

THE QUEEN'S HOUSE

THE
QUEEN'S
HOUSE



A **Key Stage 3-5** teachers' resource for **Art and Design** at the **Queen's House**



Teachers can use this resource to prepare for a self-guided class visit to the Queen's House to investigate the artwork and develop students' analytical understanding through questioning, research and re-interpretation activities.

Please feel free to change, adapt or use the text, images and activities to suit your needs.

Background Information

The Queen's House was completed around 1636 and is considered 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. It was the first fully Classical building in England.

The building was commissioned by King James 1 for his wife, Anne of Denmark, supposedly a gift from the king to apologise for swearing in front of her after she had accidentally killed one of his favourite dogs during a hunt.

Inigo Jones, the architect of the Queen's House, was hugely influenced by Andrea Palladio, an Italian architect who drew on Roman and Greek architecture for inspiration. The notion of drawing on past art and design is a practice still used by many artists today.

English architect Jones brought Palladio's ideas to England, so beginning a new style of beautifully proportioned, symmetrical buildings called 'palladian'.

Inigo Jones also designed Covent Garden Square and the Banqueting Hall at Whitehall, which you may be familiar with.

Practical and Critical Exploration

? How has the Queen's House affected the building of later architecture across the road?

Sketch around you-what inspires you in the landscape?

Just like the architect of the Queen's house, many other artists of the time went on a Grand Tour to collect inspiration from works of art and architecture around the world. Collect ideas from around you.

Discuss what inspires you as an artist. Are you influenced by certain styles or other artists?

Go inside the house and left to the Tulip stairs-stop on the landing

The Tulip Stairs

This is the first geometric self-supporting spiral staircase in Britain. The flowers within the balustrade design are now thought to actually be lilies, which were the emblem of Queen Henrietta Maria, who was gifted the house in 1629. The 'smalt' blue paint gains it's vibrancy from crushed glass.

? Why do we place value in preserving original objects/artworks?

? What emblem represents you?

Sketch some ideas for your emblem design

Re-interpretation task

Design a building influenced by the Queen's House architecture or selecting elements from the buildings around you. Think about who you are designing the building for and what emblem for them you could incorporate into your design.

Further research

- Pablo Bronstein is a contemporary artist also influenced by historical architecture.
- www.greatbuildings.com

Please let the Bookings team know when you would like to visit:

Tel: +44 (0)20 8312 6608

Email: bookings@rmg.co.uk



Image: The Tulip Stairs, Royal Museums Greenwich



Image: The Queen's House exterior from the North