

Renaissance architecture in England



The Queen's House at Greenwich

Harmony and symmetry entered English architecture with Inigo Jones, who designed Queen's House at Greenwich and then the replacement of the destroyed Banqueting House at Whitehall.

He had spent time in Italy studying the Renaissance architecture and that of Andrea Palladio. **Queen's House** is a former royal residence built between 1616 and 1635 in Greenwich for Anne of Denmark, wife of King James I.

Queen's House is considered the first

consciously classical building to have been constructed in the country. It is remarkable for its break with the traditional, red-brick Tudor style of building, and for its elegant proportions and the high quality of its interiors. The sweeping Tulip Stairs are one of the original features of the Queen's House. This ornate, wrought iron structure was the first geometric self-supporting spiral stair in Britain.

■ Banqueting House, Whitehall, London.

In 1619, the Banqueting House at Whitehall was destroyed by fire. Between that year and 1622, Inigo Jones replaced it with what has always been regarded as one of his greatest achievements. The Banqueting House consists of one great chamber, conceived internally as a basilica on the Vitruvian model but without aisles. The main panels of the ceiling are allegorical paintings by Peter Paul Rubens which were commissioned by Charles I and set in place in 1635. Today, the Banqueting Hall is open for tours and used as a venue space.



The Banqueting House at Whitehall

1 Answer the following questions.

1. What are Inigo Jones' main works?
2. Where did Inigo Jones find inspiration for his works?
3. What makes Queen's House the first classical building?
4. What is one of its original features?
5. What destroyed Banqueting House?
6. How long did it take Jones to replace it?
7. Who painted the panels of the ceiling?
8. Is the building still in use?