

DESIGN

DRAWING OFFICE & PATTERN SHOP



Interior of Lion Foundry pattern shop, 1984



Pattern maker and pattern for section of heavy duty roadway cover, 1984



James Leitch (Jnr) in the Lion Foundry pattern store, 1984. He is holding a pattern for an ornamental railing. The pattern is mounted for the wooden held after the close of the foundry.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century the Lion Foundry range branched out from gates, railings, rainwater castings and other comparatively mundane products, into the field of constructional ironwork – elaborate bandstands, shelters, shopping arcades, verandahs and other such structures. For this they needed a draughtsman/designer, so William Cassells was lured from Walter MacFarlane & Company's Saracen Foundry in Glasgow, for the high wage (for the time) of £3.00 per week. From 1900 Cassells' work was carried forward by James Leitch (Snr), who was chief draughtsman at the foundry from that year until his death in 1944. Leitch Senior's early designs included some with a pronounced art nouveau styling, inspired by classes he attended at Glasgow School of Art. After his death the family tradition was continued by his son, James Leitch (Jnr), who took over as chief draughtsman in 1945 and continued until his retirement in 1977.

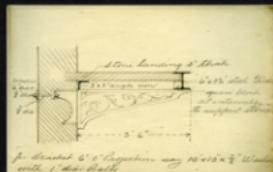
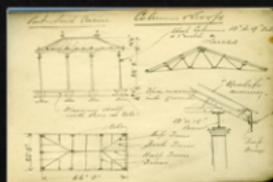
The Leitches, father and son, were as well known in the pattern shop as they were in the drawing office, for it was here that the first stage in the implementation of their designs took place. With a Leitch drawing propped up on his work-bench the pattern-maker would skilfully create the components of a pattern in wood or plaster, (sometimes other materials). During the later years of the foundry James Leitch Junior would proudly conduct visitors along to the wonderful pattern store (a veritable aladdin's cave), where he would explain the significance of many of the designs originated by the family succession. The patterns were expensive to manufacture and the foundry often received repeat orders, so it was considered sensible to preserve as many as possible. Many of them are now in the East Dunbartonshire Museums collection.



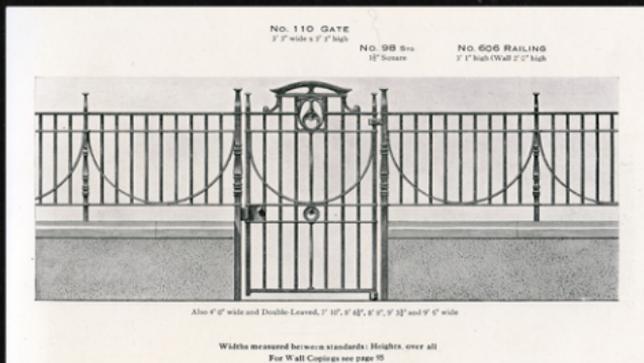
James Leitch (Jnr) pictured here celebrating the success of the 'Keep Kirkintilloch Dry' campaign 1961



Portrait of James Leitch Snr (1878-1944)



Pages from sketchbook of James Leitch Snr, 1896-c1910



Cast iron gate displaying the art nouveau influence in Leitch Snr's designs, from published trade catalogue, c 1925



Blueprint drawing of bandstand for Kilsyth, 1909-1910