

# Georgian Architecture | Higher Level Notes

## Historical Background

- 1714-1830 in Ireland and Britain
- Influences: Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece and Palladio (Italian Renaissance architect)
- Grand tours exposed people to Renaissance and Roman architecture
- People began building classical mansions after these grand tours
- Growing prosperity, rich society, political independence
- Dublin was growing – Golden Age for architecture
- Drawing school founded
- 1800: Act of Union – cultural and economic decline

## Palladianism

- Classical architectural style influenced by Palladio
- Two types of Georgian architecture: Palladian and Neoclassical (Ancient Rome & Greece)
- Features of Palladianism:
  1. Carefully calculated proportions
  2. Simple decoration
  3. Symmetrical façade
  4. Big central entrance hall
  5. Wings on both sides
- Three types of pillars: Doric, Ionic and Corinthian
- Palladian houses are mansions in the countryside

## Edward Lovett Pearce (architect)

- Anglo-Irish family
- Completed a Grand Tour in France and Italy

- Influenced by Palladio
- Met Alessandro Galilei (façade of Castletown) in Florence
- Worked on Castletown in 1725
- Member of Irish Parliament from 1728
- Designed new Parliament House on College Green

## **Castletown House**

- Celbridge, Co. Kildare
- Oldest Palladian mansion in Ireland (built in 1720s)
- Built for William Connolly (speaker in the House of Commons at the time)
- Alessandro Galilei and Edward Lovett Pearce are the architects
- Three-storey central block similar to Renaissance city palace
- Wings similar to Palladian rural villas
- Galilei designed façade, Pearce designed interior layout and ionic colonnades
- Central block 13 bays wide and 3 storeys tall
- Ground and first floor = tall windows
- Top floor = square windows
- Balcony covers a hipped roof
- Matching balcony connects the wings along the top of the colonnades
- Central block = pale limestone
- Wings = warm brown limestone

## **Sir William Chambers**

- Born in Sweden, 1723
- Studied architecture in Paris

- Lived in Italy for 5 years
- Set up architectural practice in London
- Designed examination hall and chapel in Trinity College
- Spent 9 years on a Grand Tour
- Became influenced by classical architecture

## **The Casino at Marino**

- 18<sup>th</sup> Century neo-classical
- Started construction in 1755
- Influences from Paris and Rome
- 50 feet square to outer columns
- Main façades = north and south (front and back)
- Exterior carved in sculptural ornament and decorative carving
- Attic storey, statues and urns are main feature of façades
- Looks like one room from outside, really 16 rooms inside
- Three floors – interior plan is a Greek cross
- Front door nearly as high as columns
- Actual front door is hidden inside and is average height
- Functional decoration (outer columns contain pipes from gutters)
- Sculpted gods Bacchus, Ceres, Apollo and Venus are above the elevations
- Rich ornamentation found throughout the façades
- Has a china closet (ladies' room)
- 100ft long tunnel used by servants who could not walk on estate grounds

## **The Hall of Casino at Marino**

- Four doors, a window, fireplace and two niches
- Richly carved door frames
- Geometric floor pattern
- Square -panelled ceiling rising over semi-circular recess (dome)
- Squares get smaller as they rise, creating sense of wide space

## **The Saloon of Casino at Marino**

- Blue and white colour scheme
- Original chimney was white marble but went missing in 19<sup>th</sup> Century (later replaced)
- Room contains four hidden doors