

RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE IN ENGLAND



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.

