

Agenda

- (01) Medieval Context
- 02 Building the Georgian House
- 03 Types of Town Houses
- (04) Exterior Spaces
- 05 Exterior Materials
- (06) Exterior Elements
- (07) Natural Light

- 08) Location, Location, Location
- (09) Greater Context
- (10) Interior Features
- (11) Interior Rooms
- 12 The Middling Sort
- 13 The Not So Middling Sort
- 14) Q&A



We meet in a tavern. Err, Pub.

Why?

Because this pub has the distinction of being built by Sir Christopher Wren.

But why did Christopher Wren build a pub?

Ye Olde Watling, London







- Timber-frame
 buildings common
- Jettied: wider at each higher story



The Shambles, York Maverdine Lane, Gloucester



Streets were much narrower than they used to be

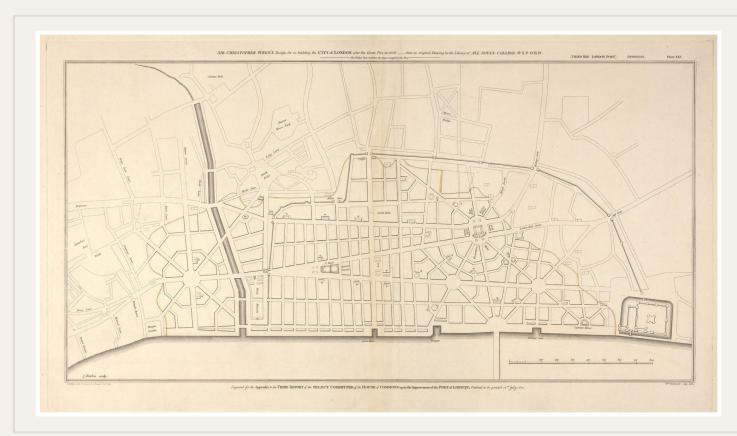
Gloucester

Medieval street plans often survive albeit with newer buildings on them

Ye Olde Mitre and alley passage, London







Plan for rebuilding London, Christopher Wren (Wikimedia)



- Thatched roofs
- Tip: High gable coping like this is a sign that a building used to be thatched

Newark

Post-Fire Building Regulations

The new Globe Theatre in London required permission to build with a thatch roof

Replica Globe Theatre, London



Post-Fire Building Regulations

- Buildings must be brick or stone
- No more jetties
- Window sills and other requirements

Medieval window, Lacock



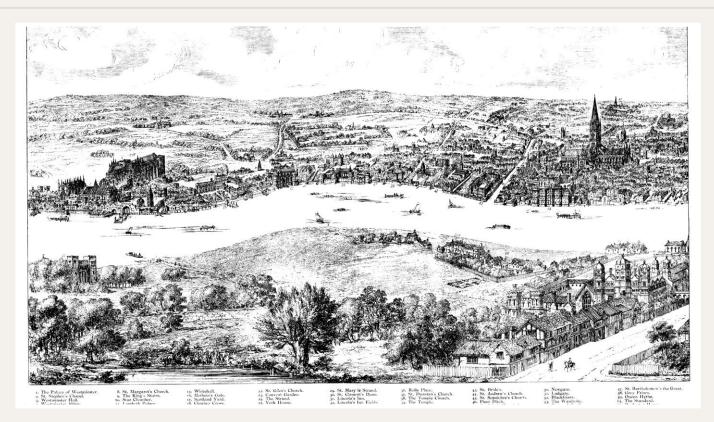


Bath

London



Expansion



Panorama of London in 1543 (Wikimedia)

Estates Converted to Housing

- Usually a centerpiece square
- Builders take land usually on a long lease

Berkeley Square, London





Estates Converted to Housing

"Since the death of her husband, who had traded with success in a less elegant part of the town, she had resided every winter in a house in one of the streets near Portman Square."

-Sense and Sensibility

Home House, 20 Portman Square

Speculative Building

- Often it's one builder per house, even if the houses share a party wall
- So even on one street the quality can vary

Belgravia, London



Speculative Building



Adelphi, London (source Wikimwdia

This could go badly even for established architects and builders Adelphi on the Thames had to have units sold

via a

lottery



Freestanding

- More common earlier
- Have some amount of gardens / grounds
- Often a front drive
- Essentially a country house but in the confines of today's Greater London



Chippenham

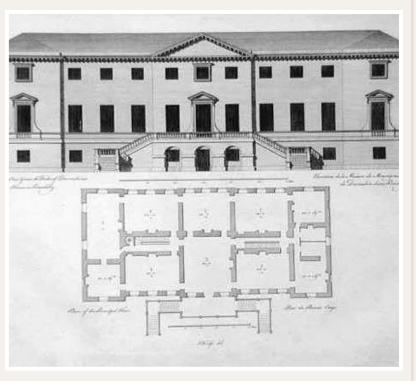


Arundel House, London 1646 (source Wikimedia)



Clarendon House, London in 1680 (source Wikimedia)



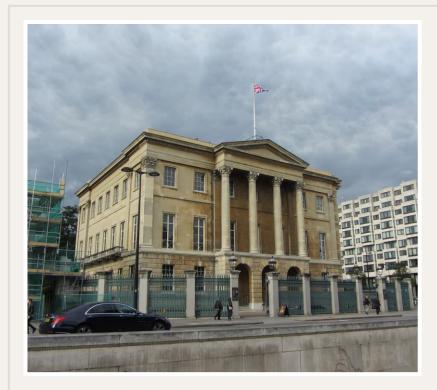


Devonshire House photo from 1896, floorplan and drawing from Vitruvius_Britannicus (source Wikimedia)











Apsley House, London

Somerset House, London





Spencer House, London

Villa

- Freestanding house
 just outside of London
- For country house type entertainments
- Not supported by land like a country house

"A cottage in some retired village would be ecstasy.

There are some charming little villas about Richmond."

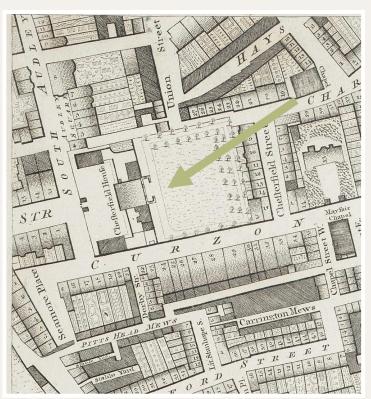
- Northanger Abbey

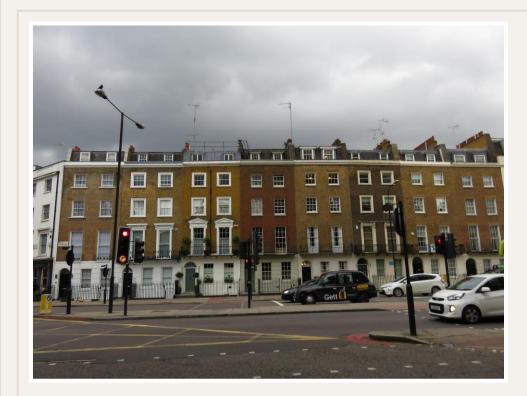


Marble Hill House, Twickenham



Chesterfield House, London (source Wikimedia)





London

Terrace

- Houses along a street sharing a party wall
- May have specific requirements from an architect in terms of exterior style and finish, may not
- Houses can be sized by number of bays (windows)

Terrace

- Unlike on the continent, the British preference is for vertical living
- Single up and down house (even if it's narrow) rather than one longer floor of a wide building



London





Beau Brummel's
House, London
(left) and
Greenwich (right)





Chippenham

+



Charlotte Square, Edinburgh

Palace Front

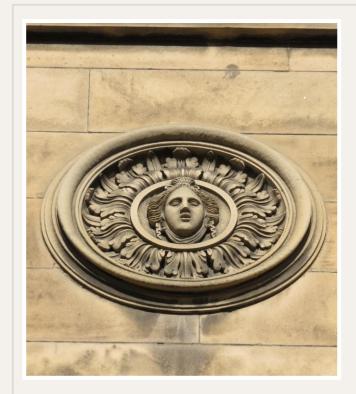
- Simulate the look of a country house, but for in-town terrace house living
- More impressive façade
- Still often individual builders, but with strict requirements so that each unit forms part of a cohesive whole



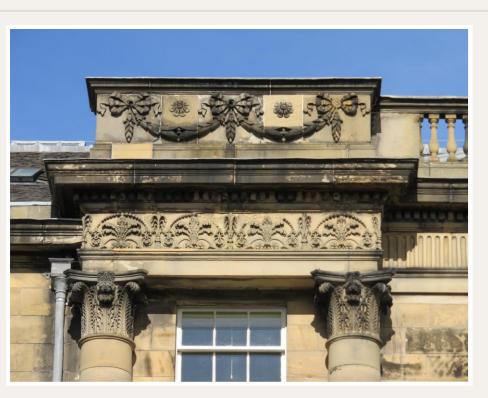


Charlotte Square, Edinburgh

Charlotte Square, Edinburgh



Charlotte Square, Edinburgh



Charlotte Square, Edinburgh

Bath Circus

John

Wood

the

Elder

Built

1754-69





Bath Royal Crescent

- John Wood the Younger
- Built 1767-1774

Crescent Mania!

London









Clifton, Bristol

Lansdown Crescent, Bath

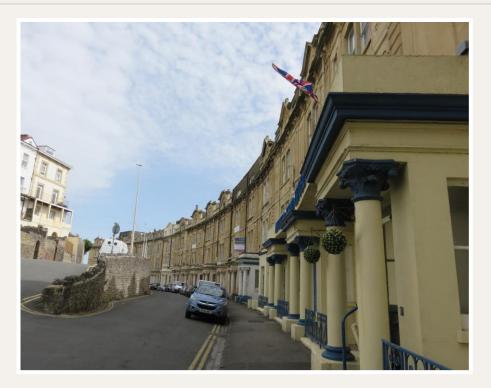




Camden Crescent, Bath

Belgravia, London





Hastings Weston-super-Mare



Belgravia, London

Corner Houses

- More windows = more
 natural light = more
 potential rooms
- Also may be opportunity for more architectural distinction



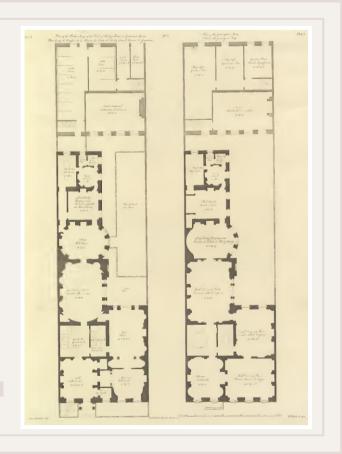


Royal Crescent, Bath

Natural Light

- The number of rooms you can have is dependent on how many windows you have
- Number of bays in the house & number of storeys
- How far back can you go?
- Floorplans often had a skinnier extension in the back

Plan of the Earl of Derby's House in Grosvenor Square (Works in Architecture of Robert and James Adam, public domain)





Front vs. Back

- Front, nicely finished whether part of a palace or not
- Back, no uniformity, might be built of "rubble" stone

Bath







Rear Yard

- Might contain working spaces, privy, etc.
- Might also contain a garden

Georgian Garden, Bath



Pickford House, Derby



Georgian House Museum, Bristol (note, the family fortune came from proceeds of the slave trade)

Rear Yard

Might be passage through to stables and mews



Regency Town House, Brighton





Brighton

Bath



Front Yard / Drive

- Many houses sat directly on the pavement for pedestrians beside the street
- Some houses were set back, however

Gloucester





Egremont House / Cambridge House, London

Stamford

Streets Above Ground Level

- Streets usually build on a vault above the ground level
- Houses have storage below their half of the street
- "Gap" between house and street to get light to service rooms



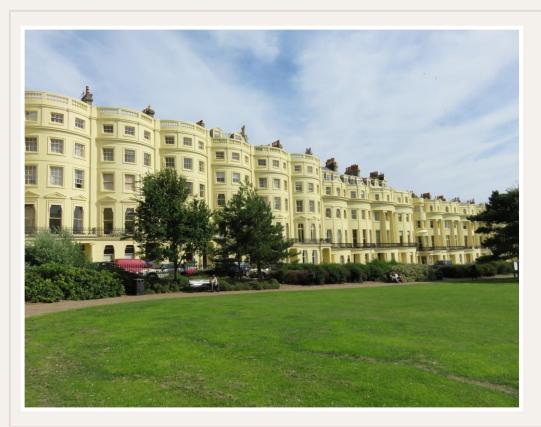
Museum of Bath Architecture



No. 1 Royal Crescent, Bath



Sally Lunn's Historic Eating House & Museum



Squares

- Have access if you live on the square
- Place you can go for exercise with only your upper-class neighbours

Brighton



Timber Frame

- Towns outside of London
- Fire did not burn everything, so may still be some old housing stock outside of that zone

Southampton



Brick

- Unlike country houses, had to be brought in
- Difficult to tell today whether brick was covered when house was still built

London

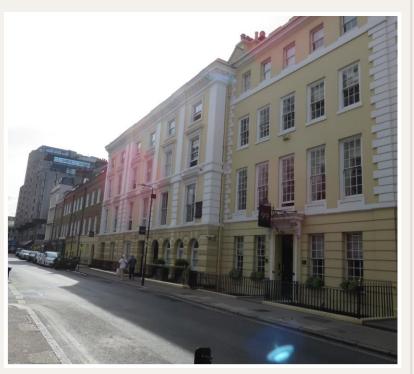
Stucco Render

- Brick covered to give it more of a stone-like look
- Sometimes lines etched into the render to look more stone-like

Brighton







Bedford Square, London

London



Stone

- Classic building material
- Regional: i.e. Bath stone, Portland stone (London)

Somerset House

Rustication

- Decorative masonry at the lower level
- Often used on rustic level in country houses
- In stone or in render



Bristol



Decorative Quoins

Corner blocks in different color and sometimes different material

Fairfax House, York

Coade Stone

- Special proprietary artificial "stone" fired like ceramic
- Used for statues and decorative elements
- Extremely long lasting
- Created by Eleanor Coade



Schomberg House, London





Bath



St Albans





Ironwork: Railings

- Myth: all railings painted black in mourning for Prince Albert
- Reality: Grey until early 19th century
- "Chrome Green" introduced 1820s
- Black became default color in 1950s

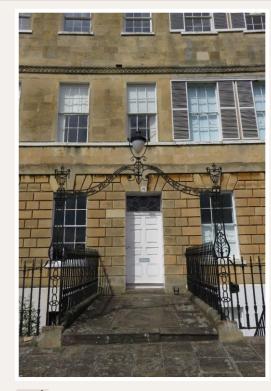
London

Ironwork: Lantern & Arch

Ironwork at this time is wrought iron



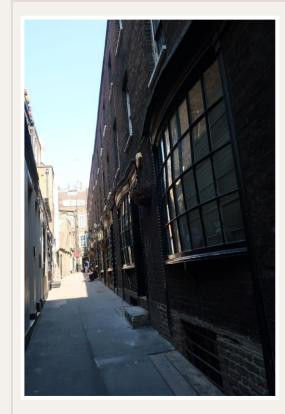
Bath (left), London (right)







Bath





Gas Lamps

- Murdoch has the first in his home
- Pall Mall in London gas lit in 1812

London

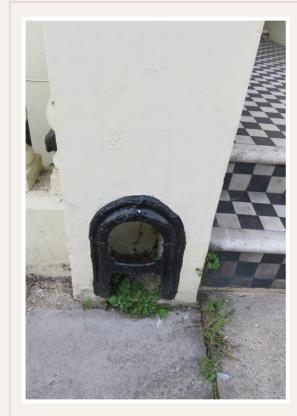
Ironwork: Torch Snuffer

Torches
carried by
linkboys to
light the way

London (left), Edinburgh (right)









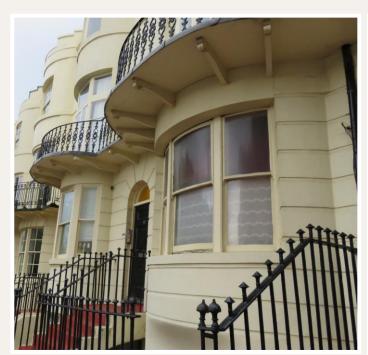
Ironwork: Boot Scraper

Brought to you by horses, being in streets, doing things that horses do

Brighton (left), Edinburgh (right)

Bow Window

Rounded variation on a bay window very popular in the Georgian era



Brighton (top), Doncaster, (right)







Bow Window

"...a bow thrown out, perhaps though, between ourselves, if
there is one thing more than
another my aversion, it is a
patched-on bow."
-Northanger Abbey

Bath

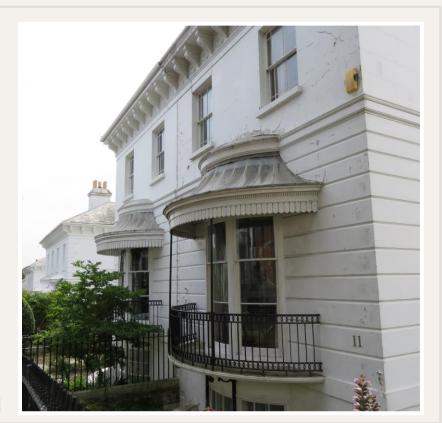




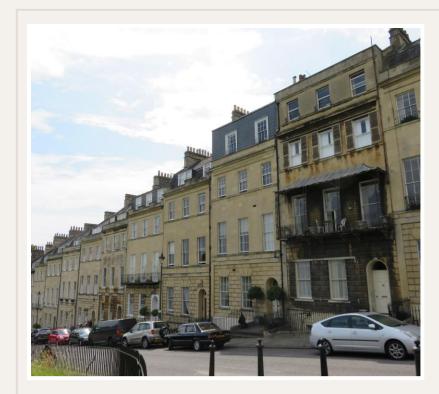
London

Balconies & Window Guards

Become popular in the Regency



Brighton





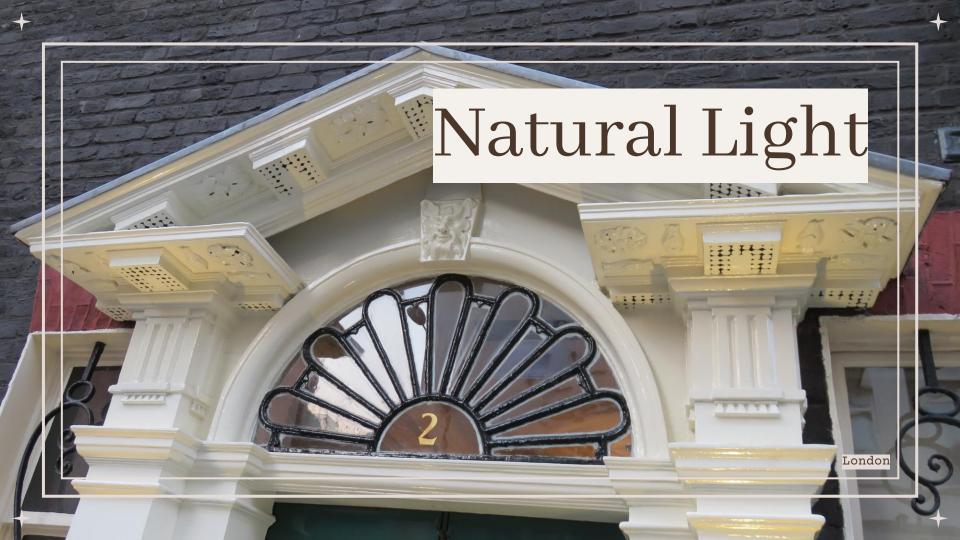
Bath





London

Near Regent's Park, London





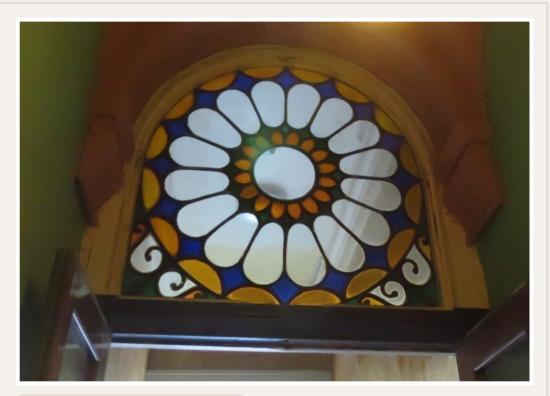
Transom Window / Fanlight

Georgian transom windows often take the half-circle fanlight shape

London

Transom Window / Fanlight

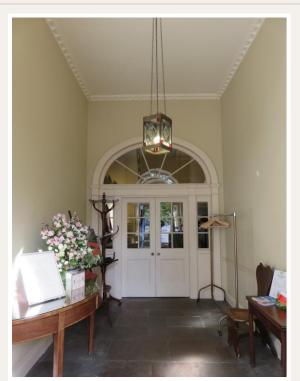
- May be multicoloured (although not many extant)
- May get multiple to provide light through the entrance hall



Regency Town House, Brighton



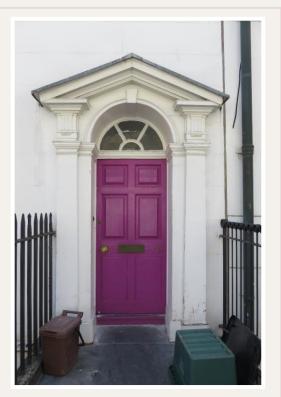




Georgian House, Edinburgh







Bath (left two)

London



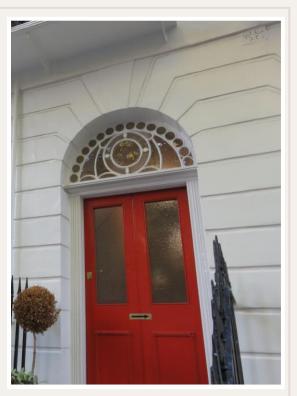




London







London





Porch

- Sheltered entrance
- Don't usually
 see porte
 cocheres
 (porch you
 can drive
 under) more
 popular in
 Victorian era

London

Windows

"Before the house-maid had lit their fire the next day, or the sun gained any power over a cold, gloomy morning in January, Marianne, only half dressed, was kneeling against one of the window-seats for the sake of all the little light she could command from it, and writing as fast as a continual flow of tears would permit her.

- Sense and Sensibility

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London

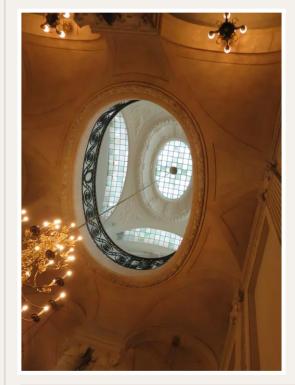






London

+





10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London (left); Arlington Court (right)

Skylight / Lantern

- Natural light + architectural showpiece
- Often paired with substantial staircase



Not Just London

- Towns that drew from everywhere for their own season
- Regional towns that were centers of commerce and governance

Pickford House, Derby

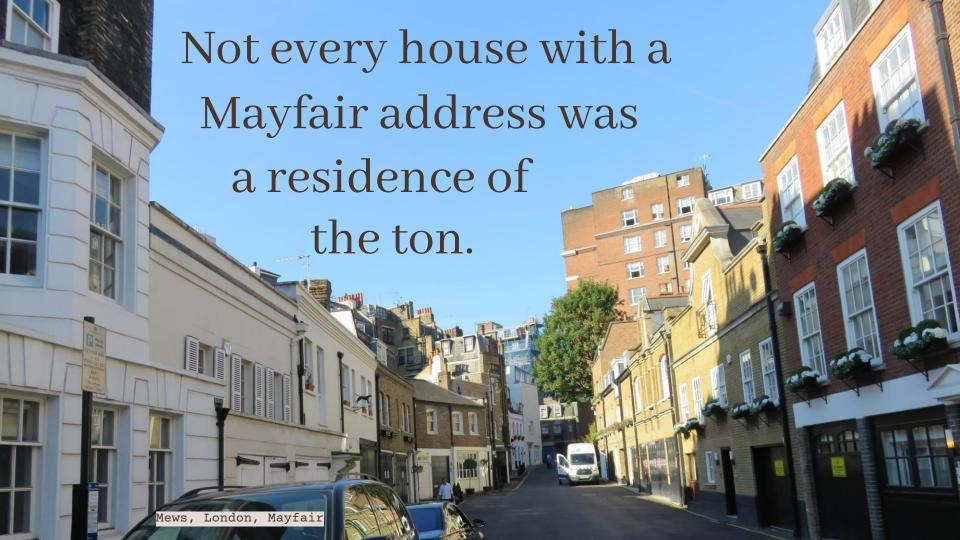




Regional Styles

Cottage orne was popular at the time Sidmouth developed

Sidmouth







Bath

Belgravia, London



Grenadier, Belgravia, London



Coach and Horses, Mayfair, London



Shepherd Market, Mayfair, London

Former "Wine Lodge," Shepherd Market



Location Does Matter, Though

"I hope we shall be in Bath in the winter; but remember, papa, if we do go, we must be in a good situation: none of your Queen Squares for us!"
-Persuasion

Queen Square, Bath



"She was put down in **Camden Place**; and Lady Russell then drove to her own lodgings, in Rivers Street."

- Persuasion

"...had taken a very good house in **Camden Place**, a lofty dignified situation, such as becomes a man of consequence; and both he and Elizabeth were settled there, much to their satisfaction."

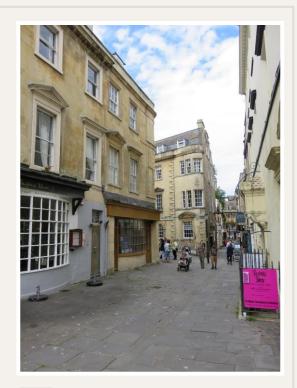
- Persuasion

"Lady Dalrymple had taken a house, for three months, in Laura Place, and would be living in style."

- Persuasion

"The Crofts had placed themselves in lodgings in Gay Street, perfectly to Sir Walter's satisfaction."

- Persuasion



Bath

"She then read the first sentence aloud, which comprised the information of their having just resolved to follow their brother to town directly, and of their meaning to dine that day in **Grosvenor street**, where Mr. Hurst had a house."

- Pride and Prejudice

"And that is quite impossible; for he is now in the custody of his friend, and Mr. Darcy would no more suffer him to call on Jane in such a part of London! My dear aunt, how could you think of it? Mr. Darcy may perhaps have heard of such a place as **Gracechurch Street**, but he would hardly think a month's ablution enough to cleanse him from its impurities, were he once to enter it; and depend upon it, Mr. Bingley never stirs without him."

- Pride and Prejudice

"'Yes; and they have another, who lives somewhere near **Cheapside**.'

'That is capital,' added her sister, and they both laughed heartily.

'If they had uncles enough to fill all **Cheapside**," cried Bingley, "it would not make them one jot less agreeable.'"

- Pride and Prejudice



Near Regent's Park, London

London: Expansion West / North

- Regent Street is the new grand thoroughfare (1819)
- Belgravia, late
 Regency neighbourhood
 (1830-1847)





Near Regent's Park, London

Carlton House Terrace, London







Georgian Baths, Bath

Bathing Machine, Osborne House, Isle of Wight





Sydney Gardens, Bath

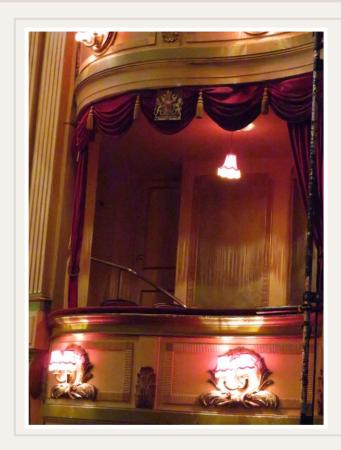
Upper Assembly Rooms, Bath





Rotten Row, Hyde Park

Bath





Theatre Royal, Brighton



Hatchards, London



Lock & Co. Hatters, London



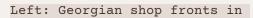


Berry Brothers & Rudd, London









London

Below: Burlington Arcade (1819)

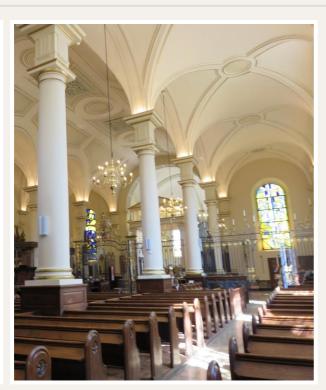












London St. Pancras Church (left two photos)

Derby Cathedral



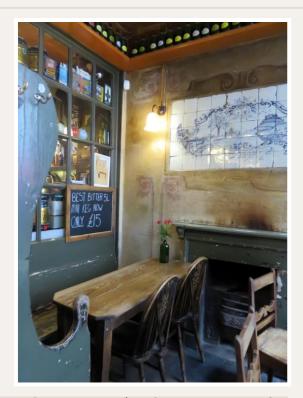


Almshouses, Stafford

Foundling Hospital Museum, London



Boodle's Club, London

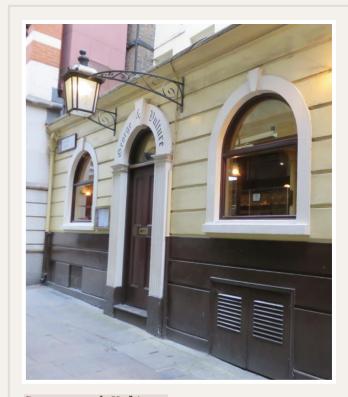


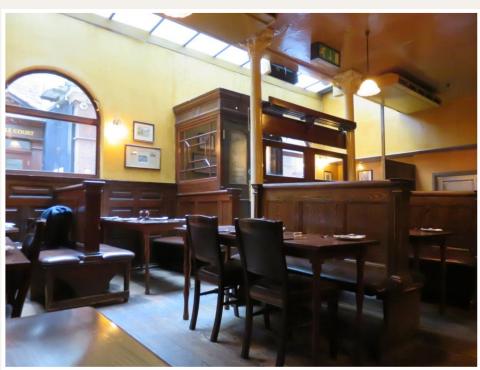
Jerusalem Tavern / Holy Tavern, London





Simpson's Tavern, London





George and Vulture





Sedan Chair, Syon

Bath Chair, Museum of Bath at Work





Angel, Guildford

New Inn, Gloucester



Staircases

- Could be showy and a key way to impress
- Could be very simple and just a means of going floor to floor

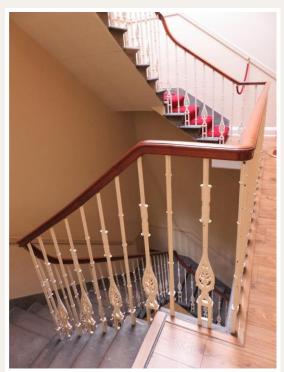
"It was late in the morning before they returned home; and no sooner had they entered the house than Marianne flew eagerly up stairs..."
-Sense and Sensibility



Claremont

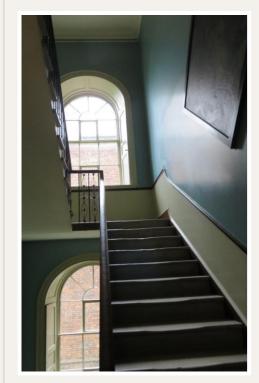


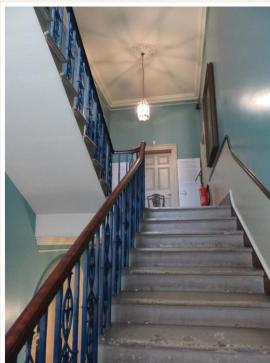




No. 1 Royal Crescent, Bath (left two photos)

Georgian House, Edinburgh

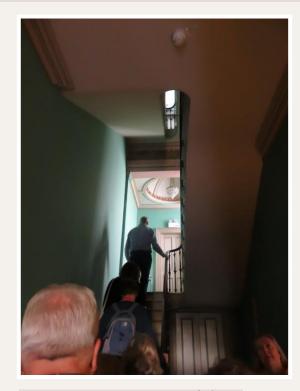




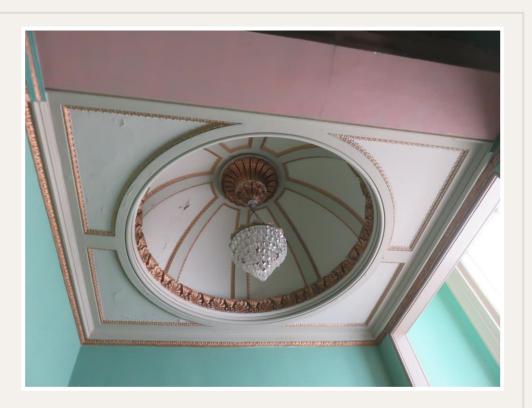


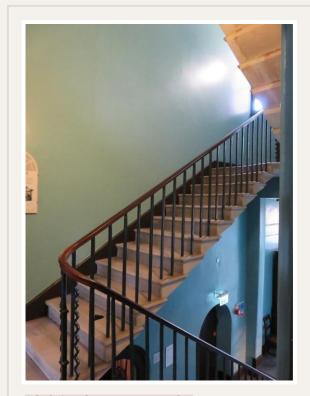
Georgian House Museum, Bristol (left two photos)

London



Regency Town House, Brighton

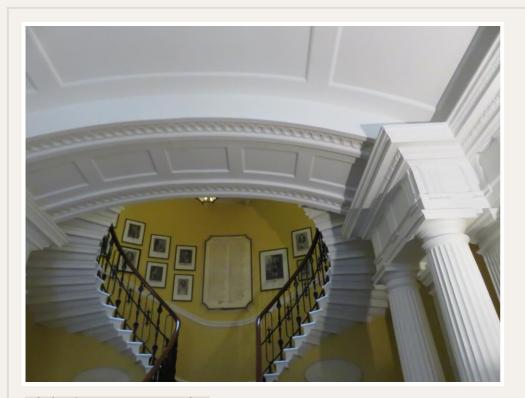




Pickford House, Derby

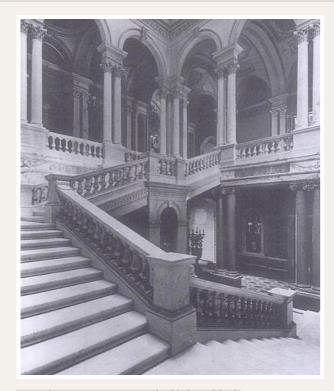


Museum of Bath Architecture





Admiralty House, London





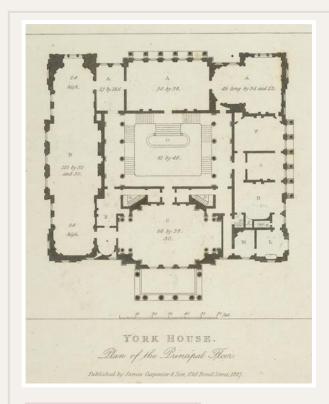
Dorchester House (Wikimedia)

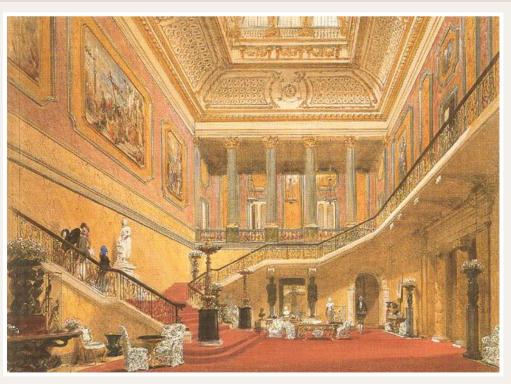
Londonderry House (Wikimedia)





Chesterfield House (Wikimedia)





York House (Wikimedia)

Stafford House (Wikimedia)



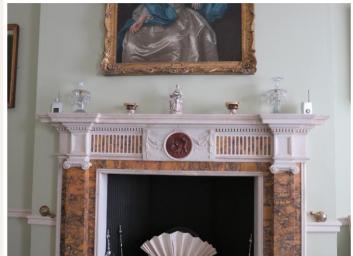
Lansdowne House, Philadelphia Museum of Art

Ceilings

Showier rooms might have a decorative ceiling similar to that of a country house

Fireplaces

Generally coal fires in town



Georgian House, Edinburgh



Scagliola

- Using paint to replicate stone (i.e. marble)
- Columns less heavy than they look (hollow)

Shugborough Estate

Other Trompel'œil

Any sort of painting used to simulate something else



Regency Town House, Brighton



Exeter House, Derby Museum and Art Gallery

Paneling

Goes from dark wood of the Elizabethan / Jacobean era to painted paneling of the Georgian era

Paneling

Georgian colour palette: greens, tans, creams, etc.



Treasurer's House, York



Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Paneling

Might be gilded if more in the French style



Wallpaper

Colors more subdued in earlier Georgian era



1790 Drawing Room, Museum of the Home, London



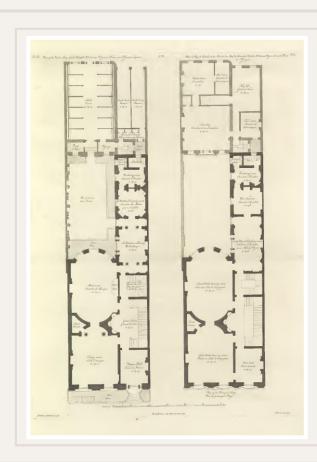
Wallpaper

Then get brighter in the Regency



1830 Drawing Room, Museum of the Home, London





Potential Rooms

Any room is

possible in a

large enough house

Entrance Hall

Dining Room

Drawing Room

Bedrooms

Music Room

Morning Room

Dressing Room

Library / Study

Picture Gallery

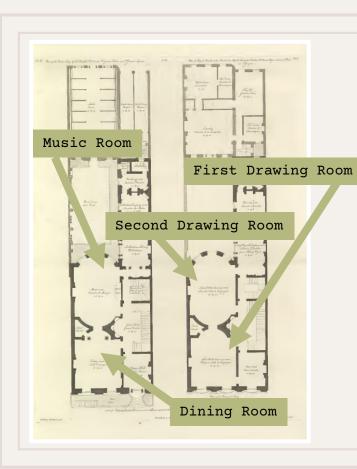
Ballroom

Conservatory

Nursery

Service Rooms

Plan of Sir William Watkins Wynn's House in St. James Square (Works in Architecture of Robert and James Adam, public domain)



Rooms

Any room is

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Entrance Hall

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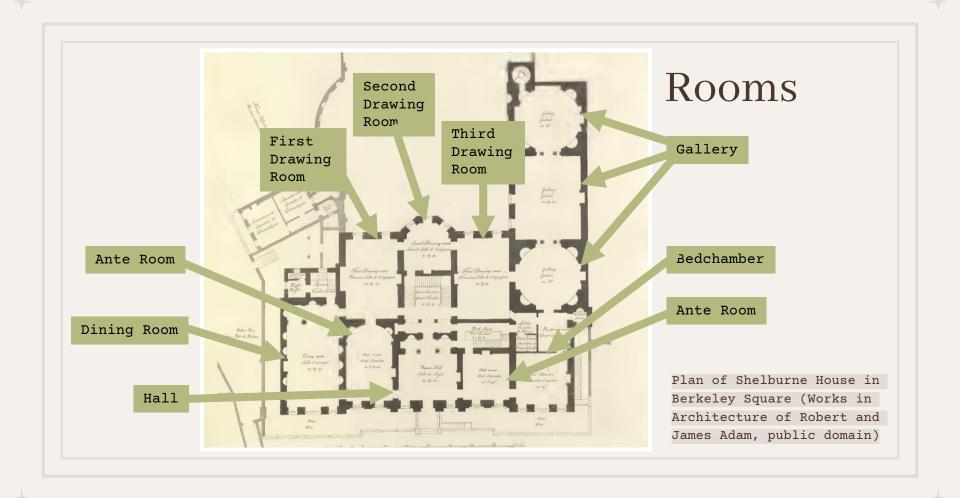
Ballroom

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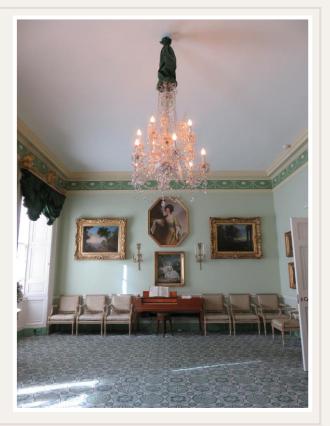
Service Rooms

Plan of Sir William Watkins Wynn's House in St. James Square (Works in Architecture of Robert and James Adam, public domain)



"These were her internal persuasions: 'Old fashioned notions; country hospitality; we do not profess to give dinners; few people in Bath do; Lady Alicia never does; did not even ask her own sister's family, though they were here a month: and I dare say it would be very inconvenient to Mrs Musgrove; put her quite out of her way. I am sure she would rather not come; she cannot feel easy with us. I will ask them all for an evening; that will be much better; that will be a novelty and a treat. They have not seen two such drawing rooms before. They will be delighted to come to-morrow evening. It shall be a regular party, small, but most elegant." -Persuasion

Drawing Room, Georgian House, Edinburgh





"They arrived in due time at the place of destination, and as soon as the string of carriages before them would allow, alighted, ascended the stairs, heard their names announced from one landing-place to another in an audible voice, and entered a room splendidly lit up, quite full of company, and insufferably hot. When they had paid their tribute of politeness by curtsying to the lady of the house, they were permitted to mingle in the crowd, and take their share of the heat and inconvenience, to which their arrival must necessarily add. After some time spent in saying little or doing less, Lady Middleton sat down to Cassino, and as Marianne was not in spirits for moving about, she and Elinor luckily succeeding to chairs, placed themselves at no great distance from the table." -Sense and Sensibility

Model, Spencer House, London



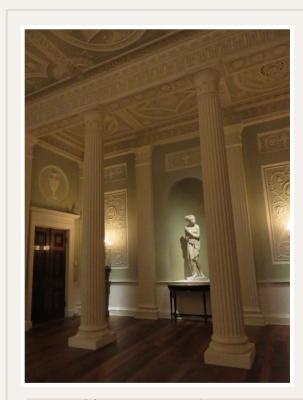
Dining & Drawing Rooms: Lansdowne House

Berkeley Square (Wikimedia)









Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York



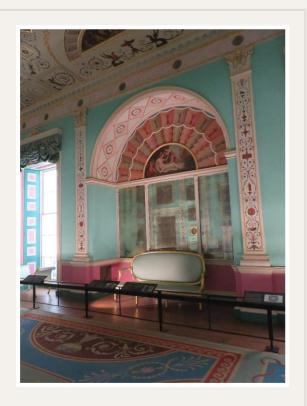




Robert Adam and His Brothers, 1915 (Wikimedia)



Philadelphia Museum of Art





Philadelphia Museum of Art





"...she used only the ceremony of saying that she must speak with Miss Tilney that moment, and hurrying by him proceeded upstairs. Then, opening the first door before her, which happened to be the right, she immediately found herself in the drawing-room with General Tilney, his son, and daughter."

- Northanger Abbey

Drawing Room, No. 1 Royal Crescent, Bath





"Their house was
undoubtedly the best in
Camden Place; their
drawing-rooms had many
decided advantages over
all the others which they
had either seen or heard
of, and the superiority
was not less in the style
of the fitting-up, or the
taste of the furniture."
- Persuasion

Drawing Room, No. 1 Royal Crescent, Bath "Elizabeth threw open the folding-doors and walked with exultation from one drawing-room to the other, boasting of their space; at the possibility of that woman, who had been mistress of Kellynch Hall, finding extent to be proud of between two walls, perhaps thirty feet asunder."

- Persuasion

Drawing Room, Regency Town House,
Brighton







Parlour, No. 1 Royal Crescent, Bath

Morning Room, Georgian House Museum, Edinburgh

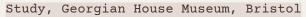


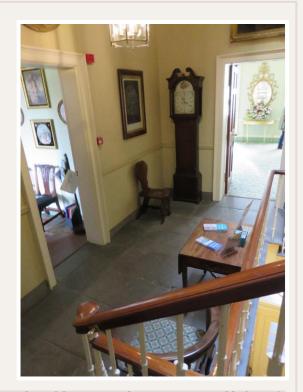
"Elinor found, when the evening was over, that disposition is not materially altered by a change of abode, for although scarcely settled in town, Sir John had contrived to collect around him, nearly twenty young people, and to amuse them with a ball. This was an affair, however, of which Lady Middleton did not approve. In the country, an unpremeditated dance was very allowable; but in London, where the reputation of elegance was more important and less easily attained, it was risking too much for the gratification of a few girls, to have it known that Lady Middleton had given a small dance of eight or nine couple, with two violins, and a mere side-board collation."

- Sense and Sensibility

Drawing Room, Georgian House, Edinburgh







Staircase and Hall, Georgian House, Edinburgh





Drawing Room and Parlour, Pickford House, Derby



Dining Room, Georgian House, Edinburgh

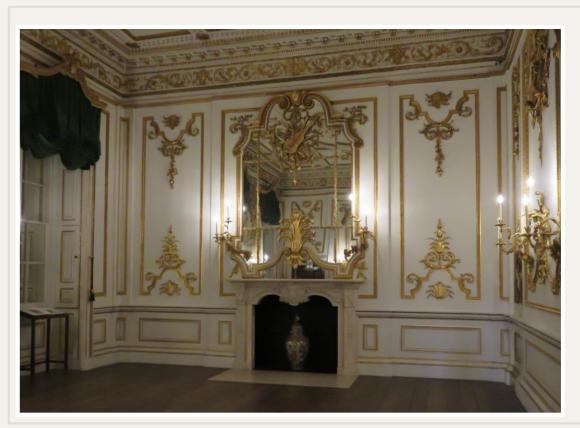


Dining Room, Regency Town House, Brighton



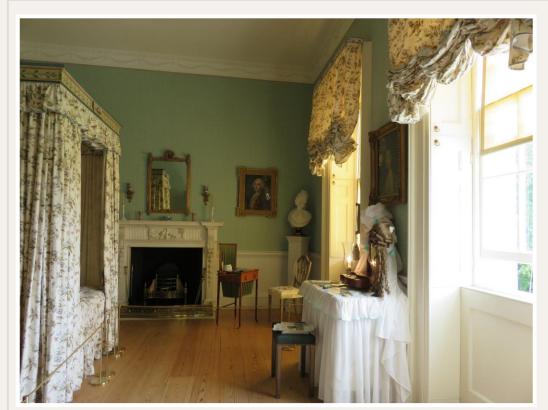


Dining Room, Georgian House Museum, Bristol



Music Room, Norfolk House, Victoria & Albert Museum



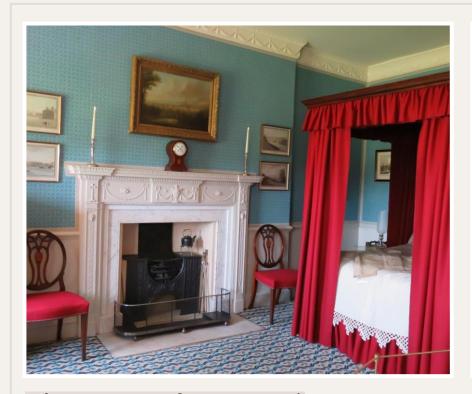


"The house was handsome, and handsomely fitted up, and the young ladies were immediately put in possession of a very comfortable apartment."

- Persuasion

Bedroom, No. 1 Royal Crescent, Bath





Bedroom, No. 1 Royal Crescent, Bath

Georgian House Museum, Bristol



Middle Class Houses

- Could be anywhere
- Smaller in size but may not be THAT much smaller in size
- Fewer rooms (still parlour / drawing room and dining room)
- Fewer architectural fittings

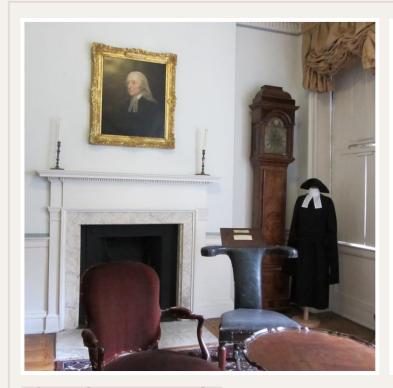


Charles Dickens birthplace, Portsmouth



Benjamin Franklin House, London







John Wesley House, London

Herschel Museum, Bath

"She was then taken into a parlour, so small that her first conviction was of its being only a passageroom to something better, and she stood for a moment expecting to be invited on; but when she saw there was no other door, and that there were signs of habitation before her, she called back her thoughts, reproved herself, and grieved lest they should have been suspected.

- Mansfield Park



Newark



"The smallness of the rooms above and below, indeed, and the narrowness of the passage and staircase, struck her beyond her imagination."

- Mansfield Park



Charles Dickens birthplace,
Portsmouth



Lower Class Houses

- Attached cottages
- Could have one room or apartment in a house
- Could be living in urban slums

Cottages, Corsham

Window Tax

- First imposed 1696, houses of 10 or fewer windows exempt
- 1766, extended to 7 or fewer windows
- Repealed in 1851
- One dwelling counted towards the tax regardless of how many people lived there
- Biggest impact on lower class housing



London

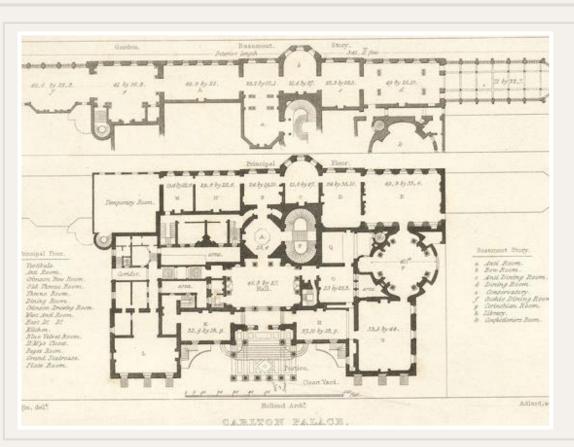




Carlton House

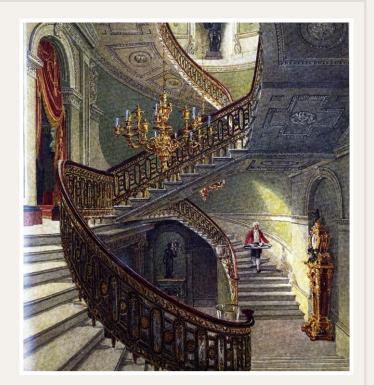
- Rebuilt in 1709
- Sold in 1732 to then Prince of Wales
- In 1783 George, Prince of Wales granted possession
- Rebuilt by Henry Holland between 1783 and 1796
- Updated when he becomes Prince Regent

Vestibule, by Charles Wild, 1819 (Wikimedia)



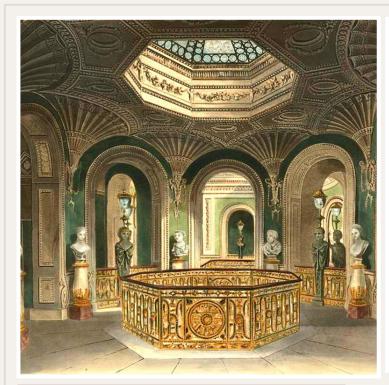
Source, Wikimedia



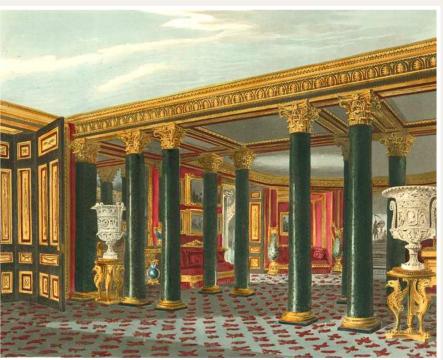


Staircase

Front



Gallery of the Stairs, from Pyne's Royal Residences, 1819 (Wikimedia)



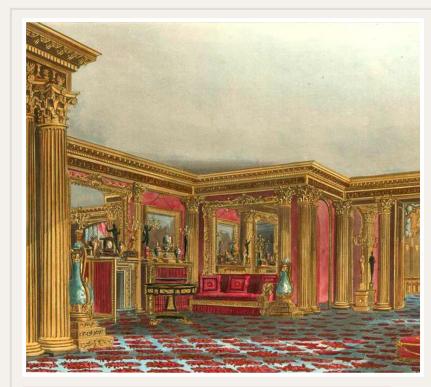
Lower Vestibule, from Pyne's Royal Residences, 1819 (Wikimedia)



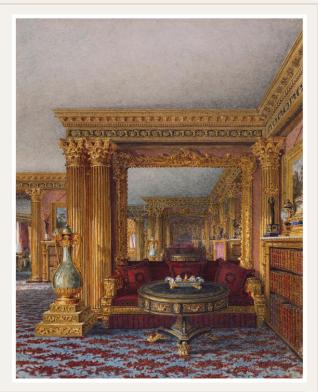
Crimson Drawing Room, by Charles Wild, 1816 (Wikimedia)



Rose Satin Drawing Room, by Charles Wild, 1816 (Wikimedia)



Golden Drawing Room, Pyne's Royal Residences, 1817 (Wikimedia)



Alcove, by Charles Wild, 1817 (Wikimedia)



Gothic Dining Room, by Charles Wild, 1817 (Wikimedia)



Throne Room, by Charles Wild, 1818 (Wikimedia)



Ante Chamber, by Charles Wild, 1816 (Wikimedia)



Ante Room, by Charles Wild, 1817 (Wikimedia)





West Ante Room, by Charles Wild, 1819 (Wikimedia)

Circular Room, by Charles Wild, 1817 (Wikimedia)



Conservatory, by Charles Wild, 1817 (Wikimedia)



Conservatory, Ackermann's Repository of Arts, 1811 (Wikimedia)









Houses to Visit



Sir John Soane's House, London

- Apsley House, London
- Spencer House, London (limited dates)
- Somerset House, London
- Mansion House, London (limited dates)
- Sir John Soane's House, London
- No. 1 Royal Crescent, Bath
- Georgian House, Edinburgh
- Georgian House Museum, Brighton (note:
 - family's fortune came from slavery)
- Regency Town House, Brighton (limited dates)
- Pickford House, Derby
- Benjamin Franklin House, London
- Dr. Johnson's House, London
- Charles Dickens Birthplace, Portsmouth
- John Wesley House, London

Sources / Further Reading

The Great Houses of London David Pearce

Great Houses of London James Stourton

The Town House in Georgian London Rachel Stewart

Robert Adam's London Frances Sands

Georgette Heyer's Regency World Jennifer Kloester



Bath

YouTube Videos



Regency Town House, Brighton



Spencer House, London



No. 1 Royal
Crescent, Bath

Thanks!

More questions?

Questions from the chat will be answered in the Facebook post and discussion / more questions there are encouraged!



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