

# Jane Austen & English Country Houses

An overview for Austenesque readers and writers

Sophie C. Turner

Lyme Park

We're going to go fast, as there's a lot to get through. I'll make this deck available with the notes for those who are interested in reading the quotes and diving deeper.

# Why Study Architecture?



Belmont Houseo (top) and Castle Howard

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.

My goal out of this presentation is to birth some plot bunnies.

As an author, I find learning about and seeing the spaces extremely inspiring.

# 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



Not going to talk about town houses or villas for the most part. Villas were smaller residences just outside of London (Richmond, Twickenham, etc.) for the purpose of country-like entertainment.

## Country house vs. house in the country

- "Paternalistic agricultural economy"
- Bingley
- Hartfield

---

At first it was a center of noble power. As power shifted from local force to central law administered from London, country houses became places to project political power and entertain guests, with the most coveted guests of all being royalty. Later, it became a place of entertainment and pleasure, the site of country house parties.

# Agenda

01

## Evolution

How houses and country life changed together over time

03

## Austen's Houses

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

02

## Special Topics

Windows, location, and financials (briefly)

04

## Q&A

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

A photograph of Skipton Castle, a large stone building with several round towers and a central section with many windows. The castle is set on a green lawn under a clear blue sky. A paved path leads towards the castle. The text 'Skipton Castle' is visible in the bottom right corner of the image.

## Evolution of the Country House

- Changes in terms of privacy (but it's not a straight line from no privacy to maximum privacy)
- There's also a change in terms of what people considered to be family
  - Middle ages and up to the early 18th century: Family means everyone lying under one roof including servants. In the 19th century, family is immediate family
  - Combine these things together and you get the range from great hall to the green baize door
- There's also a shift from the castle or house as a center of power to a place of entertainment



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.

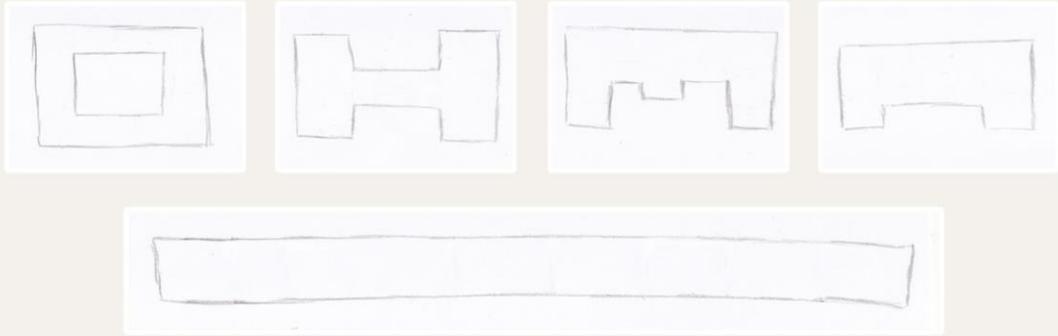
Every space needs either a window or a skylight. Rooms also commonly passed through to other rooms (enfilade).

If there's a hall, it needs light...

Not so likely for people to be staying across the hall from each other.

## House Shape and Natural Light are Related

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



Courtyard, H, E, U, and the straight line

# 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

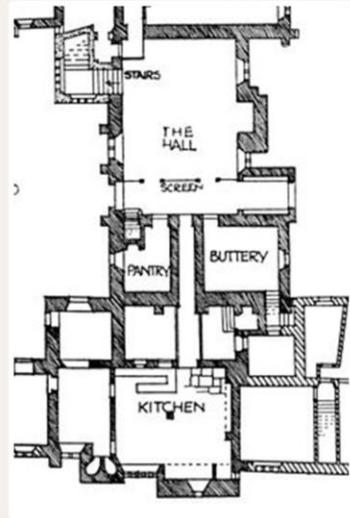
**Gentlemen:** younger sons and elder sons waiting for their father to die, illegitimate children) serving him and on the social hierarchy: yeomen, grooms, serfs

- Social structure is insular, then it begins to change: gentry associate with gentry
- There's no privacy from personal servants although the lord does get privacy from everyone else
- If you're high-ranking you get a room of your own (or rooms), others are in more dormitory / communal style rooms

# 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

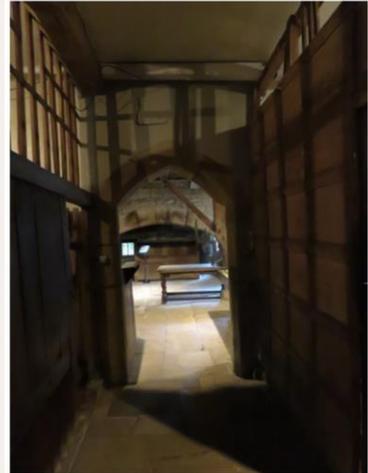


Haddon Hall Floorplan (source Wikipedia)

- Medieval houses were collections of smaller rooms grouped around a hall, kitchen, and chapel
  - These started as separate structures
- Great hall
  - From the hall, three arches:
    - Pantry - bread
    - Buttery - beer, candles
    - Kitchen



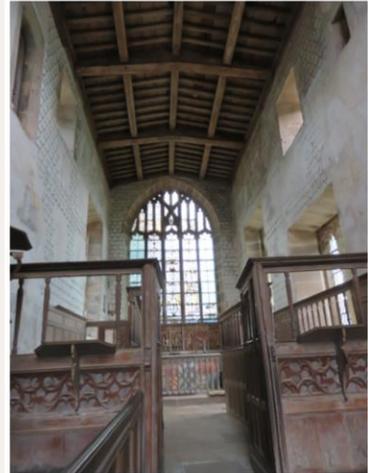
Great Hall, Haddon Hall



Passage to Kitchen, Haddon Hall



Kitchen, Haddon Hall



Chapel, Haddon Hall



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

Two amazing examples of hammerbeam roofs

Westminster Hall held vast feasts of several thousand guests by William the Conqueror every year and it's where the Queen laid in state

# 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

Transition in the mid-fourteenth century to the Great Chamber

Also in the mid-fourteenth century is this amazing new invention called the CHIMNEY. So no longer an open fire in the middle of the hall.



Replica medieval furnishings, Dover Castle

# Parlour

Place for sitting and eating outside of the ceremonial spaces



Haddon Hall Parlour

Appears second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Key to note that at this time the household is VERY masculine. You have the lady of the house and any daughters and their female attendants and that's it. So this was likely a very nice respite.

Likely to have a bed, multipurpose room



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

# 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

# House Styles

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

Courtyard, Haddon Hall



Courtyard is going to keep showing up for a long time

Lodge could also be the site of "secret house"

## Tudor / Elizabethan & Jacobean



Stronger central government, more law-abiding country

Mark Girouard – rule of force to the rule of law

# Levels

Ideally hierarchy of floor aligned with hierarchy of position:

- State
- Family
- Servants

Ham House



When the central power is with the court, a good statesman is going to have a house that's suited for hosting royalty.

- 
- Hardwick Hall the rooms of state are 2nd floor
  - Also gets the good rooms well above the smells of the kitchen



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

- From early 17th century, small winter parlour near the kitchen
- Upper servants begin dining separately out of the great hall in the late 16<sup>th</sup> / early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries



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

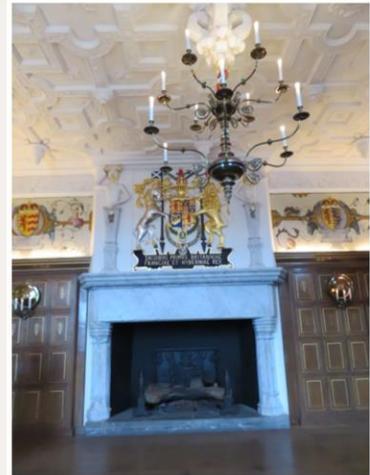
State Bed, Ham House



Mid 16<sup>th</sup> century the term bedchamber comes about – so we're starting to be specific about where the bed is



King James Drawing-Room, Hatfield



State Rooms, Edinburgh Castle

Giving more sense of what these houses that were decorated for state looked like

---

---

Some things to note in terms of interior decoration:

- Wall panelling
- Ceilings
- Still pretty large fireplaces

Anticipated myself a little with the drawing-room but we're going to see that take on more importance



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

Often resembled cloisters (keep in mind dissolution of the monasteries and some houses reuse portions)



"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



- This is going to start to change, though
- Stringing the house out along its axis creates a more impressive front – i.e. Castle Howard (and Wentworth Woodhouse)

---

---

---

---

Generally built around 1-2 courtyards as in the medieval arrangement

- Knole has 7 courtyards
- Into the 17th century

- Aspect of security

E or H

- Double-pile = rooms back to back in the main body of the house

Or even a hard U creates a more impressive front



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





- Feeling for privacy became noticeable in the 17th century
- The power of the nobility wanes due to stronger central power
- No longer vast, hierarchical male households
- Last time castles were used as castles (artillery)

# 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)

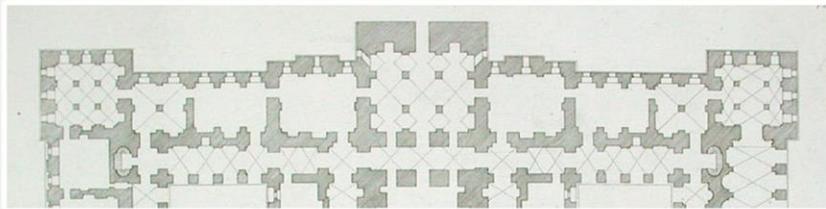


Queen's House,  
Greenwich,  
Inigo Jones

One thing that you're going to see become a stronger theme is this notion of where English architecture should take its source from.

## “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)

Another major thing is that you are getting houses built / remodeled specifically to host royalty with specific, formal apartments purpose built for this. When the monarch comes to visit, they take over your house and specifically these rooms.

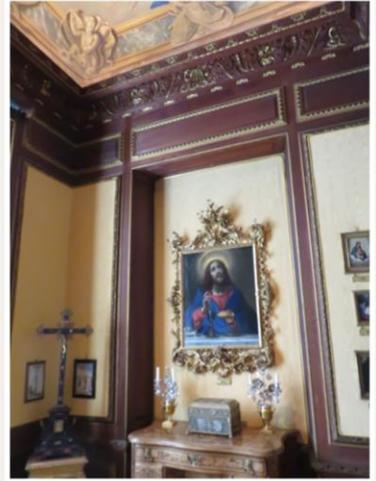
Which means the “Axis of Honour”, a string of rooms – with a symmetrical male (king) side and female (queen) side. And the deeper into those rooms you made it, the more important you were.



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

- 
- 
- 
- 
- Great Parlour with Great Dining Chamber above it
  - Great Chamber, put a portico in front of it (there is a relationship between the architectural language outside and the room inside at this time)

Fit the staircase into a symmetrical plan by putting it in the hall

- Move the servants to a servants hall near the service spaces and give the steward a parlour for the upper servants (upper servants were already eating out of the great hall)

# 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



- In time the central room ceases to be called a great chamber and becomes the saloon (salone / salon), also called this are some great chambers or parlours not in a central position
    - In some houses used sparingly for big occasions because it's a BIG room
- 
- 

- The servants aren't eating in the hall, so the room of state doesn't need to be a floor above it, the hall and the saloon might adjoin each other



Hampton Court, Queen Mary II Bedroom

# Evolving Rooms

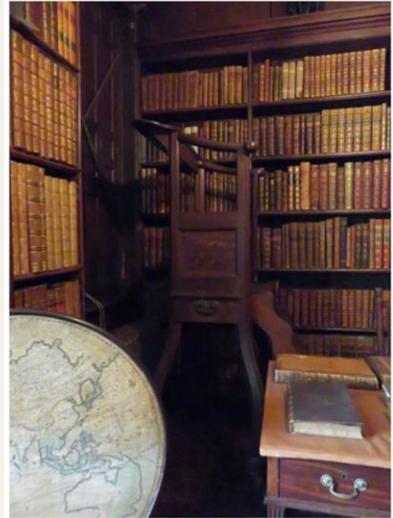
- Closets become more important and more richly furnished
- Withdrawing / Drawing-Room takes on more importance
- Bedrooms become more public
- Dressing room appears in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century
- Kitchen sometimes moved out of the house in a pavilion; a second pavilion could house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

- Drawing-room
  - Charles II sets the trend - comes out to talk to people in his withdrawing-room which leads to the Royal Drawing-Rooms of later centuries
- Bedroom
  - Gone from living in rooms with a bed now to living in bedrooms
- Dressing room
  - Appears in the 2nd half of the 17th century
  - There could be one for the husband and one for the wife but English couples did tend to share bedrooms more often and so there could be a room for both to dress
  - And in late 17th / early 18th century with French influence you do get more separate apartments for the husband and wife

# 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



- Bess of Hardwick had 6 books total
- Books were relatively rare and hunting was the preferred activity
- Book learning was for lower professions like clerks



## 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

This is again the time for increasing desire for privacy

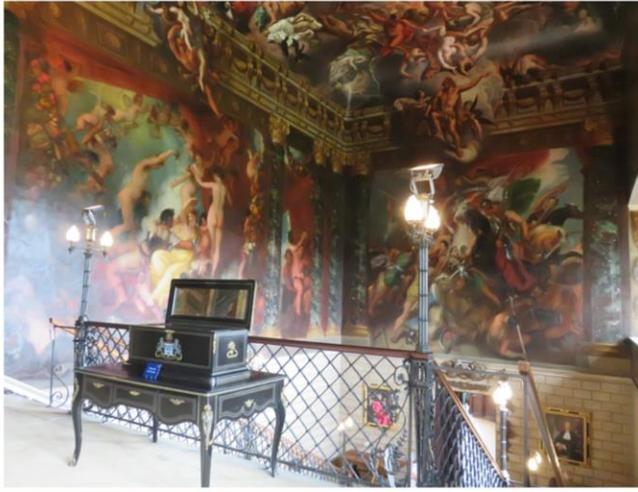


# Baroque

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

Castle Howard

- We're going to go back to that see-saw between neoclassical (Palladian) style and Baroque and take a closer look at Baroque



Burghley, Hell Staircase and Heaven Room



Not going to hit on Rococo but it's a sort of last extra flourishing of Baroque style



Castle Howard, Hall



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





Even into the 18th century it was by no means uncommon for gentlemen / noblemen to act as their own architects. It becomes more of a profession in the 18th and into the 19th century

There's also a bit of flattening at the top of society  
Not the same deference for nobility - it's about **land**

---

---

---

Simplified neoclassical front  
Entrance through a center portico

# 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



- Beginning of 18th century, Baroque goes out of fashion and Palladianism comes in (there's a weird sort of order in that, there was an early rush of Palladianism with Inigo Jones and then Baroque took over for a while)
  - Baroque
    - Continental
    - Became passe first for the Whigs
      - Wentworth Woodhouse

# 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



Collections became so large people built extensions on to their houses

Libraries weren't just full of books, they had **games, portfolios of engravings, scientific toys**

The owner might still have their own private study or book room



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

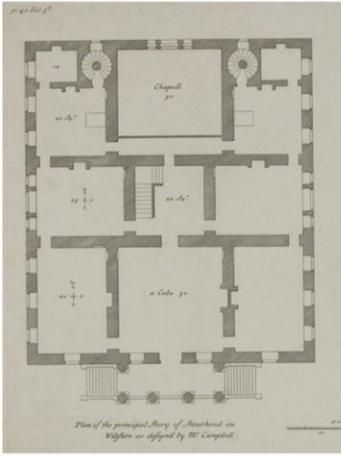


Privacy peaked in the early 18th century (people were in their private apartments) – once you have public rooms like the library, you are expected to spend your time there

(i.e. writing a letter in company rather than in your own chambers)

Breakfast room is also used for writing in Mansfield Park

# Organized Fun



Stourhead floorplan (Source: National Trust)

- 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

- You need a series of rooms for entertaining that all flow into each other
- First they try opening the state rooms, then they add on for more space, then separate out of the state bedchamber
- But the long “axis of honour” as Girouard calls it isn’t the best way to arrange the reception rooms -- you want rooms in a circle, around a top-lit central staircase (a relatively recent, 17th century invention)

---

---

---

## Mid 18th century balls and assemblies merge

- The library was already throwing off the balance of the formal house
  - Unless it replaced the Great Chamber (Felbrigg) or some other room (Chatsworth = Long Gallery)
- Halls are in the wrong place too, needs to be some rooms away from the front door so you’re not just thrown into the party when you enter



Hall and Staircase, Stourhead



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

The circuit included one room bigger and grander than the rest, a great room or grand drawing-room (Music room from Norfolk House, V&A white and gold)

This architectural revolution starts in town houses but spreads to the country

# 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

- Separation of the sexes may have begun late 17th century - may have started with ladies retiring to brew the tea and then took longer and longer - it's specifically English
- Drawing-room may or may not be immediately adjacent to the dining-room

# 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



- Bell pull 1760s - 1770s means you don't need to have servants hanging around in a hall anymore

---

---

---

---

- Single backstairs and corridors for servants
  - Sometimes a communal "barracks" for bachelors or visiting manservants
  - Not much effort to segregate the sexes at this point



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

- Ground floor called the rustic

# 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)

In some houses the service rooms were in a separate service wing

---

---

---

Billiard tables were HUGE so in older houses you might find them in the hall because that's the only place they would fit.



Syon, Kitchen



Muniments room (estate record storage), Nostell Priory

Muniments room – storage for estate records

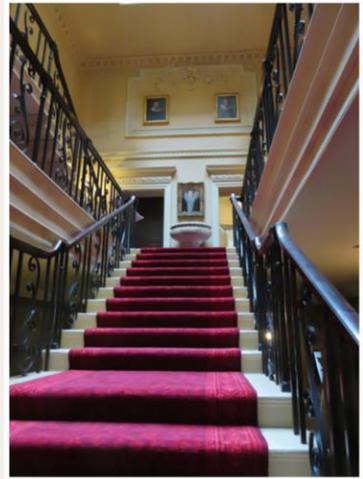


Harewood, Still room and servants' hall (note, the Lascelles family fortune came largely from proceeds of the slave trade)

Still-room, before the 18th century this was the domain of the mistress, becomes the domain of the housekeeper



Bath, Claremont



Nostell Priory, stairs up from rustic

Another thing you might find during this time on either the rustic or elsewhere on the grounds was a plunge bath.

# 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

Stourhead



Not time to go into landscape architecture but just briefly, the landscape followed a circuit just as the house followed a circuit

# 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

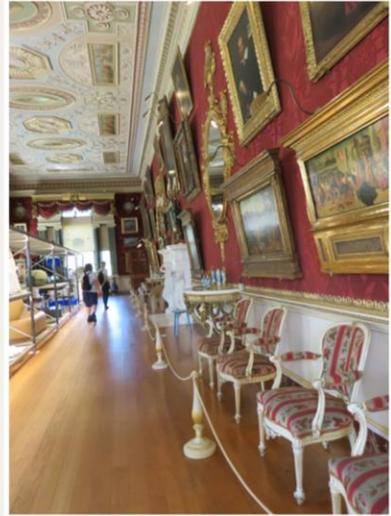
"But what is distance, Mr. Weston, to people of large fortune?—You would be amazed to hear how my brother, Mr. Suckling, sometimes flies about. You will hardly believe me—but twice in one week he and Mr. Bragge went to London and back again with four horses."

—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)



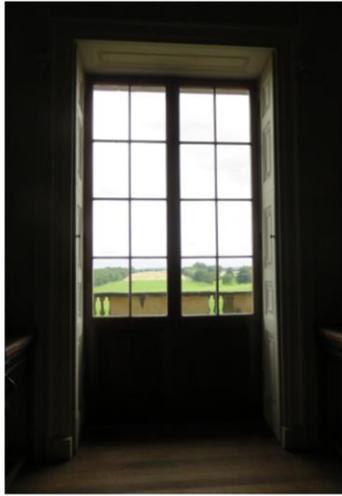
Visitors were of social standing all the way to the top – Victoria and Albert visited St. Michael's Mount while the family were away and were shown around by the housekeeper.

## Late Georgian to Regency

Saltram

Haven't talked about building materials in a while because they haven't changed, but one thing you do get in the Georgian / Regency era is brick covered with a stucco render like we see at Saltram. Often used on town houses.

- Main rooms move to the ground floor level compared to the upper floors of the Elizabethan / Jacobean era and the previous piano nobile
- Towards the end of the 18th century people want rooms that communicate to the outside world



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

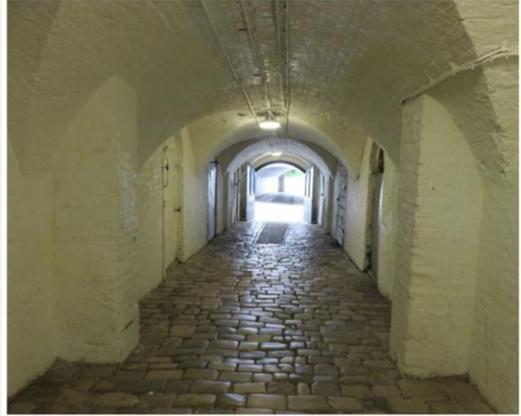
Kenwood exterior showing Orangery

Symmetry starts to become less important because the houses aren't as formal, as you can see here at Kenwood.

# 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

Everything from plot politics to attend a race meeting + MATCHMAKING (Mrs. Bennet knows what she's doing)

- Assemblies
- Social breakfasts (end up in the afternoon)

You do still get the royal Dukes visiting houses but it's more of a social than a state visit (still going to cost you though!)



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

Originally furniture was moved around a lot -- even dining tables used to be able to be folded up and moved, but the dining-room furniture also takes on more permanence.

It would be arranged in a circle for formal conversation

But after about 1780 it is arranged in permanent smaller groupings for more intimate conversation

# 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

## BOUDOIR

Can see development of these leisure rooms more specifically for the ladies while the men are out hunting or shooting

# 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

- Baronial tenants halls Return of events for laborers, tenants, etc.
  - French revolution
  - Some never lapsed but they got new attention
  - Servants balls
  - Harvest dinners

---

---

Ballroom:

- Hatfield had 400 people at an assembly
- This was another potential reuse of the Great Chamber (Knole's ballroom was the old Great Chamber, before that in the 18th c was called the Great Dining-Room)



Saltram

## Chinoiserie

Chinese or Japanese influenced, or a blend.

We've already taken a look at neoclassical, but let's take a look at some other decorative styles of the long Georgian era.



Royal Pavilion

# Indian

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

Also popular among the nabob set

# 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

Windsor Castle was actually made much more castle-ey during the Regency  
Architect Sir Jeffry Wyatville under direction from George IV



# 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

You can see with cottage orne, castle, and the gothic styles, that we're back to this question of where does English architectural inspiration come from, and the pendulum is swinging back towards ENGLAND.



Strawberry Hill, exterior and Library





We're not going to spend long here, just enough to understand where things are going.

Gothic is in, symmetry is out

French revolution has everybody in the upper classes shook.

- Move towards at least superficial morality
    - Domesticity
    - Religion
      - Chapels are back
  - Landowners had to be seen as moral, so using ecclesiastical architectural styles is a shortcut for credibility
  - This is the era of empire: people want a quintessentially English style rather than one poached from another empire
    - Also influenced by historical novels like those of Sir Walter Scott
  - For new country house owners, it's also a quicker means towards credibility, to use an "old" style
- 
-

- 
- New money (sometimes on old land, through coal)
  - Landed classes retain prestige but lose power

# Italianate

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



Osborne House

The tower is one way that authority is still asserted, albeit in a softer manner.

It can also house a water tank.



## 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, Tynesfield

Increase in social events with tenants and servants, held in old-style spaces



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

How a character opens a window says something about the house they're living in!



# 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



Hardwick Hall – pioneer in this space “more glass than wall”

- Sash
  - Chatsworth 1676-1680
  - Whitehall Palace 1685



Bay windows, Lacock Abbey



Bow windows, Chawton village

Bay windows have been around for a very long time

Georgian era has a curved variation called a bow window

# 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

Hollows are warmer, less wind, you don't have to cart things up the hill

At Harewood, the remains of the old house are under a Capability Brown lake



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

Going to see Kedleston later, the rest of the village moved but the house actually wraps around the old parish church

# 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



Rents varied by year - some tenants were in arrears, extra expenses or income (i.e. timber sales) could adjust things



## 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

There's two forms of enclosure that are happening. One is that the old system going back to medieval times of everybody having disparate strips of land all over the place is ended and it's negotiated that you farm a specific field (and usually enclose the boundary). The other is more sinister and it means that the village common – which everyone had rights to – is enclosed, with landowners getting a share based on the size of their holding. Which was really bad for the poor who might be raising livestock there or gleaning resources from it.

1816 – the year without a summer

to oaks in general, to forests, the  
enclosure of them, waste lands, crown  
lands and government, (NA)

# 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

Obviously this isn't the case in *Pride and Prejudice* but we see reference to it in *Sense and Sensibility*



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



- Impetus for a build or remodel: inheritance, marriage (dowry), etc. but work might be completed out of the estate's regular income
- Even without major work, big renovations were needed every 100 years or so
- Funding to build usually came from some other source (windfall) that was not regular annual income
  - Sinecures were often the source, and the land itself may have come from the crown
  - Mineral resources (Derbyshire - lead mining among other things)
  - River navigation
  - Turnpike roads
  - Canals
  - Matlock - hotels were owned by a consortium of landowners

Blenheim is an example of a 6 figure house



# 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



- Many homes were secondary to other estates, done in expectation of future use by some branch of the family
- If there's no expectation of future use, tear the house down

# 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."

Sense and Sensibility

# Combe Magna



Lansdowne Arms (former manor house, now a pub)

"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."

Note the shrubbery – I think every Austen novel has some reference to shrubbery

There are a few references to modern in Austen's novels and my assumption is that they refer to neoclassical houses...whether that's the earlier Georgian with the piano nobile or later you can't tell with Cleveland.

Not sure what the reference to "inner lobby" is

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

Brick detailing is called "diaper"

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

- Sotherton I vote as the house in Austen's works most likely to have a priest hole
- The fact that they upgraded the chapel in James II's time is a pretty strong hint that the family were Catholic



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

One thing I do wonder about is whether Mansfield Park is a harbinger of where things are going: you have Sotherton the old-style English architecture with its money coming from the land and the more modern Mansfield Park with its money coming from a slave plantation. So is this a hint that Sotherton is the more moral house? But again like the Victorian upper class it's a surface morality: the chapel is a point of pride but it's not really used. And it's worth noting that Mansfield Park was comparably much more popular in the Victorian era, they ate that morality right up.

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...”

- Since Hartfield is described as modern we can guess there is a staircase in the hall in the middle of the house



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."

Sweep-gate appears quite a few times, believe it's a gate to enter the circular drive

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

- You also have a contrast in Emma with the modern Hartfield and the very old Donwell 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..."

Going to skip Enscombe as the only thing we know about it is that it has a conservatory

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"

Lodge in this reference (and you see it reasonably frequently with large houses in Austen) is a building at the gate

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."

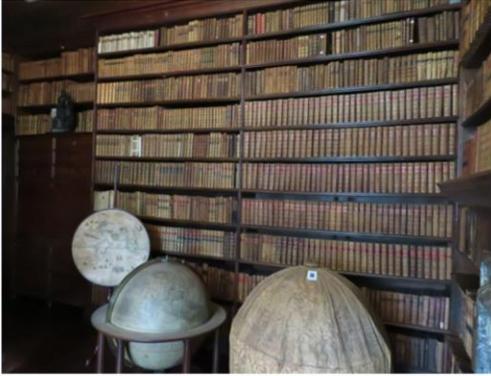


Sion

- The lodge is where Lady Russell lives so we can assume it's less of a gate lodge and more of a subsidiary house
- Admiral Croft comments more than once about how wind affects a house
- We really don't get a lot on Kellynch OR Uppercross Great House

Pride and Prejudice

# Longbourn



Ham House, Library

- 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



- The location of the rooms also gives us a clue that this is an older house



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..."

Just noticed this while doing the study for this presentation – they're all sitting around in the dining-room in the morning despite having a breakfast-room. Is this because the light is better at that time of year? Is the dining-room still one of those more flexible rooms? Is it just grander and so that's why Mrs. Bennet wanted Bingley to sit with them in there?

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

- Austen seems to refer to a ball-room as a room where a ball is being held, not necessarily a room specifically built as a ball-room
- So this could be a somewhat older house where they're using a saloon or a great chamber as a ball room
- Skipping Lucas Lodge as we don't really know much about it

Pride and Prejudice

## Rosings Park



Syon, Dining-Room

- 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)

There is perhaps either a rustic level or a wing with offices, one of which is where Mrs. Jenkinson's room is

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

- Modern and on rising ground, which means it's likely not just a modern facade

Pride and Prejudice

# Pemberley



Kedleston Hall

- 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

- Chatsworth is further from Hamstall Ridware

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

<p>See STAMFORD, 3 m. distant, at Kettleby, Charles Greenham, Esq., and Kettleby Hall, Stephen Baines, Esq.</p>	<p>Cross the E.W. river Wolland * STAMFORD, Lincolnshire 96</p>	<p>STAMFORD, before, near High House, Margery de Lantre, and CHIEF, of LANTRE.</p>
<p>MEASURED from HICKS'S HALL.</p>	<p>LONDON to MANCHESTER.</p>	<p>THRO' WIRKSWORTH, MATLOCK, BAKWELL, and CHEEF, of LANTRE.</p>
<p>DERBY, ½ m. distant, Markeston Hall, F. Mundy, Esq.</p>	<p>From Markeston 187½</p>	<p>From London 126</p>
<p>KEDLESTON INN, ¼ 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 three orders 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 200 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 classical 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, large, designed from the sketch 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.</p>	<p>Hicks's Hall to * DERBY, Derbyshire, page 218 ½ m. beyond Derby, To Belper 7¼ m. £36 Kedleston Inn Through Kedleston Park, to Weston under Wood Inn 55 2¼ m. further, To Ashbourn 7½ m. £37 Cross Hands Inn To Belper 4½ m. £37 To Ashbourn 7 m. The Black Swan Bateman Bridge Wall Brook Bridge WIRKSWORTH, Town Hall To Ashbourn 9 m. To Affron 9¼ m. £37 Cromford (to Matlock Bath 1 m., thence, over Matlock Bridge, to Matlock 2 m.</p>	<p>CHROMFORD, near Willersley Castle, Richard Ashurst, 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 H. Ashurst in 1694 caused the rock to be removed. The interior is finished in a very elegant manner, and contains every thing capable of contributing to domestic comfort; it is decorated with a few good pictures, among which is a full-length portrait of the venerated founder of the family, by whom the mansion was erected. The grounds possess a very varied and romantic appearance; they display from several points, various well-wooded eminences on which, almost unconsumed by the trees, are some of the finest and other objects; others exhibit rude rocks, rising in solemn grandeur, partly bare and unsheltered, and partly covered with fine young trees, of which the late worthy owner is said to have planted 20,000 annually as an avowage of every year; these are collected by the waters of the river Derwent, and form highly interesting objects among the scenery that includes almost all the varied beauties of nature.</p> <p>BOWSLEY, ½ m. beyond, Haddon Hall, Duke of Rutland. This truly venerable structure is the most complete specimen of a baronial residence in existence.</p>
<p>MATLOCK must be understood to include both the village</p>		

Warmly praised in Paterson's Road Book "to do justice to which would far exceed our limits"

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



- She's holding the Kedleston catalog in the painting

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.”

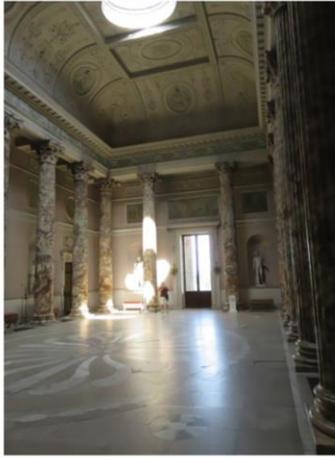
Pride and Prejudice

# Kedleston Hall



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

- 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.
- They descended the hill, crossed the bridge, and drove to the door



Hall



Saloon



Saloon window

- This is another Robert Adam house, so much of what you see is done by him
- “On reaching the house, they were shewn through the hall into the saloon, whose northern aspect rendered it delightful for summer. Its windows opening to the ground, admitted a most refreshing view of the high woody hills behind the house, and of the beautiful oaks and Spanish chesnuts which were scattered over the intermediate lawn.
- Will note that there is only one window like this in the Saloon and that it actually faces south, as well the Saloon is of a size that it was used as a ballroom and wouldn't necessarily be used as a sitting room as it is in *Pride and Prejudice*



Terrace from Saloon



Kedleston corridor to wing



Music Room



Drawing-Room

- The rooms were lofty and handsome, and their furniture suitable to the fortune of their proprietor; but Elizabeth saw, with admiration of his taste, that it was neither gaudy nor uselessly fine; with less of splendor, and more real elegance, than the furniture of Rosings.



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

I believe the park is also 5 miles round rather than 10 miles, but 10 miles is HUGE. I haven't come across a house with a park that large.

I think this bears more research, though, because all of these can be explained with creative license.

And it is certainly a better candidate than Chatsworth, whose baroque interiors are much more gaudy and uselessly fine – in addition to being specifically named as a different house

At the very least, I hope for those of you who want to do the Derbyshire country house tour someday, that you include Kedleston in your itinerary. I visited it in the same trip as Chatsworth and it felt MUCH more like Pemberley. Also recommend including Haddon Hall which we saw so much of at the beginning of the presentation.

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

- Plantations (of trees) appear more often with the houses associated with slavery, (Mansfield Park / Maple Grove)
- Plantation: Mansfield Park (numerous references), Maple Grove, Northanger Abbey, Woodston, Rosings Park, Cleveland, Barton Park

# 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

- If you want to start building a library on the English country house, highly recommend you start with these

# 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/>

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**,  
including icons by **Flaticon** and infographics & images by **Freepik**