

THE LUTYENS TRUST

To protect and promote the spirit and substance of the work of Sir Edwin Lutyens O.M.

NEWSLETTER

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LAMBAY CASTLE – LOOKING BACK ON EDWIN LUTYENS’S CREATION FOR THE BARING FAMILY AND ITS RECENT RESTORATION

By Millie Baring, great-granddaughter of Cecil and Maude Baring

The island of Lambay, a few miles off the coast of County Dublin, Ireland, presents an air of mystery even to its closest neighbours. Some have likened it to the island that Prospero inhabits in Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*. With a rich history of monasteries, pirates, Viking raids, shipwrecks, prisoner-of-war camps and coastguard stations, it became, at the start of the 20th century, home to a newly-wed couple, my great-grandparents, banker Cecil Baring (3rd Lord Revelstoke) and his American wife, Maude Lorillard.



The harbour at Lambay. © Tim Barraclough

Cecil and Maude were seeking an idyllic getaway where they could explore their twin passions – nature and the arts. They bought the island in 1904 and, in August, 1905, commissioned Edwin Lutyens to renovate the late 15th/ early 16th-century fort there and transform it into a romantic castle and home. “The couple had seen Lutyens’s work in *Country Life*,” says Louis Jebb, the Barings’ great-grandson. “Between 1902 and 1905, it featured several Lutyens projects, including Fulbrook and Deanery Garden, and they approached him in 1905, based on that.”



Right: Lutyens on the east terrace of Lambay Castle during his first visit there in 1905. Courtesy of the Baring Family Collection