Palladian @-@ style country houses in Scotland , and was recognised as one of the finest buildings in the country ; Daniel Defoe described it as " the most beautiful and regular piece of Architecture in Scotland " , and Thomas Pennant called Kinross " the first good house of regular architecture in North Britain " .

Despite William Bruce 's fall from political favour , and his intermittent imprisonment , he continued to practice . During the 1690s he completed Hill of Tarvit (1696) , Craighall (1697 ? 99) in Fife , and Craigiehall (1699) near Edinburgh . The latter , built for the Marquess of Annandale , still stands , and is used as the British Army 's Scottish headquarters . From 1698 he was working on a new house for the young Charles Hope , later first Earl of Hopetoun . Hopetoun House , near Edinburgh , was completed in 1702 , and represents Bruce 's grandest country house design . The master mason was again Thomas Bauchop , and the inspiration was again Anglo @-@ Dutch , with French rustication . The bulk of Bruce 's work is now obscured by 18th century remodelling , carried out by William Adam . Bruce was commissioned again by Hopetoun in 1708 , to build a private aisle at Abercorn Kirk . The Hopetoun Loft overlooks the interior of the kirk , and connects to a retiring room with an oval " squint " giving a view of the pulpit .

In 1702 Bruce was commissioned by the burgesses of Stirling to design a new tolbooth for the town . Bruce provided only sketch plans , which were executed by local masons between 1703 and 1705 . Bruce 's last country houses were Harden House (now known as Mertoun House) , built for the Scotts in the Borders , and his smallest house , Auchendinny in Midlothian . His final work , in around 1710 , was for Nairne House , for the Jacobite Lord Nairne . The house was not completed until two years after Bruce 's death , and the extent of his involvement is unclear . Nairne House was demolished in 1760 , although the cupola was retained and installed on the roof of the King James VI Hospital in nearby Perth .

= = Legacy = =

Although Daniel Defoe called Bruce " the Kit Wren of North Britain " , for his role as the effective founder of classical architecture in that country , Gifford suggests he is more comparable to Hugh May and Roger Pratt in his achievements . Like May and Pratt , he popularised a style of country house amongst the nobility , encouraging the move away from the traditional " tower house " , which came to be perceived as increasingly anachronistic , towards a more continental , leisure @-@ oriented architecture . Sir John Clerk of Penicuik named Bruce as " the chief introducer of architecture in this country " , while to Colen Campbell , compiler of Vitruvius Britannicus , he was " justly esteem 'd the best Architect of his time in that Kingdom " . His work was a major influence on the design of country houses in the 18th century , an influence which was spread through the masons and draughtsmen he worked with , including Mylne and Bauchop , James Smith , and Alexander Edward . At Kinross his deliberate alignment of the main vista on the ruins of Lochleven Castle suggested to Howard Colvin " that Bruce , like Vanbrugh , has a place in the prehistory of the picturesque " .