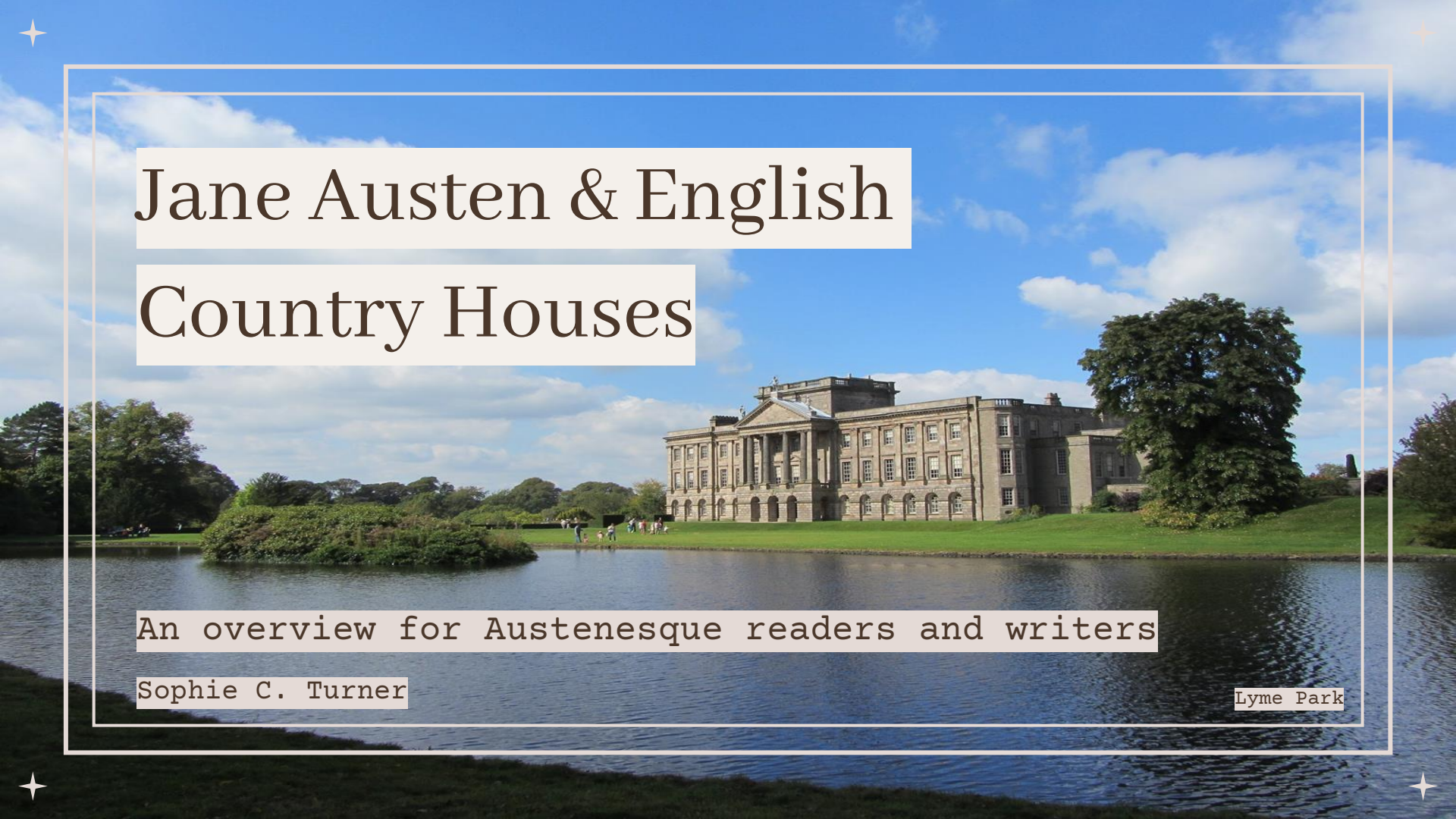


# Jane Austen & English Country Houses

An overview for Austenesque readers and writers

Sophie C. Turner

Lyme Park





Belmont  
Houseo  
(top) and  
Castle  
Howard

# Why Study Architecture?

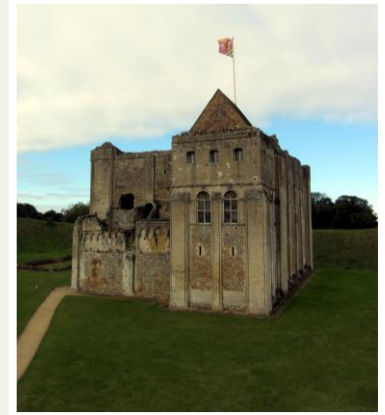
Architecture is the story of how our spaces both shape and evolve to fit the way we live.

By studying the history of the country house, we can learn how English country life has changed and how it shapes the settings for Austen's characters.

# What is a Country House?

- A house at the center of an income-producing landed estate
- Different from a “house in the country”
- A place to project power
- A place to entertain
- Not a villa (house in the country just outside London)
- Not a town house

Castle  
Rising  
(top) and  
Burghley



# Agenda

01

## Evolution

How houses and  
country life changed  
together over time

02

## Special Topics

Windows, location,  
and financials  
(briefly)

03

## Austen's Houses

What do we know about  
the houses within  
Austen's novels?

04

## Q&A

We have a lot to  
cover, let's hope we  
get here!



A photograph of Skipton Castle, a large stone fortress with multiple towers and battlements, set against a clear blue sky. The castle is surrounded by a green lawn and a paved path. The image is framed by a thin white border with decorative star-like shapes in the corners.

# Evolution of the Country House

Skipton Castle



Calke  
Abbey  
(top)  
and  
Speke  
Hall



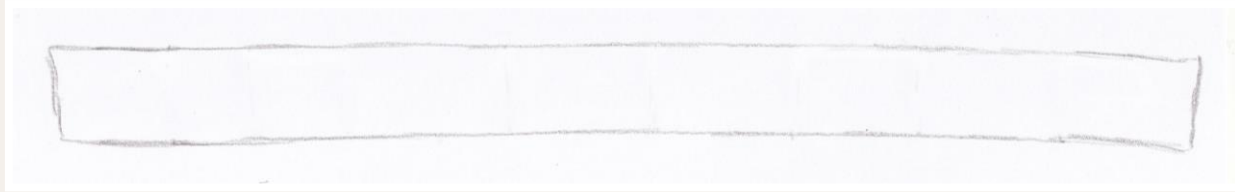
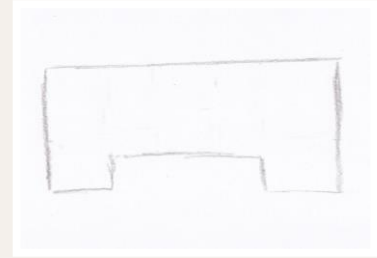
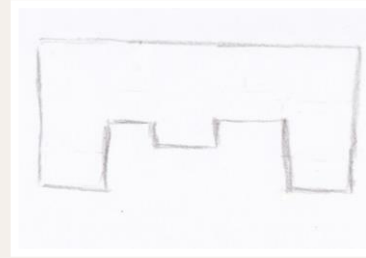
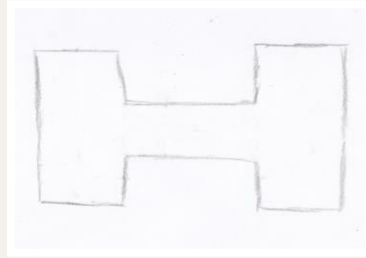
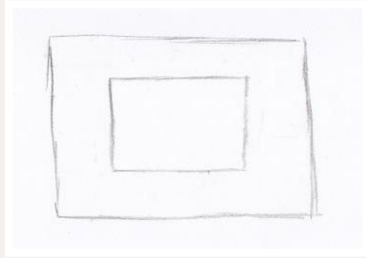
Before we begin, let us consider...

# Natural Light

You likely have a room in your house that gets little to no natural light. In an age of electricity, this makes sense. For most of the rest of human history, though, natural light was a key factor in architecture.

# House Shape and Natural Light are Related

We're going to talk about which ones have been most popular at different times, and why.





# Medieval



Haddon Hall

# The medieval household



- Power center for a local area
- Administration
- Power (muster a physical force)
- State
- Hospitality (visitors, open house, feasts)
- Common to move from house to house
- Social hierarchy: lord (baron) served by gentlemen, yeomen, grooms, serfs
- No privacy from personal servants, even if you're the lord of the household

Haddon Hall, Great Hall

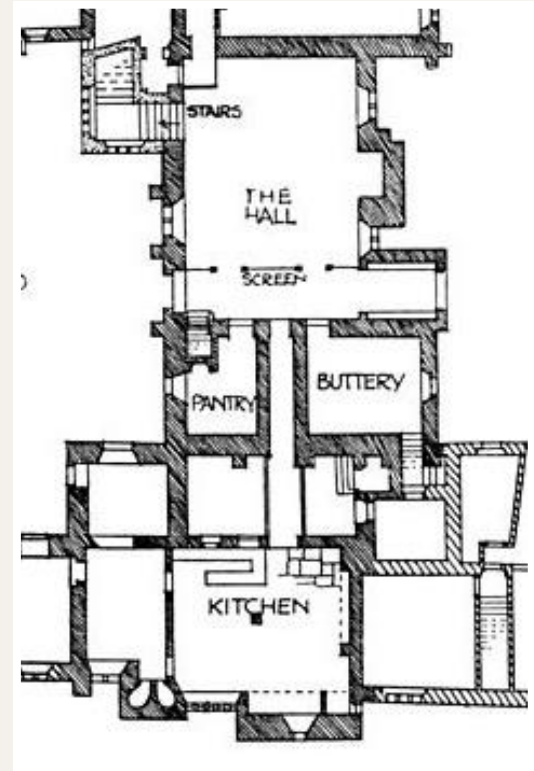


# Early Rooms

Medieval houses were a series of smaller rooms surrounding primary spaces:

- Great Hall (entrance to kitchen, pantry, and buttery through screens)
- Kitchen
- Chapel

Haddon Hall Floorplan (source Wikipedia)





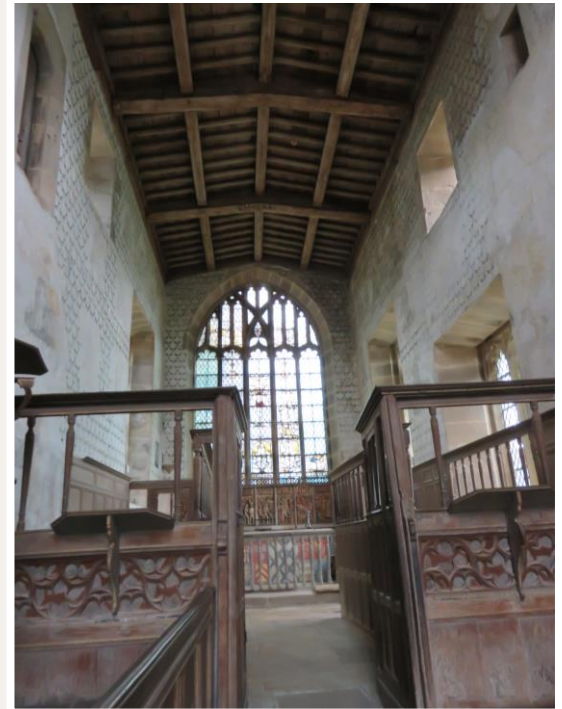
Great Hall, Haddon Hall



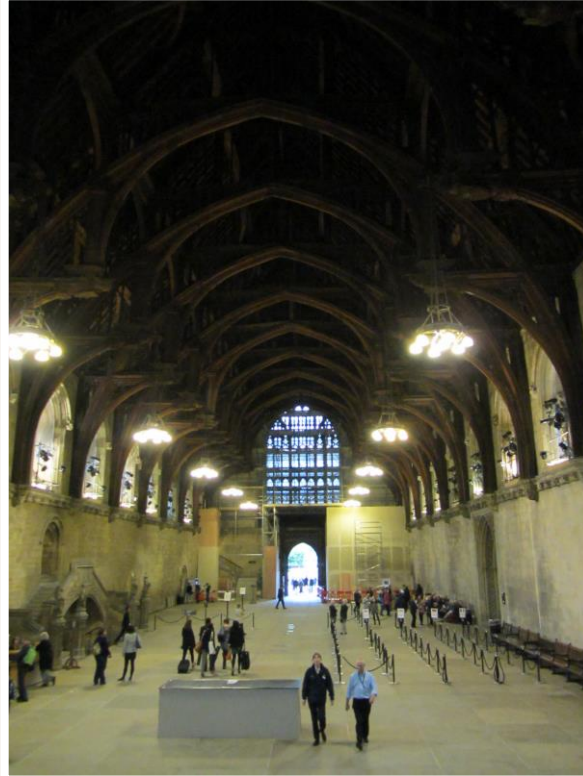
Passage to Kitchen, Haddon Hall



Kitchen, Haddon Hall



Chapel, Haddon Hall



Middle Temple  
Inn, Great hall  
(left) and  
Westminster  
Palace, Great  
Hall



# Great Chamber

Originally, the lord ate regularly in the great hall, but he (and his wife) began to spend more time there in more select company

- Upstairs from the great hall
- Multi-purpose room



Great Chamber, Haddon Hall





Replica medieval furnishings, Dover Castle



# Parlour

Place for sitting and eating outside of the ceremonial spaces

Haddon Hall Parlour





# Closet

Begins as a space for private devotion – the one space that's even private from servants

"Do you think the minds which are suffered, which are indulged in wanderings in a chapel, would be more collected in a closet?"

– Mansfield Park

Ham House, White Closet (note: later than medieval period)

# House Styles

- Manor
- Courtyard
- Keep / Tower
- Lodge (smaller scale of living, hunting)

Courtyard, Haddon Hall





# Tudor / Elizabethan & Jacobean





# Levels

Ideally hierarchy of  
floor aligned with  
hierarchy of position:

- State
- Family
- Servants

Ham House





Burghley, Great Hall

# Evolving Rooms

On the ground floor:

- Parlour increases in importance for family use (called a lodging parlour if it still had a bed)

On the first or second floors:

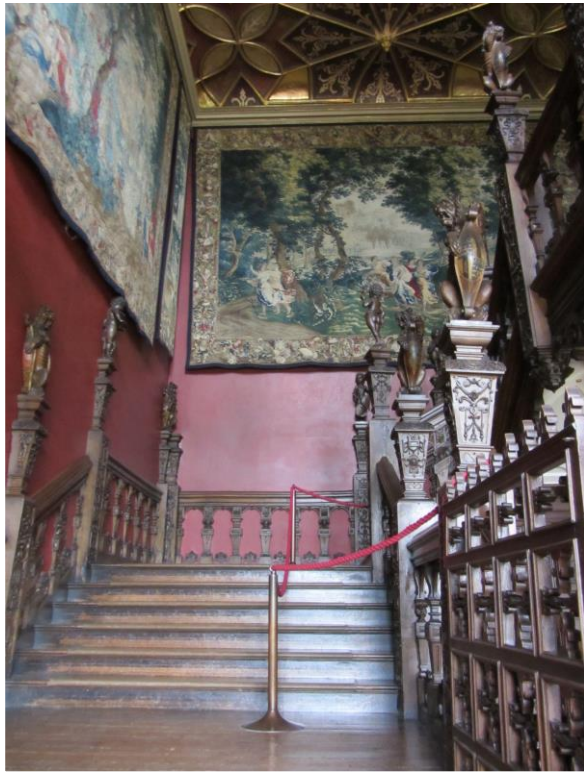
- Great Hall is still used by servants and for major events
- Great Chamber is used increasingly for entertainments, including dancing
- Staircase provides a ceremonial route to the Great Chamber



Chawton House, Great Hall



Hatfield House, Great Hall



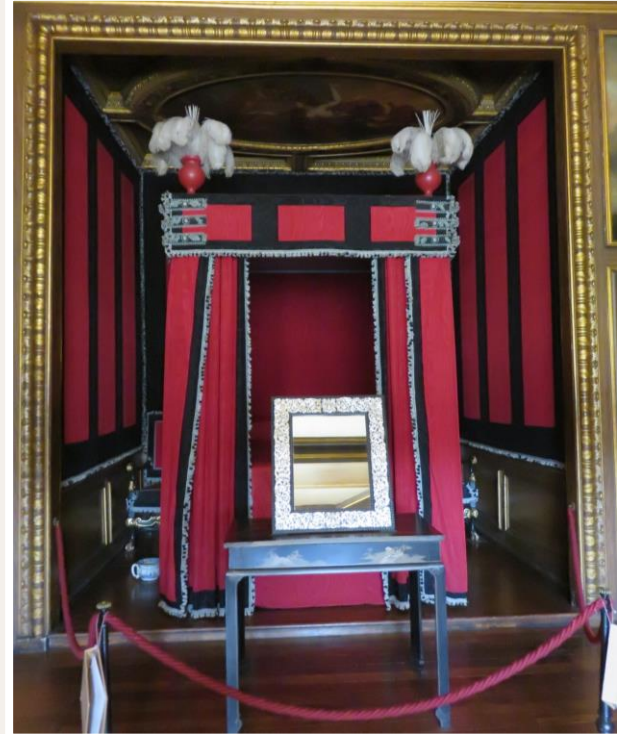
Hatfield,  
staircase



# Bedchamber / Withdrawing Chamber

- Term bedchamber appears mid 16<sup>th</sup> century
- Withdrawing chamber begins as a small room beside the owner's bedchamber or the best bedchamber
- Often servant(s) slept there
- Takes on increasing importance
- Also on first or second floors

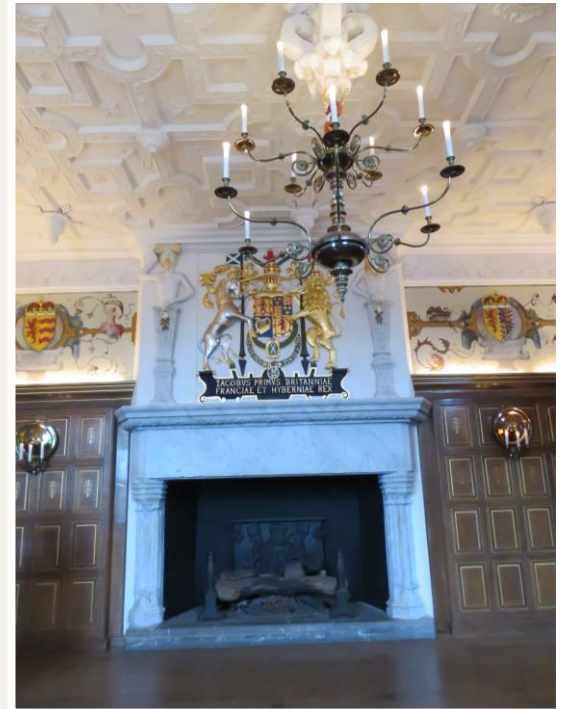
State Bed, Ham House







King James Drawing-Room, Hatfield



State Rooms, Edinburgh Castle



Haddon, Long Gallery

# Long Gallery

- Begins as a sheltered place to exercise
- Also on first or second floor
- Sometimes there would be an open gallery on the ground floor with a closed gallery above



"She was struck, however, beyond her expectation, by the grandeur of the abbey, as she saw it for the first time from the lawn. The whole building enclosed a large court; and two sides of the quadrangle, rich in Gothic ornaments, stood forward for admiration."  
- Northanger Abbey

Lacock Abbey, quadrangle and cloisters





Hatfield,  
Long Gallery  
(left) and  
lower  
Cloisters  
(right)



# Long Gallery

- Eventually, people begin to hang pictures in their long galleries to enliven the walk
- Portraiture was the social networking of this time

Long Gallery, Ham House





Banqueting House, Hampton Court Palace

# Banqueting

- Room up high in the house
- Or a separate building
- For essentially a dessert course eaten in a special space

# House Styles

- Courtyard remains popular
- A good way to tell if a house is older than it looks is if it has a courtyard
- Also E and H shapes

Courtyard, Chawton House





Older than they look:  
Exteriors and courtyards of  
Chatsworth (left) and Lyme Park  
(right)





# Materials

- Stone continues to be used
- Brick is the new material for the Tudor era
- Surviving timber-frame buildings are rare

Hampton Court Palace (top) and Speke Hall



The image shows a grand, ornate interior space, likely a museum or a large hall. The ceiling is covered in a large, colorful fresco depicting a celestial scene with figures and clouds. The walls are decorated with various paintings and sculptures. A prominent feature is a large, arched doorway in the center, flanked by statues. To the left, there is a balcony with a decorative metal railing. The floor is checkered, and several people are visible walking around the space. The lighting is warm and focused on the architectural details.

# Stuart

Chatsworth

# Palladianism

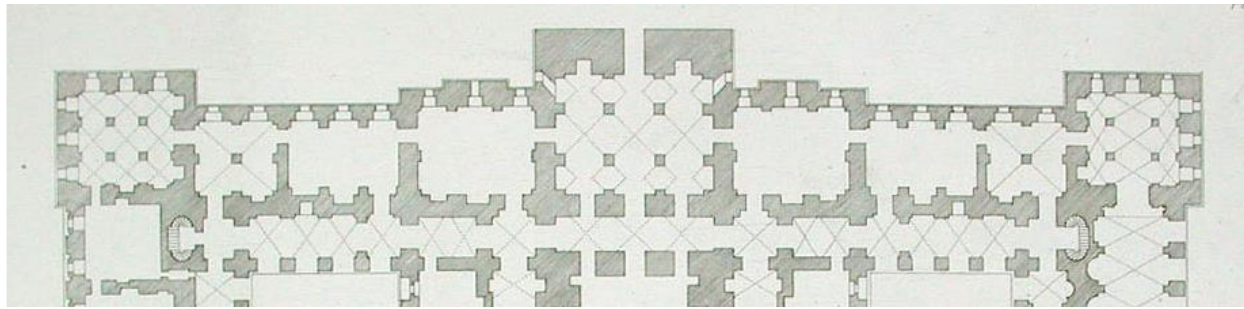
- People flee abroad and come back after the restoration of Charles II
- They bring ideas from France, Italy, etc.
- Symmetry becomes more important
- But Palladianism is overshadowed by Baroque (for a time)



Queen's  
House,  
Greenwich,  
Inigo Jones

# “Axis of Honour”

- A string of rooms symmetrically on either side of a saloon
- His (king's) and hers (queen's) apartments
- The further along the axis you made it, the more important you were



Blenheim Palace  
(Source:  
Wikipedia)

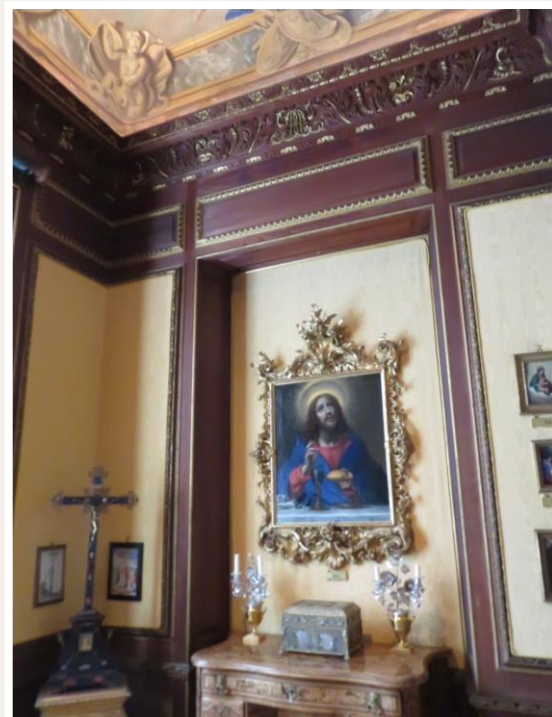




Burghley, Blue  
Silk Bedroom and  
Dressing Room



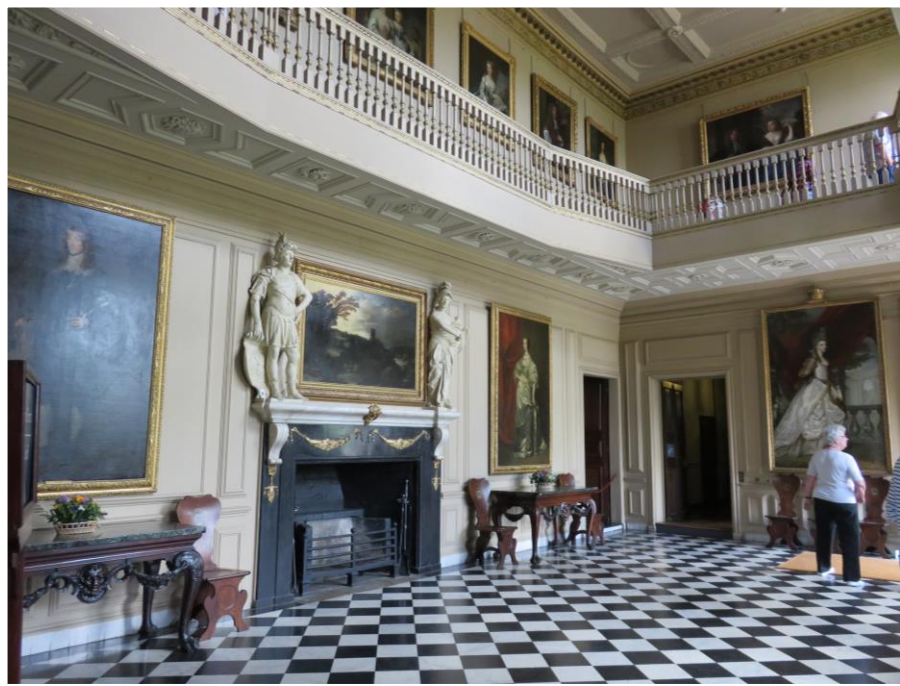
Burghley, George I Room and Closet





Burghley, George  
II Room (left)  
and Ham House  
enfilade





Ham House, Hall

## Evolving Rooms

- Great Parlour with a Great Dining Chamber above it
- Symmetry is achieved by putting the staircase into the hall (which is no longer great)
- Servants moved into a servants hall and a parlour for the steward



# Saloon

- In time the central room ceases being called a Great Chamber
- It becomes the saloon / salone / salon
- Eventually moves downstairs, beside the hall

Sudbury Hall, Saloon





Hampton Court, Queen Mary II Bedroom

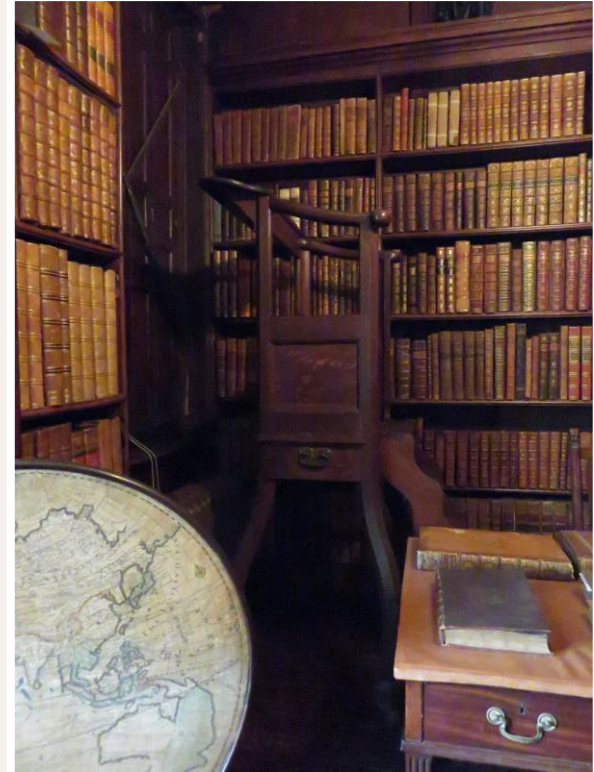
# Evolving Rooms

- Closets become more important and more richly furnished
- Withdrawing / Drawing-Room takes on more importance
- Bedrooms become more public
- Dressing room appears in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century
- Kitchen sometimes moved out of the house in a pavilion; a second pavilion could house stables, offices, etc.

# Library

- Not a room that's needed until now
- Learning was for the middle classes: clerks, lawyers, etc. (hunting and hawking for the upper classes)
- Becomes popular to be a "virtuoso" (intellectual collector) in 17<sup>th</sup> cent.
- At first, books are kept in a master of the house's closet
- It starts to become a dedicated book room (specifically for the man to use at this time)

Library, Ham House





# Back Staircase

- At this time, servants are sleeping in little rooms off main bedchambers (sometimes sharing a room with the close stool!)
- Times have evolved and there are more female servants, lower on the social order
- Younger sons are now going into professions rather than service to a liege lord

Service Stairs, Castle Howard

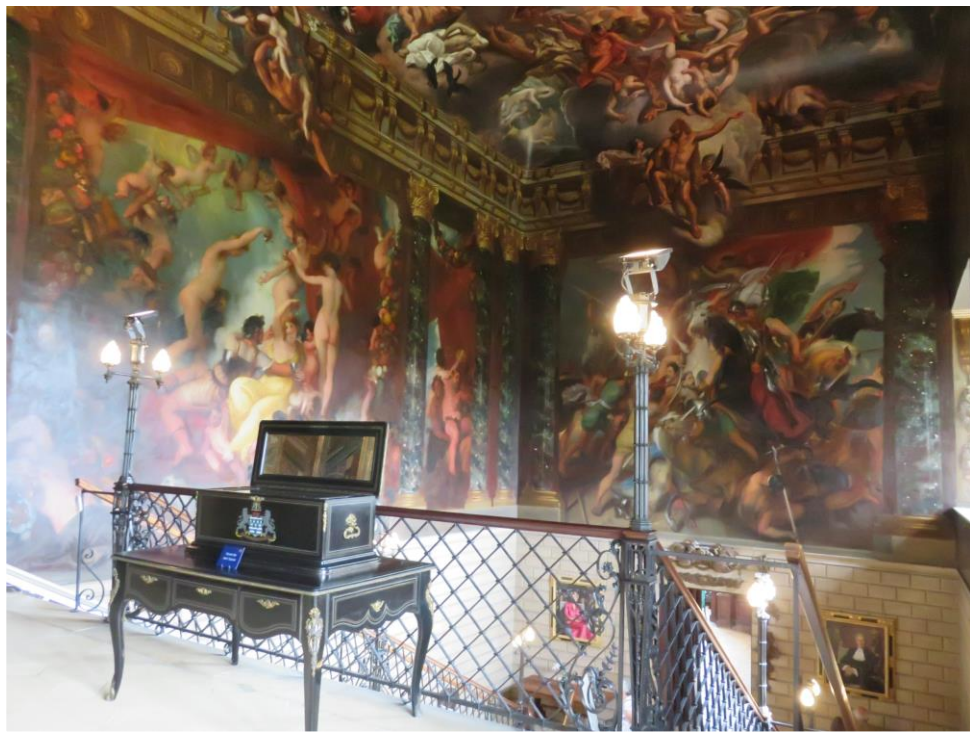




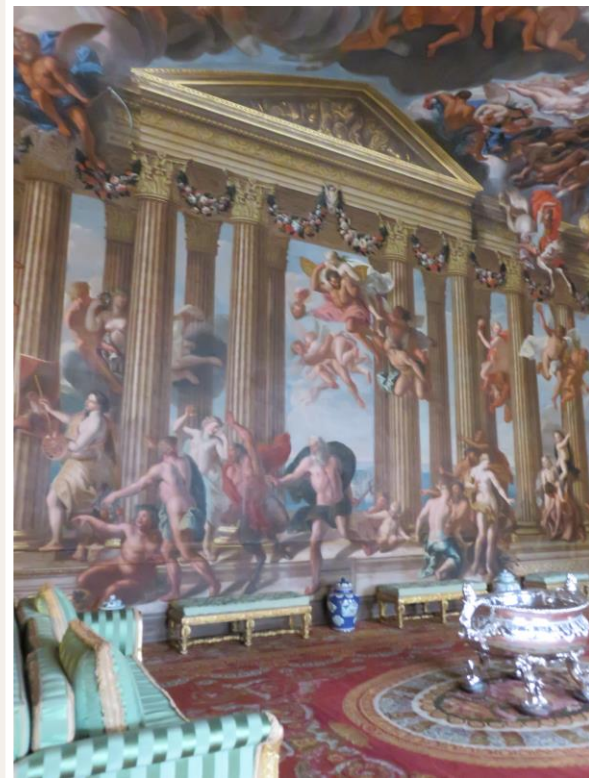
# Baroque

- Takes over (for a time) from Palladianism
- Continental influence

Castle Howard



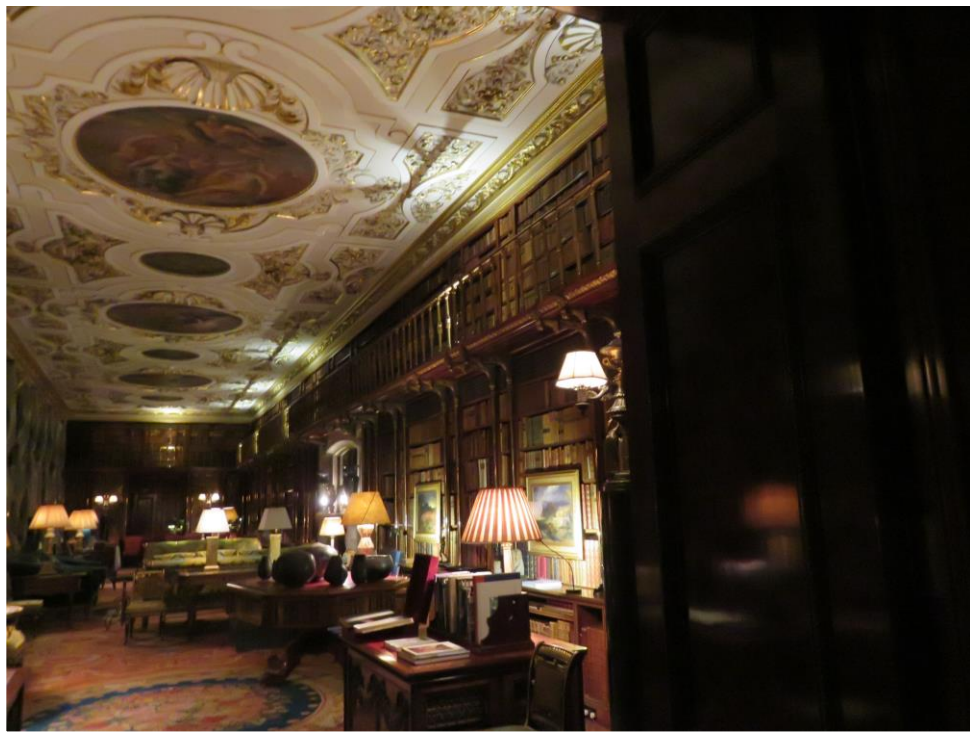
Burghley, Hell Staircase and Heaven Room







Castle Howard, Hall



Chatsworth, Library (in former Long Gallery) and Hall stairs







# Early to Mid Georgian

Nostell Priory

# Neoclassical

- At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Baroque goes out of fashion and neoclassicism comes back in
- There is a political element to this - the Whigs adopt it first

Marble Hill House



# Dilettantes

The successors to the virtuosi, went on Grand Tour and acquired collections, which needed to be housed somewhere:

- Closets used at first
- Cabinets, which were originally rooms
- The library becomes a public room rather than a private book room and is used as a sitting room
- Galleries for paintings

Collection display, Strawberry Hill House





Gallery, Stourhead



Library, Kenwood



# Public Rooms

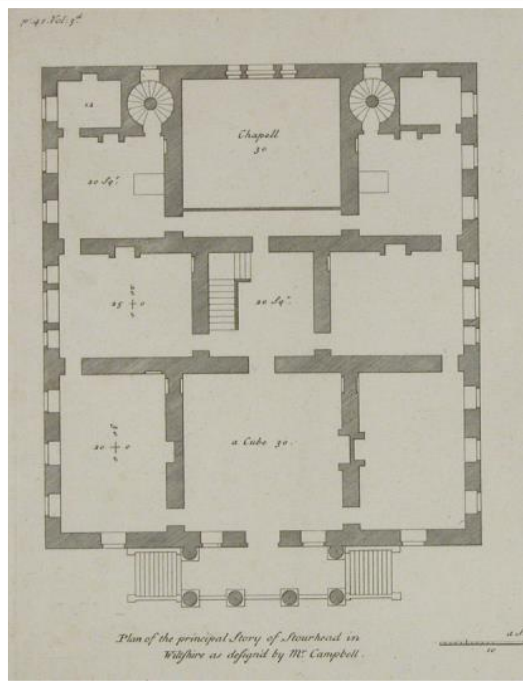
Privacy has actually diminished (among people of your class), as you are expected to mix in the public rooms.

"...in the evening Elizabeth joined their party in the drawing-room. The loo table, however, did not appear. Mr. Darcy was writing, and Miss Bingley, seated near him, was watching the progress of his letter, and repeatedly calling off his attention by messages to his sister. Mr. Hurst and Mr. Bingley were at piquet, and Mrs. Hurst was observing their game."

-Pride and Prejudice

Secretaire, Chawton Cottage





Stourhead floorplan (Source:  
National Trust)

# Organized Fun

- Public places like Bath change the nature of entertainments
- Balls get larger, held along with masquerades, musical parties, ridottos, ridotto al fresco, assemblies, etc.
- Ambitious hostesses want to hold their own, but the old Axis of Honour is not suited for this
- Need a set of rooms specifically for entertainment, grouped around a top-lit central staircase



Hall and Staircase, Stourhead



Music Room, Norfolk House (now at V&A)

# Entertaining

- Saloons shifted to either a vestibule or a large room on the circuit (in older houses they could host balls)
- Common Parlour (in larger houses used for informal dining)
- Dining-Rooms (formal dining, male domain)
- Drawing-Rooms (female domain)
- Separation of the sexes after dinner is a distinctly English thing

Arlington Court, Dining-Room looking into Ante-Chamber and Drawing-Room







Drawing-Room, Syon

# Drawing-Room

"When the ladies returned to the drawing-room, there was little to be done but to hear Lady Catherine talk, which she did without any intermission till coffee came in, delivering her opinion on every subject in so decisive a manner, as proved that she was not used to have her judgement controverted."

— Pride and Prejudice

"The solemn procession, headed by Baddeley, of tea-board, urn, and cake-bearers, made its appearance, and delivered her from a grievous imprisonment of body and mind."

— Mansfield Park

# Personal Rooms

The personal apartments for the upper classes get smaller:

- Bedroom
- Dressing room
- Maybe a closet

Single backstairs and separate corridors for servants - the bell-pull means they don't need to hang out in the hall

Bells and bell-pull, Nostell Priory





Redesigned Long Gallery at Syon by Robert Adam

# Neoclassical Style

- Evolves over the long Georgian era
- Influential architects like Robert Adam take classical motifs and evolve them
- Architects often did interiors as well as exteriors/buildings and might even design furniture
- Adam frequently collaborated with Thomas Chippendale
- Mathematic proportions highly valued



Long Gallery Ceiling, Syon



Saloon, Saltram





Ante-Room, Syon



Hall, Osterley Park



# Piano Nobile

- Main floor above a ground floor houses the entertainment rooms
- Entrance is into the hall on the first floor
- There is a subsidiary entrance on the ground floor (rustic)

Nostell Priory, Lower Entrance

# Rustic Level

Service and/or informal living rooms:

- Common parlour
- Smoking parlour (these come in and out of favour with tobacco trends)
- Billiard room
- Study
- Steward's room
- Kitchen is often moved back here
- Servants' hall
- Housekeeper's room
- Butler's room
- Still room



Harewood, Steward's room (note, the Lascelles family fortune came largely from proceeds of the slave trade)



Syon, Kitchen



Muniments room (estate record storage), Nostell Priory

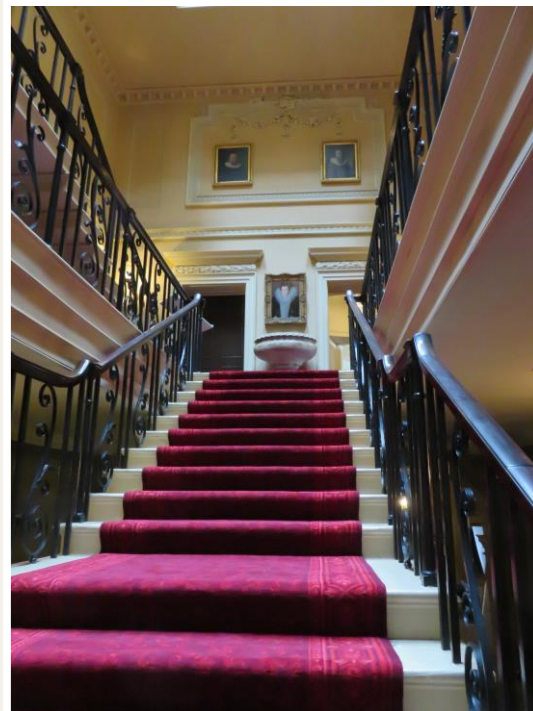




Harewood, Still room and servants' hall (note, the Lascelles family fortune came largely from proceeds of the slave trade)



Bath, Claremont



Nostell Priory, stairs up from rustic

# Landscape

- Followed circuit(s) just as the house did
- Circuit often had a series of buildings or follies
- Smaller walking circuit
- Larger riding / driving circuit



"Mr. Gardiner expressed a wish of going round the whole Park, but feared it might be beyond a walk. With a triumphant smile, they were told, that it was ten miles round. It settled the matter; and they pursued the accustomed circuit; which brought them again, after some time, in a descent among hanging woods, to the edge of the water, in one of its narrowest parts."

-Pride and Prejudice

# Town & Country

- The country social radius is about 8-9 miles
- With road improvements, neighbours are moving more frequently to and from London
- Sometimes country houses (i.e. Chatsworth) were underwhelming because the good stuff was kept in the London house

“But what is distance, Mr. Weston, to people of large fortune?—You would be amazed to hear how my brother, Mr. Suckling, sometimes flies about. You will hardly believe me—but twice in one week he and Mr. Bragge went to London and back again with four horses.”

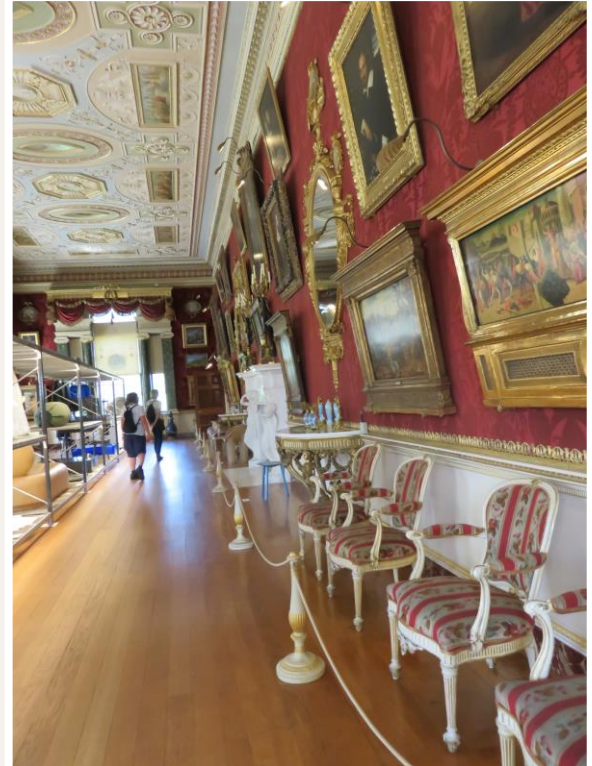
—Emma



# Open for Visitors

- By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the majority of the great houses were open for visitors
- Some had printed guidebooks
- Also books visitors would sign
- Expected to tip (vails)
- Might be offered light refreshments if of sufficient social standing
- Allowed to drive the park

Harewood, Gallery (note, the Lascelles family fortune came largely from proceeds of the slave trade)



# Late Georgian to Regency



Saltram



Nostell Priory

# Flow to Outside

- This becomes important in country houses
- As does bringing the outside in (i.e. a conservatory)

"...meeting with an outward door, temptingly open on a flight of steps which led immediately to turf and shrubs, and all the sweets of pleasure-grounds, as by one impulse, one wish for air and liberty, all walked out."

-Mansfield Park



"In Frank's last letter she complained, he said, of being too weak to get into her conservatory without having both his arm and his uncle's!"

-Emma

Kenwood exterior showing Orangery



# Service Spaces

- Sink lower into the ground to accommodate the main floor's access to the outside
- Pits dug to get natural light to service rooms
- Sometimes (as always) in separate wings

Service tunnel, Claremont





Billiard Room + Library, Nostell Priory

# Country Life

- Shift at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to country life with different fittings, décor, and architecture
- Sporting takes on greater importance
- Nature is also key (hence the desire to flow to the outside)
- Formality is gone
- The country house party is here



Library, Calke Abbey

# Evolving Rooms

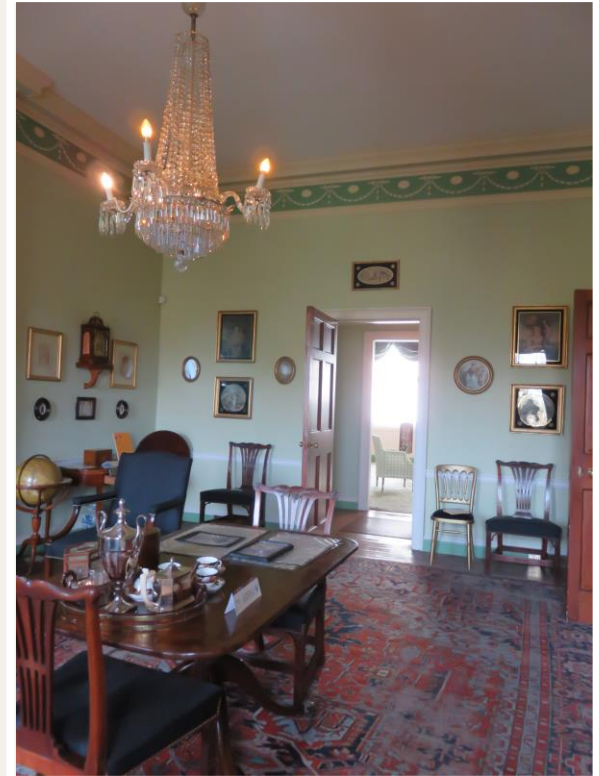
- Library takes on increasing importance
- Gallery can be used for everyday living as well
- Billiard Room
- Dining-Room & Drawing-Room maintain their relationship
- Furniture shifts: until about 1780 it was movable and arranged in a formal circle for conversation, now it's in permanent smaller groupings

# Breakfast Room

This was also used as a morning sitting parlour.

"As this was a favourite meal with Mrs. Jennings, it lasted a considerable time, and they were just setting themselves, after it, round the common working table, when a letter was delivered to Marianne..."  
-Sense and Sensibility

Georgian House, Edinburgh, Breakfast Parlour







# Evolving Rooms

- State apartments have moved upstairs (now "Best Apartment")
- Chapel makes a comeback (will increase in importance in Victorian era)
- Bedrooms usually not on ground floor, still have dressing rooms furnished as sitting rooms, and women might sit here together or in the...
- Boudoir, a lady's special sitting room

Boudoir, Arlington Court

# Evolving Rooms

- Bathroom (as in a room for bathing)
- Study (as the ladies gathered in their various rooms, men might gather here)
- Print Room
- Music Room
- Theater (very occasionally; Chatsworth has one)
- Ballroom
- Baronial-style tenants halls begin to make a comeback



Print Room, Calke Abbey



Saltram

# Chinoiserie

Chinese or Japanese influenced, or a blend.



Royal Pavilion

# Indian

The interiors of the Royal Pavilion are a blend of Asian styles, but the exterior takes heavy inspiration from Indian architecture.



# Etruscan

Or Pompeian  
(discovered 1709,  
excavation 1738)

This influence is  
visible in Wedgwood's  
work as well

Salisbury  
Museum and  
Osterley  
Park



# Egyptian

Another externally influenced style

Egyptian House, Penzance





# Cottage Orné

Large, ornamental “cottage” style

“And I protest, if I had any money to spare, I should buy a little land and build one myself, within a short distance of London, where I might drive myself down at any time, and collect a few friends about me, and be happy. I advise every body who is going to build, to build a cottage.”  
- Sense and Sensibility

Blaise Hamlet, architect   John Nash

# Castle

Undergoes a revival  
with romanticism.

Syon







Windsor Castle



# Gothic

Don't call it a comeback, gothic was never really gone. But the revival is underway by the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

Strawberry Hill Gothic is a particular flavour used during the long Georgian era.

Also spelled "Gothick" during this time as a more stylized flavour.

Gallery, Strawberry Hill



Strawberry Hill, exterior and Library



# Victorian



Tyntesfield



# Italianate

As the landed classes are modeling domesticity, the Italian villa also serves as a model.

Osborne House





# Tudorbethan / Jacobethan

A revival of the old styles are back.

The baronial hall has also returned, but  
now it is a room in regular use.

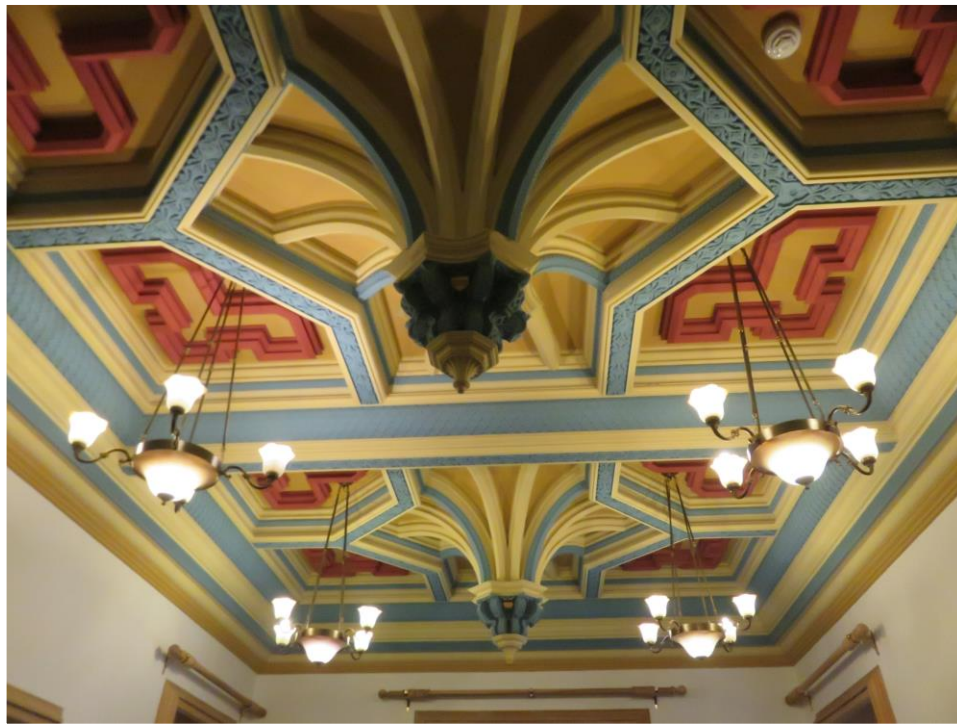
Drawing-Room, Tyntesfield



Tyntesfield, Billiard Room and Chapel







Wray Castle, Hall and ceiling detail



# Quick Topics



Corsham Court

# Windows

"To be sure, the pointed arch was preserved—the form of them was Gothic — they might be even casements — but every pane was so large, so clear, so light! To an imagination which had hoped for the smallest divisions, and the heaviest stone-work, for painted glass, dirt, and cobwebs, the difference was very distressing."  
-Northanger Abbey



Casement: swing out



Mullioned: divided into small panes



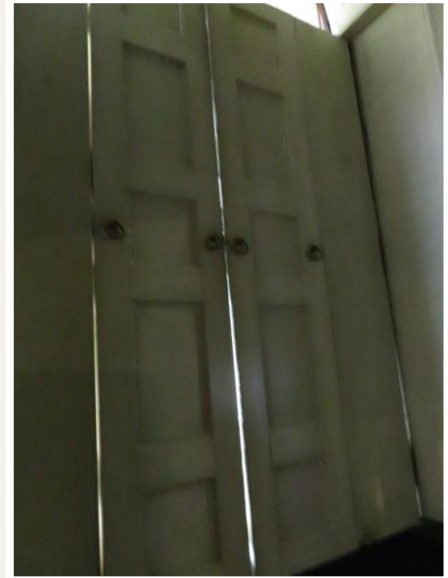
# Windows

Glassmaking technology allows for larger panes of glass, and casement windows are replaced by sash windows, which slide up and down.

The Great Fire of London was an influence on building requirements re windows.

"I refer every caviller to a brick house, sashed windows below, and casements above, in Highbury."

-Emma







Bay windows, Lacock Abbey



Bow windows, Chawton village



# Location

- Castles originally built high for defensive purposes
- Then it becomes more popular to build in a hollow (it's warmer)
- Influenced by the picturesque movement, this changes in the 17<sup>th</sup> century
- It becomes popular to build on rising ground again



York Castle

"But so low did the building stand, that she found herself passing through the great gates of the lodge into the very grounds of Northanger, without having discerned even an antique chimney."

-Northanger Abbey



Tissington Hall

# Location

- Older houses may still be within villages
- But landowners often either moved the house or moved the village

"They returned therefore in good spirits to Longbourn, the village where they lived, and of which they were the principal inhabitants."

-Pride and Prejudice

# Financials

- £1 per acre, good estimate of earnings
- Daughter's dowry SHOULD be equal to three years' worth of income
- Estate's value equal to its earnings' equivalent in the funds (i.e. Longbourn is worth £40,000)

## Return of Owners of Land 1873:

- 363 estates 10,000+ acres (175 gentry)
- About 1,000 between 3,000 - 10,000
- About 2,000 between 1,000 - 3,000

Clandon Park





# Financials

- Mortgages to fund the expansion of estate lands were not uncommon
- Low interest rates
- Rising income due to agricultural improvements beginning end of 18th century: enclosure (commons / strips) and crop rotation
- Rents nearly tripled from 1790 to 1810s
- Rents fell again after 1815 until 1850
- Agricultural depression beginning 1816

Shugborough Estate

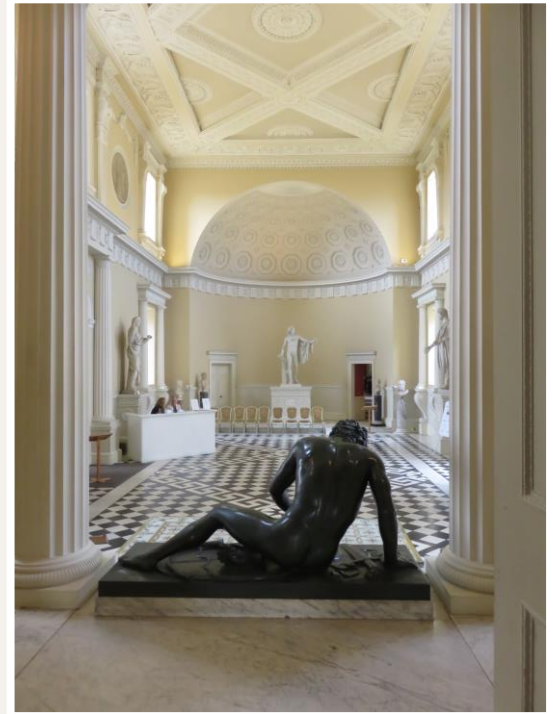


# Financials

1/2 to 2/3 of estates were entailed

"There was only a small part of his estate that Sir Walter could dispose of; but had every acre been alienable, it would have made no difference. He had condescended to mortgage as far as he had the power, but he would never condescend to sell. No; he would never disgrace his name so far. The Kellynch estate should be transmitted whole and entire, as he had received it."

- Persuasion



Hall, Syon



# Financials

Sometimes part of the settlement was annuities paid to brothers/sisters or widows

"...for my mother was clogged with the payment of three to old superannuated servants by my father's will, and it is amazing how disagreeable she found it."  
-Sense and Sensibility

Arlington Court



Restoration House

# Financials

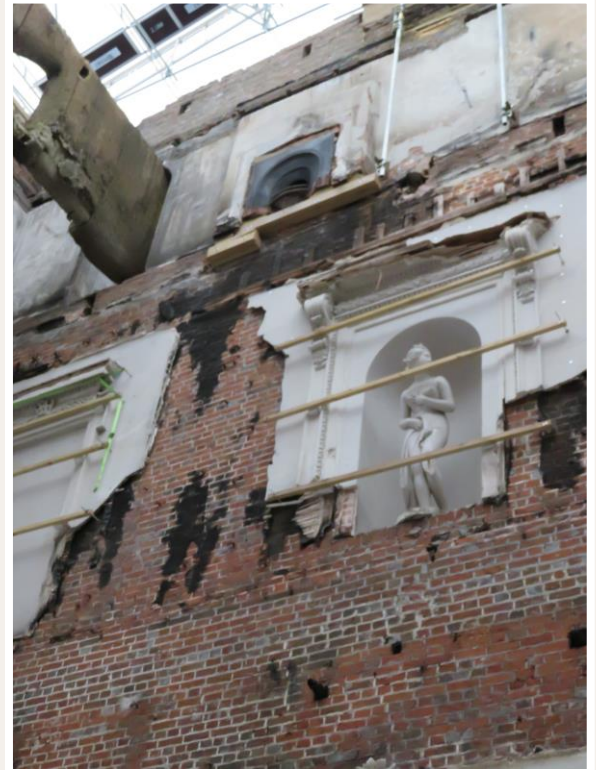
- 1/3 of houses survived from 1660 without being completely rebuilt
- Old houses proclaimed longevity
- New houses fit current lifestyle and showed the owner's sense of style

# Financials

New build / remodel usually not begun out of estate income but instead some other source such as an extra inheritance or dowry (might be completed from estate income though)

- Cost to build a new house could be anywhere from £2,000 to 6 figures  
Pemberley caliber house ~40k - 70k
- Labour about half the cost
- Most expensive material - timber!
- Transporting stone is expensive

Clandon Park







# Financials

By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, most houses were insured against fire

However, many were underinsured, perhaps assuming there would not be a total loss

Clandon Park

# Financials

- Estate houses are not very expensive to lease: £400-500 pounds per year is a good estimate
- Value is in the land
- Ample houses on the market
- Letting a house contributes to upkeep and is better for maintenance if it's occupied
- Desirability based on sport in the neighborhood

Sudbury Hall



# Austen's Houses



Kedleston Hall



Sense and Sensibility

# Barton Park

- Half a mile from the cottage
- "Large and handsome"
- Has a drawing-room and dining-room / dining-parlour
- Has some room large enough to hold balls

"They were scarcely ever without some friends staying with them in the house, and they kept more company of every kind than any other family in the neighbourhood."

Blaise Estate



Sense and Sensibility

# Norland / Allenham

- Norland is in the middle of a park
- Allenham is “an ancient respectable looking mansion” and reminds the ladies of Norland
- Sitting room has potential to be a pleasant summer-room



Sherborne Castle

“There is one remarkably pretty sitting room up stairs; of a nice comfortable size for constant use, and with modern furniture it would be delightful. It is a corner room, and has windows on two sides.”



Lansdowne Arms (former manor house, now a pub)

Sense and Sensibility

# Combe Magna

"His estate had been rated by Sir John at about six or seven hundred a year; but he lived at an expense to which that income could hardly be equal, and he had himself often complained of his poverty."

Sense and Sensibility

# Delaford

"Delaford is a nice place, I can tell you; exactly what I call a nice old fashioned place, full of comforts and conveniences; quite shut in with great garden walls that are covered with the best fruit-trees in the country; and such a mulberry tree in one corner! ... Then, there is a dove-cote, some delightful stew-ponds, and a very pretty canal; and every thing, in short, that one could wish for; and, moreover, it is close to the church, and only a quarter of a mile from the turnpike-road..."



Eyam Hall

Sense and Sensibility

# Cleveland

- Somewhere there's a billiard table
- Has a vestibule and an "inner lobby"
- Has a drawing-room

"Cleveland was a spacious, modern-built house, situated on a sloping lawn. It had no park, but the pleasure-grounds were tolerably extensive; and like every other place of the same degree of importance, it had its open shrubbery, and closer wood walk, a road of smooth gravel winding round a plantation, led to the front, the lawn was dotted over with timber, the house itself was under the guardianship of the fir, the mountain-ash, and the acacia, and a thick screen of them altogether, interspersed with tall Lombardy poplars, shut out the offices."





Mansfield Park

# Sotherton Court

- Brick Elizabethan house
- Situated low in the park
- Spacious stone steps at the entrance
- Drawing-room 1-2 rooms away from the dining-parlour

"...under Mrs. Rushworth's guidance were shewn through a number of rooms, all lofty, and many large, and amply furnished in the taste of fifty years back, with shining floors, solid mahogany, rich damask, marble, gilding, and carving, each handsome in its way."

Eastbury Manor, "diaper" brick detailing

Mansfield Park

# Sotherton Court

Chapel fitted up in James II's time

"This chapel was fitted up as you see it, in James the Second's time. Before that period, as I understand, the pews were only wainscot; and there is some reason to think that the linings and cushions of the pulpit and family seat were only purple cloth; but this is not quite certain. It is a handsome chapel, and was formerly in constant use both morning and evening. Prayers were always read in it by the domestic chaplain, within the memory of many; but the late Mr. Rushworth left it off."



Cusworth Hall, Chapel



Nostell Priory, Top Hall

Mansfield Park

# Mansfield Park

- "Spacious modern-built house"
- Little white attic near nurseries as well as the housemaids
- Breakfast-room has writing materials
- Drawing-room and dining-parlour
- Billiard-room
- "Father's room" (study)
- "East room" (former school room)
- Ballroom
- Has a great clock
- Park five miles around
- Parsonage half a mile away

Mansfield Park

# Mansfield Park

"The grandeur of the house astonished, but could not console her. The rooms were too large for her to move in with ease: whatever she touched she expected to injure, and she crept about in constant terror of something or other; often retreating towards her own chamber to cry; and the little girl who was spoken of in the drawing-room when she left it at night as seeming so desirably sensible of her peculiar good fortune, ended every day's sorrows by sobbing herself to sleep."



Bowood, Library





Prior Park

Mansfield Park

# Everingham

Little known about it  
except that it is in  
Norfolk and the grounds  
were improved

"Everingham, as it used  
to be, was perfect in my  
estimation: such a happy  
fall of ground, and such  
timber! What would I not  
give to see it again?"

Emma

# Hartfield

- "Modern and well-built"
- Three times as large as Randalls
- Drawing-room
- Parlour
- Decorated with Emma's paintings of landscapes and flowers
- Harriet Smith's portrait hangs over the mantelpiece
- Income does not come from the land, which is a "notch" in the Donwell Abbey estate
- Grounds small but "neat and pretty"
- Belongs to the village of Highbury "in spite of its separate lawn, and shrubberies"

Emma

# Hartfield / Maple Grove

- A room “the very shape and size of the morning-room” at Maple Grove
- Staircase also similar to Maple Grove, in same part of the house
- Maple Grove surrounded by “an immense plantation”, away from road

Arlington Court



“...the Woodhouses had been settled for several generations at Hartfield, the younger branch of a very ancient family—and that the Eltons were nobody. The landed property of Hartfield certainly was inconsiderable, being but a sort of notch in the Donwell Abbey estate, to which all the rest of Highbury belonged; but their fortune, from other sources, was such as to make them scarcely secondary to Donwell Abbey itself, in every other kind of consequence...”



Ilford Manor

Emma

# Randalls

Has a “sweep-gate”

“He had, by that time, realised an easy competence—enough to secure the purchase of a little estate adjoining Highbury, which he had always longed for—enough to marry a woman as portionless even as Miss Taylor, and to live according to the wishes of his own friendly and social disposition.”



Emma

# Donwell Abbey

- In parish adjoining Highbury
- Little spare money
- "Low and sheltered"
- Fish ponds left over from the abbey
- Larger than Hartfield



Lacock Abbey



Lacock Abbey, Hall

Emma

# Donwell Abbey

"as she viewed the respectable size and style of the building, its suitable, becoming, characteristic situation, low and sheltered—its ample gardens stretching down to meadows washed by a stream, of which the Abbey, with all the old neglect of prospect, had scarcely a sight—and its abundance of timber in rows and avenues, which neither fashion nor extravagance had rooted up.—The house was larger than Hartfield, and totally unlike it, covering a good deal of ground, rambling and irregular, with many comfortable, and one or two handsome rooms.—It was just what it ought to be, and it looked what it was..."

Northanger Abbey

# Blaise Castle

It's a landscape building  
and not at all what  
Catherine was envisioning



"...she would willingly have given up all the happiness which its walls could supply -- the happiness of a progress through a long suite of lofty rooms, exhibiting the remains of magnificent furniture, though now for many years deserted -- the happiness of being stopped in their way along narrow, winding vaults, by a low, grated door; or even of having their lamp, their only lamp, extinguished by a sudden gust of wind, and of being left in total darkness."

Northanger Abbey

# Northanger Abbey



Wilton, lodge gate

- Low in a valley
- Built around a quadrangle
- Lodges of modern appearance
- Sheltering porch leads to "large and lofty" hall
- Common drawing-room
- "Useless ante-chamber"



Northanger Abbey

# Northanger Abbey

- Dining-parlour is large and matches a larger drawing-room not in common use (“a room magnificent both in size and furniture”)
- “Broad staircase of shining oak” leads to “long, wide gallery”
- Gallery terminates in folding doors
- Breakfast-parlour
- Library
- Billiard-room
- Ancient kitchen of the convent
- Offices in newer-built portion of quadrangle, stables beyond
- “Three large bed-chambers, with their dressing-rooms, most completely and handsomely fitted up”



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

Northanger Abbey

# Northanger Abbey

"She saw a large, well-proportioned apartment, an handsome dimity bed, arranged as unoccupied with an housemaid's care, a bright Bath stove, mahogany wardrobes, and neatly painted chairs, on which the warm beams of a western sun gaily poured through two sash windows!"

"This apartment, to which she had given a date so ancient, a position so awful, proved to be one end of what the general's father had built. There were two other doors in the chamber, leading probably into dressing-closets; but she had no inclination to open either."

Persuasion

# Kellynch

- Drawing-room
- Gardens and shrubberies
- Butler's room (where the umbrellas used to be hung)
- Crofts do something to the laundry-door
- Dressing-room
- Has a lodge

"The breakfast-room chimney smokes a little, I grant you, but it is only when the wind is due north and blows hard, which may not happen three times a winter."



Sion



Ham House, Library

Pride and Prejudice

# Longbourn

- One mile from Meryton
- In the village of Longbourn
- "Paddock" outside
- Steps to house
- Library is more old-fashioned (Mr. Bennet's domain)

"First, that you will allow me the free use of my understanding on the present occasion; and secondly, of my room. I shall be glad to have the library to myself as soon as may be."



Pride and Prejudice

# Longbourn

## Upstairs:

- Hall
- Dining-room
- Drawing-room
- Bedrooms
- Mrs. Bennet's dressing-room

## Downstairs:

- Vestibule
- Breakfast-room
- Library

Chawton House, Long Gallery





Westwood Manor, Old Dining-Room

Pride and Prejudice

# Longbourn

"One morning, about a week after Bingley's engagement with Jane had been formed, as he and the females of the family were sitting together in the dining-room, their attention was suddenly drawn to the window, by the sound of a carriage; and they perceived a chaise and four driving up the lawn."

"'This must be a most inconvenient sitting room for the evening, in summer; the windows are full west.' Mrs. Bennet assured her that they never sat there after dinner..."

Pride and Prejudice

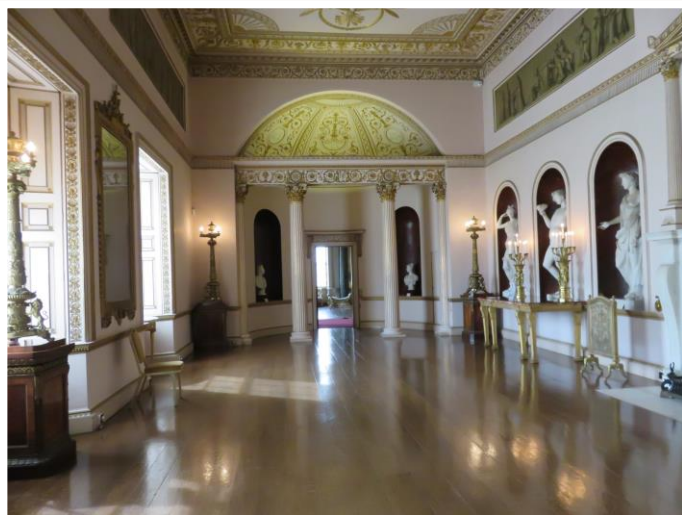
# Netherfield Park

- Breakfast-parlour
- Dining-parlour
- Drawing-room
- Library
- Not clear whether it has a ballroom or a room large enough to hold a ball

"No—I cannot talk of books in a ball-room; my head is always full of something else."



Stourhead, Little Dining-Room



Syon, Dining-Room

Pride and Prejudice

# Rosings Park

- Half a mile to the parsonage
- Lodges
- Small summer breakfast parlour
- Multiple drawing-rooms, one with an 800 pound chimney-piece
- Entrance hall leads to "antichamber"
- Housekeeper's room
- Mrs. Jenkinson's room somewhere away from principal family rooms
- Billiard table somewhere
- Likely a library (reference to books)



Pride and Prejudice

# Rosings Park

"But of all the views which his garden, or which the county, or the kingdom could boast, none were to be compared with the prospect of Rosings, afforded by an opening in the trees that bordered the park nearly opposite the front of his house. It was a handsome modern building, well situated on rising ground.



Prior Park



Kedleston Hall

Pride and Prejudice

# Pemberley

- Lodge
- Park ten miles around
- Large and handsome, stone
- Hall leads into a saloon
- Library
- Dining-parlour
- Miniatures hung over a mantle-piece
- Gallery upstairs

Pride and Prejudice

# Is Kedleston Hall Pemberley?

- The Curzons descended in the male line from a Norman who came over with William the Conqueror
- Their estate is nearly 10,000 acres
- Major Tory family of Derbyshire (rivalry with Cavendishes of Chatsworth, who were Whigs)
- Current house commissioned in 1759
- Jane Austen visited her cousin Reverend Edward Cooper, at Hamstall Ridware, 24 miles away



Kedleston Hall grounds and house

STAMFORD, 3 m. distant, at Ketton, Charles Grantham, Esq.; and Ketton Hall, Stephen Eason, Esq.	Cross the river Welland * STAMFORD, Lincolnshire	96	STAMFORD, before, Durlough House, Marquis of Esher.
MEASURED from HICKS'S HALL.	LONDON TO MANCHESTER.		THRO' WIRKSWORTH, MATLOCK, BAKEWELL, and CHAPEL IN LE FRITH.
DERBY, 1½ m. distant, Markeaton Hall, F. Mundy, Esq.	From Manche. 187½	From London 126	CROMFORD, near Willersley Castle, Richard Arkwright, Esq. This spacious and elegant castellated edifice stands on the side of a fine eminence, at the foot of which the river Derwent flows in a grand and picturesque sweep: the spot was originally occupied by a large rock, and the late Sir R. Arkwright expended the sum of 3000 <i>l.</i> in its removal. The interior is furnished in a very elegant manner, and contains every thing capable of contributing to domestic comfort; it is decorated with a few good paintings, among which is a sublime view of Ullswater lake, and a full-length portrait of the meritorious founder of the family, by whom the mansion was erected. The grounds possess a very varied and romantic character: they display from several points various well-wooded eminences, on which, almost concealed by the trees, are some of the domestic and other offices; others exhibit rude rocks rising in solemn majesty, partly bare and uncheerful, and partly covered with fine young trees, of which the late worthy owner is said to have planted 50,000 annually on an average of seven years; these are enlivened by the waters of the river Derwent, and form highly interesting objects amidst scenery that includes almost all the varied beauties of nature.
KEDLESTON INN, ½ m. beyond, Kedleston, the very magnificent seat of Lord Scarsdale, to do justice to which would far exceed our limits, and it must therefore suffice to say, that the mansion, of modern erection, comprises a centre, and two pavilions, connected by corridors of the Doric order with the main building, whose principal front, facing the north, has a double flight of steps in the centre; it stands on a gentle elevation, is 360 feet in extent, has an uniform allusion to classic models, and is particularly elegant both as to design and execution. The grand hall is planned after the ancient Grecian mode, and the ceiling is supported by 20 columns of alabaster; the saloon is reckoned one of the most beautiful apartments of its kind in Europe, and is deservedly admired for the classic taste displayed in its various decorations; and the collection of paintings belonging to this truly splendid seat, is not only very extensive, but comprises many valuable works by the most eminent masters. The park, lodge, designed from the arch of Octavia, gives admission to the grounds, that are about five miles in circumference, and display some very flourishing plantations, besides a grove of venerable oaks, many of which are of enormous magnitude.	61½	* DERBY, Derbyshire, page 218 ½ m. beyond Derby, To Belper 7¼ m. ☞	
	58	Kedleston Inn Through Kedleston Park, to	129½
	55	Weston under Wood Inn 2¼ m. farther, ☞ to Ashbourn 7½ m.	132½
	52½	Cross Hands Inn To Belper 4½ m. ☞ ☞ to Ashbourn 7 m.	134½
	50½	The Black Swan	136½
	49	Bateman Bridge	138½
	47½	Wall Brook Bridge	139½
	47½	WIRKSWORTH, Town Hall ☞ to Ashbourn 9 m.	140
	45½	To Alfreton 9¼ m. ☞ Cromford { to Matlock Bath 1 m., ☞ thence, over Matlock Bridge, to Matlock 2 m.	142
MATLOCK must be understood to include both the village			ROWSLEY, 1½ m. beyond Haddon Hall, Duke of Rutland. This truly venerable structure is the most complete ancient baronial residence in existence.

## Pride and Prejudice

# Kedleston Hall

- The house was a major stop for those touring country houses and was generally well-regarded
- There was a printed catalogue beginning in 1769 with four editions

Kedleston in Paterson's Road Book



Pride and Prejudice

# Kedleston Hall

- Visitors were shown around by Mrs. Garrett, who was described as a “well-drest elderly Housekeeper”
- She would still have been in that post if Austen did visit in August of 1806

“The housekeeper came; a respectable-looking, elderly woman, much less fine, and more civil, than she had any notion of finding her.”

National Trust Collections



Pride and Prejudice

# Pemberley

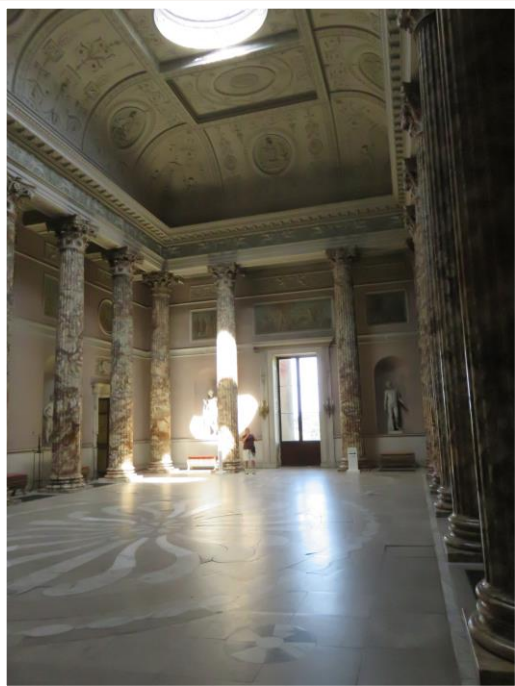
They gradually ascended for half a mile, and then found themselves at the top of a considerable eminence, where the wood ceased, and the eye was instantly caught by Pemberley House, situated on the opposite side of a valley, into which the road with some abruptness wound. It was a large, handsome, stone building, standing well on rising ground, and backed by a ridge of high woody hills;—and in front, a stream of some natural importance was swelled into greater, but without any artificial appearance. Its banks were neither formal, nor falsely adorned. Elizabeth was delighted. She had never seen a place for which nature had done more, or where natural beauty had been so little counteracted by an awkward taste.”

Pride and Prejudice

# Kedleston Hall



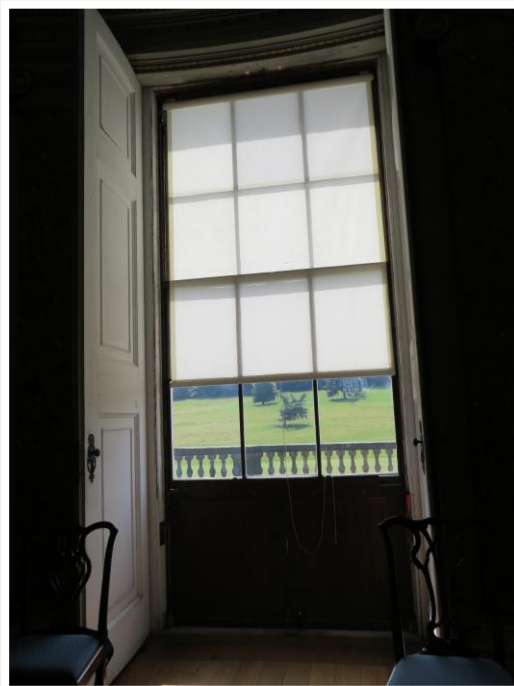
"Kedleston  
Hall from  
the North,"  
George Cuitt  
the elder  
National  
Trust  
Collections



Hall



Saloon



Saloon window





Terrace from Saloon



Kedleston corridor to wing



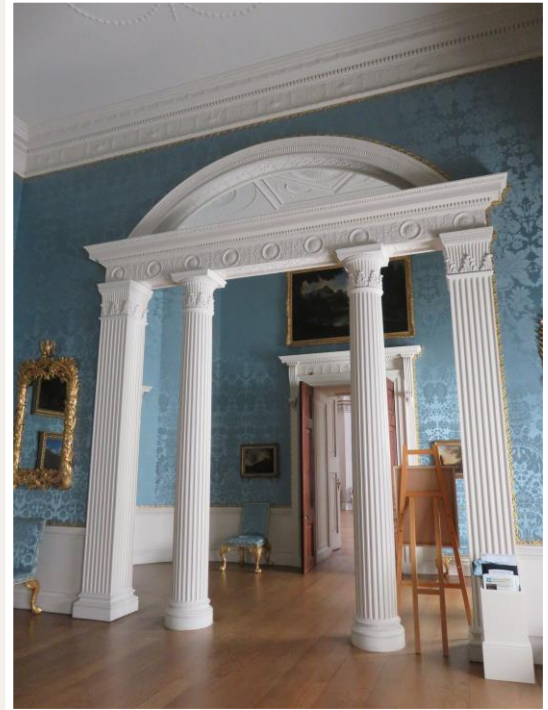
Music Room



Drawing-Room



Library



State Rooms



Drawing-room sofa

Pride and Prejudice

# Misalignments

- Location isn't close enough to Bakewell
- Saloon only has one window to the floor and faces south
- Saloon is also rather large to used as described
- Not clear whether there is or ever was a gallery upstairs
- The Curzons were baronets and then made barons
- That sofa could well be described as gaudy and uselessly fine



All Novels

# Themes / Common Elements

- Big houses, pass a lodge
- There's often a village and then a market town a bit further
- "Modern" often used
- Built low or on rising ground also hints at age of the house
- Dining-room / parlour
- Drawing room
- Breakfast parlour
- There's invariably shrubbery
- Mantel-piece
- Often a sweep / sweep-gate



Westwood Manor

# Sources / Further Reading

*Life in the English Country House:  
A Social and Architectural History*  
Mark Girouard

*Creating Paradise: The Building of  
the English Country House, 1660-  
1880*  
Richard Wilson

*The English Country House in  
Perspective*  
Gervase Jackson-Stops



Osterley Park

Q&A

Syon



# Thanks!

## More questions?

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

[sophieturner1805@gmail.com](mailto:sophieturner1805@gmail.com)

<https://sophie-turner-acl.blogspot.com/>

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