

Looking Back, Moving Forward

2



Homes Through the Ages



Skills / Concepts	Activities	Outcomes
What needs are homes designed to meet?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observing • Looking for clues • Recording and communicating data • Handling information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey their own homes to determine the type of dwelling and extract the common factors 	<p>Children discover that the basic needs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter • Security • Lighting • Warmth and cooking • Water supply and sanitation <p>Be able to apply these criteria to any site</p>
Where are they sited?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching • Explaining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and locating specific buildings and sites on maps • Studying the topographical and geographical features of an area • Locating quarries, limepits, brickworks • Investigating transport of materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know why settlements developed in particular locations and how these sites were affected by the availability of materials and transport • Plotting routes used to transport materials
How and why do homes change?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation of change • Hypothesising • Ordering • Gathering evidence 	<p>Examine changes (and their consequences) in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of materials • Design and shape of windows and doors • Fashion changes • Use of building • Adding modern comforts (plumbing, double glazing) • Structural modifications • Brickwork / stonework (e.g. lines of old arches and bricked up fireplaces) <p>Examine the effects of weathering and pollution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know that the locality has changed over time • Plotting changes that have taken place on a timeline • Noting and recording change through decay and weathering on brickwork, stonework, carvings...



Homes Through the Ages



Skills / Concepts	Activities	Outcomes
How can we find out about homes?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking for clues on site visits by questioning, collecting information, exploring and developing ideas • Using vocabulary related to architecture and the environment • Researching and extracting information • Making deductions from physical evidence • Forming values, attitudes and feelings • Evaluating / caring • Thinking critically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult reference material books and ICT • Take responsibility for finding and selecting sources suitable for enquiry • Use challenging resources • Transcribe and summarise documents • Store information on databases • Review visits / report writing • Asking and answering questions • Making deductions • Justifying arguments • Describing experiences of real life and through role play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short descriptions and reports written for different audiences • Guide leaflets • Scripts for TV documentary • Annotated drawings and sketches, recording observations • Labelled and completed outlines • Role play of life in different homes
When and how were these homes built? What were these homes like to live in? Who built them and what did the owners / tenants do for a living?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary building • Storytelling • Writing for different audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the status of those who lived in these homes • Examine evidence from size of windows, number of rooms and floor plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate factual knowledge and understanding of events and people associated with these buildings • Recognise similarities and differences in living conditions • Recognise buildings and features in own locality • Compare and contrast examples in own locality and with other areas • Vocabulary associated with historical sources, research and buildings e.g. semi-detached, casement windows, barge board...

Homes Through the Ages



Skills / Concepts	Activities	Outcomes
How are people accommodated in today's society?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating • Searching for information • Interviewing • Discussing and debating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at forms of ownership e.g. housing associations, council housing, co-operatives • Sheltered housing • Provision for people with disabilities • Different lifestyles across the community • Homelessness • Social housing - the role of local and national government • Eco-friendly design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of issues and problems in society • Contributing to a better world around them

Resources	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial photographs and Ordnance Survey maps • Old and current photographs from well-known collections e.g. Welch and Greene. Sources include Ulster Museum and Ulster Folk and Transport Museum • Postcards • Paintings <p>Documentary resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census returns • Parish records • Street or trade directories • Account books, sales catalogues • Wills and inventories • Archaeological records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multimedia resources and the internet e.g. www.ehsni.gov.uk • Help from staff at libraries and the Public Record Office • Informal discussions with older residents, community groups, historical societies • Publications, including UAHS guides and books 	



Stone Age Homes 7000 - 2000 BC



Early Times - Stone Age Man

The first evidence of early man in Ireland comes from the period around 7000 BC. The first settlers may have arrived from the shores of Britain. They lived by hunting wild animals and birds, fishing and by collecting shellfish, roots and leaves. The earliest structures associated with man in Ireland were discovered at **Mount Sandel near Coleraine, Co.Londonderry**. Groups of postholes, pits and hearths suggested the existence of circular huts about six metres in diameter.



Soon after 4000 BC the first farming communities became established in Ireland continuing until approximately 1800 BC. The sites surviving from this long period include settlements, industrial sites and different types of stone built tombs.

Farmers needed stronger houses to live in and so a new design evolved. Thick wooden uprights were erected and hazel or willow rods were woven round these in a basket fashion. When a Neolithic site was excavated on a small glacial sand and gravel hill at **Ballynagilly in Co.Tyrone**, traces of a rectangular timber-built house were found.



Left, Neolithic dwelling

The Giant's Ring at Ballynahatty - South of Belfast is a vast circular enclosure occupying about seven acres. This circular form is also found in the raths, forts and cashels of Ireland and in the artificial islands - crannogs - built as defensive homes.

Navan Fort - Huge circular enclosure of about 12 acres. Research shows that from the middle of the first millennium this was a series of circular houses with attached yards, all timber-based and representing many generations of use. These were replaced by a massive structure 40m in diameter built of concentric rings of large posts round a central post.

SEE THESE RECONSTRUCTED BUILDINGS AT THE ULSTER HISTORY PARK NEAR OMAGH. FOR DETAILS VISIT THEIR SITE AT: www.omagh.gov.uk/historypark OR CONTACT STAFF DIRECTLY AT uhp@omagh.gov.uk



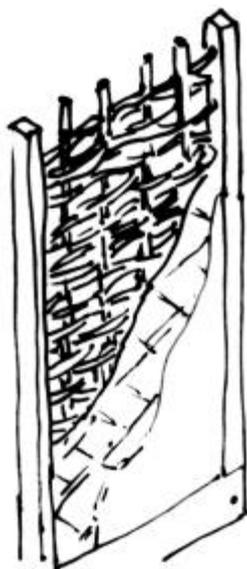
Ireland's First Builders



Stone Age 7000 - 2000 BC

Mesolithic (Stone Age) people came to Ireland about 9000 years ago. They lived in caves and simple shelters. They hunted for food and used stone, especially flint, for weapons. Mount Sandel, near Coleraine was excavated in the 1970s. A number of small dark circles were uncovered. These were post holes where pieces of wood had been driven into the ground. The roofs of these houses were probably made by stretching skins over the framework or laying pieces of turf on wooden supports. The fire was in the centre of the hut.

Neolithic (new Stone Age) people settled in the one place, spent less time hunting and began to farm the land. Their homes were much stronger and bigger than those of their predecessors. The walls of the houses were made of split tree trunks interwoven with hazel twigs (**wattles**). The walls were then smeared with mud or clay (**daub**) to keep out the wind and rain. The roof was thatched with straw or water reeds. Inside the house an open hearth fire was used for cooking and heating.



1 Wattle & Daub

- Weave cane rods and cover with mud or clay to make a wattle and daub wall.
- Do tests to see how weatherproof it can be.

- ### 2
- The first settlers in Ireland picked their site because of 3 Fs. The first F was for a crossing point on a river, the second a kind of food and the third a material for tool making.

- Name the 3 Fs.
- How were their tools made and used?
- Check to see if there are some samples in your local museum.

3 Time Flies...

- How long ago is 5000BC?
- Make a time line.
- Mark important events.
- Ask your teacher to help with other dates and events.

Display your time line in the corridor!

Tasks!

Can you make a model of a Stone Age settlement? Consider the landscape and the style of house that was used. Add some people to your model.



Early Christian Homes 500 - 1200 AD



Raths or Ring Forts

Settlement sites from this period are numerous and include raths, cashels, crannogs, promontory forts, open settlements and souterrains.



Raths were enclosed farmsteads. They have given their names to many townlands, for example Machaire Ratha, now **Maghera** which translates as 'plain of the fort'. In the countryside they are universally known as forts. A typical rath would have a circular open space some 35 metres in diameter surrounded by a bank, perhaps 4 metres wide and 2 metres high with an enclosing ditch crossed by a causeway to an entrance gap. The interior features may include a souterrain and slightly raised irregular

platforms. Excavations have often uncovered a farmstead with a house of wattles, planks, stone, mud or sods and sometimes with outbuildings.

Finds from excavated sites indicate a settled, mixed agricultural economy: animal bones, querns for grinding grain, coarse hand made pottery, spindle whorls, iron knives and axes and personal ornaments including beads, pins and armlets, but hardly any weapons.

Good examples: Rough Fort near Moira and also Lisnagade and Lisnavaragh in Co.Down, Rathmore in Co.Antrim, Legar Hill Fort in Co.Armagh, Golan in Co.Fermanagh, Sixmilecross in Co.Tyrone.

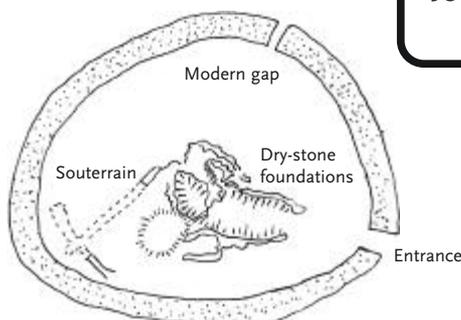
Cashels

This enclosure is broadly similar to a rath in date and function, but is entirely stone built (cashel means stone), and rarely has a ditch. Cashels tend to occur in rocky upland areas where stone is plentiful and ditch building is difficult. The surrounding wall, circular or oval in shape, is of dry rubble and is approximately 2-3 metres thick and about 2 metres high.

The outer and inner faces are very carefully built often with larger stones in the lower courses, but the wall core is of dumped rubble. Excavated cashels tend to produce the same features and finds as raths, though stone was the favoured material for houses and other internal structures.



Above, Drumena Cashel



PLACE NAMES OFTEN CONTAIN INTRIGUING CLUES ABOUT THE SOCIAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF A PARTICULAR PLACE. TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT LOCAL TOWNLANDS VISIT THE WEBSITE: www.ulsterplacenames.org



Early Christian Homes 500 - 1200 AD



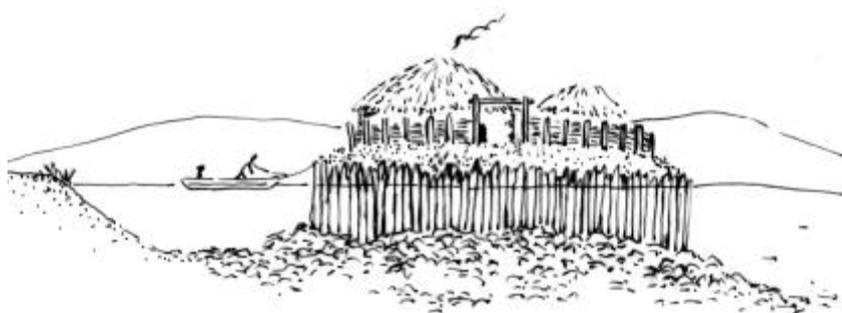
A good example is **Drumena near Castlewellan in Co.Down**, excavated in the 1920s. A small T-shaped souterrain and some rather jumbled house formations can be found within the boundary. A number of good examples can be found in **Co.Down**. **Drumaroad White Fort** was excavated in the 1960s and produced the foundation of a squarish stone and mud house. At **Nendrum** there is a cashel of unusual size in an ecclesiastical context. It is sited on a glacial island and is enclosed by three concentric stone walls. **Further examples are: Altadore near Cushendun in Co.Antrim, Killykeegan in Co.Fermanagh, White Fort Cashel in Co.Londonderry.**

Crannogs

The third distinctive type of settlement is known as a crannog - an artificially constructed island of brushwood timbers, stakes, stones and rubbish supporting a platform of wood or stone on which structures of wood or stone were built. They are usually found in areas of extensive lakeland, but they tend to occupy small lakes rather than large stretches of water. There is substantial evidence suggesting that several crannogs witnessed long periods of use, some lasting as long as five centuries.

Building a crannog was a dangerous and laborious task. A team of workmen, working from dug out boats or rafts, would have laid a foundation of planks on the lakebed, anchoring them with vertical wooden piling. The crannog was then built up by depositing successive layers of peat, heather, brushwood and stone. The sides of the crannog would have been retained by a wooden palisade driven into the lakebed around the site.

Examples occur throughout Northern Ireland, but the main concentration is around a belt stretching from **Fermanagh** through **South Tyrone** and **Armagh** to **mid-Down**. Occasionally several crannogs occur together as in **Lough Eyes in Co.Fermanagh**. Many crannogs can now be seen as small tree covered islands in lakes. A prominent example exists in **Loughbrickland in Co.Down** and others can be seen in **Roughan Lough in Co.Tyrone, Castle Lough at Stewartstown, beside Monea Castle in Fermanagh at Lisleitrim in Co.Armagh** and in the lake at **Augher in Co.Tyrone**.



VISITS TO SOME OF THESE SITES
CAN BE ARRANGED BY CONTACTING
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE
SERVICE AT:

info@ehsni.gov.uk

OR THROUGH THE WEBSITE AT:

www.ehsni.gov.uk

Above, Crannog construction
Left, Crannog reconstruction



Raths, Cashels & Crannogs



1



Kings and nobles lived in places that were well protected and not easy to attack. Some lived on man-made islands called **crannogs** (Cran is the Irish for tree). They were built on tree trunks driven into the lakes. Many farmers lived on raths. A rath was a circular enclosed area and was marked off by a ditch or two or three banks of earth.

a) How would you recognise a crannog or a rath in today's landscape?

2

Sometimes the farmyard was enclosed by a dry stone wall instead of a bank of earth. This was known as a **cashel**. Some say the walls were built to keep out wild beasts.

- What are other reasons for building walls?
- Why do you think stone was used?
- Most of these sites were circular in shape. How was this achieved?
- In the school yard find different ways of drawing circles without rulers.

3

What's in a name?

Many place names are derived from Gaelic. Some refer to the landscape e.g. **ard** (height), **mor** (big), **annagh** (marsh), **derry** (oakwood), **carraig** (rock), **tully** or **knock** (hill). Others refer to man's constructions e.g. **bally** (settlement), **dun cathair** or **rath** (fort).

a) Can you explain some of the place names in your area?

Early Christians 500 - 1200 AD

Ireland was divided into many small kingdoms, each with its own royal family. The family was very important. A family group consisted of those who shared the same grandfather.

Each little kingdom or clan also had wealthy nobles, abbots, bishops, monks, priests, lawyers (called Brehon), poets, farmers, craftsmen and slaves. Slaves looked after the cattle and sheep. Women slaves helped with the housework. Farmers and craftsmen were free. The poet praised the king in his poems. The Brehon judged court cases and knew the law. The nobles were rich warriors.

NOW, read about where they lived on the left and try to answer the questions!

Tasks!

Make a wall story describing life in early times.



Medieval Homes 1200-1600 AD



The Medieval period or Middle Ages commenced with the Anglo-Norman invasion which introduced new types of equipment and buildings. The Normans conquered **East Antrim** and **East Down**, but eventually their settlements were restricted to a few coastal enclaves centred on a large castle like **Carrickfergus** or a trading port like **Ardglass**. The introduction by the Anglo-Normans of large earthwork and stone castles was something totally new to the Irish landscape. These castles can be divided into three groups: the earthwork castles of the earliest invading Normans (c1169-1225), the large stone fortresses of the period of territorial consolidation (c1175-1300) and the late medieval fortifications typified by the tower house. Later fortified houses were erected.

The Motte and Bailey



These constructions, built largely of timber, are characteristic of the early part of the period. A motte is a large flat-topped artificial mound, usually sited on a hilltop with a wooden stockade around the perimeter of the summit enclosing a wooden tower. The bailey or courtyard was a low earthen platform, rectangular or kidney-shaped and situated to one side of the motte but separated from it by a ditch and protected by a wooden palisade. Access from the bailey to the motte was sometimes by a moveable bridge.

Excavation at **Clough, Co.Down** revealed the post-holes of a palisade and pits for archers, with a domestic building rather than a tower in the centre. Domestic buildings have also been found at **Lismahon** and **Rathmullan in Lecale, Co.Down**. The best-preserved motte and bailey is at **Dromore, Co.Down** and another is located at **Harryville near Ballymena, Co.Antrim**.

Stone Castles

Stone castles symbolised power and wealth and called for a greater investment of time, money and labour. They were generally built for the Crown or by powerful and wealthy individuals.

The first stone castles were built to dominate and intimidate. These large fortresses were roofed and had wooden galleries round their walls. Unfortunately they were smelly places too, especially in the height of summer, as they lacked running water and flushing lavatories. Maybe this is the reason they were seldom used as permanent residences! A lot of these castles had keeps. Most of the keeps of the earlier period were almost square but at **Greencastle, Co.Down** and **Carrickfergus, Co.Antrim** there were rectangular ones.



Carrickfergus Castle (c1200) dominating **Belfast Lough** was one of DeCourcy's first strongholds. It may have been the first stone castle in the country. Its earliest phase is the polygonal curtain (outer defensive wall) and the great rectangular keep. At **Dundrum, Co.Down** the same style of wall was used but the keep was circular like those in South Wales from where the invaders may have come.

Medieval Homes 1200-1600 AD



For defensive reasons, the keep was entered by a door at first floor level, and frequently there was a chapel on the second floor immediately above the entrance. The great hall, which was for the use of the Lord and his family, was also situated at first floor level, while their private chambers were on the floors above. Most of the servants and soldiers would have occupied the buildings within the wall or courtyard.

Stone castles continued to act as important military and administrative bases but few were built during the 14th and 15th centuries, as Britain was engaged in other wars and both Britain and Ireland suffered population decrease as a result of the Black Death (1348-50).

Tower Houses

The economic revival of the 15th century saw the emergence of tower houses with interesting groups developing in **Antrim** and **Down**. The heads of some important families also built tower houses e.g. the Maguires of Fermanagh and the O'Neills of Tyrone.

The tower house was the typical residence of the Irish gentry in the 15th and 16th centuries. It was built of rubble masonry with stone cut dressings to doors and windows and finished with a steep-pitched roof and gables.



It consisted of a rectangular stone tower, up to six storeys high, with various defensive elements including a courtyard. The accommodation consisted of a hall directly over the barrel-vaulted ground floor and private chambers on the levels above. Access to the chambers would have been by the spiral stairs in one of the projecting towers. The main doorway, which is always at ground floor level, gave access to the ground floor and the stairwell. The entrances on the ground floor were protected by murderholes from which arrows could be fired at the enemy. The strong wooden doors could be barred from the inside and an iron grill, called a yett or portcullis, pulled across the front of the door with chains.

Left, Kilclief Castle

On the outside wall was a small stone chamber called a machicoulis, which projected from the wall and was carried on corbels. From inside this, boiling oil could be poured on unwelcome visitors below. Similar protective features at the corners were called bartisans. The windows at ground floor level consisted of splayed slit openings to allow arrows to be fired outwards while some of the later examples had loops for guns.

The upper levels comprised the sleeping and living quarters and had larger and more decorative windows. They also contained large stone fireplaces at the gable walls. Apart from these the interiors must have been cheerless and stark with little light, space or privacy for the owner and his retainers.

Most of these dwellings would have had a defended courtyard surrounded by a stone wall. Within the courtyards or bawns there would have been wooden buildings, some freestanding and others built against the curtain wall. Tower houses continued to be built well into the 17th century and only ceased with the advent of artillery and gunpowder.

My Home is My Castle



Medieval 1200 - 1600 AD

From the 12th century onwards people built stronger fortifications and called them castles. The earliest structures were called motte and bailey. All that remains today are two circular mounds on the sites. A wooden tower was built on the highest mound (motte), while the lower mound (bailey) housed the courtyard with a few buildings inside.

Later, circular stone walls replaced towers and fences of these mottes. Towers were added at intervals and sometimes the castle was surrounded by a moat filled with water, crossed by a drawbridge. Castles had massive gates (**portcullises**) which shut securely against the enemy.

The tower house emerged about the 15th century. It was built by important people to prevent their wealth from attack. Each tower had a room with a fireplace, built-in cupboards and a slop-hole. Bigger windows had seats for reading and sewing. Houses became more comfortable. Those who could afford it plastered or painted their walls or covered them with hangings, glazed their windows and built indoor lavatories called garderobes.

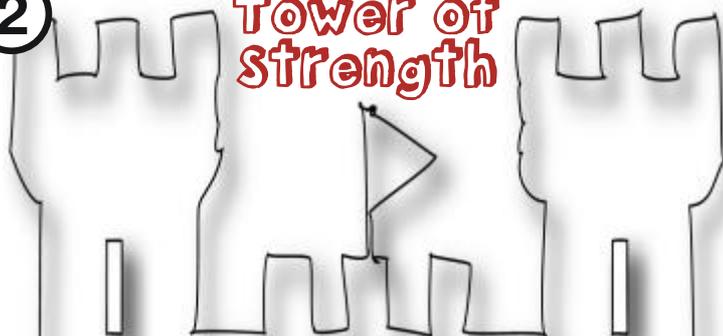
1 A Mottely crew

Check your area for the remains of a motte and bailey.

- a) Complete a drawing or model showing how the site might have looked.



2 Tower of Strength



- a) Murderholes, bartizans and portcullises all made castles strong against attack. Find out about these and other means of defense, e.g. location, shape of walls....
- b) Imagine you are the warden of the castle and have been warned of an attack. Identify the castle's weak spots. Plan your defence and outline your soldiers' activities. A lego model might help.

3

Tasks!

Using your atlas see how many castles you can locate in Ulster. Make a large map of Ulster and illustrate it with pictures and text from tourist brochures, postcards, holiday photographs. Use the internet to get help from other schools.

- a) Search for a plaque, crest or other specific features.
- b) How many examples can you find and where do they appear in the building?
- c) Make replicas using clay.
- d) What does the crest tell you about the owners? Find out more about crests.
- e) What is this study called?



Plantation Homes 1600 - 1714 AD



After the Flight of the Earls in 1607, the English and Scottish settlers brought new styles and new craftsmen to Ireland. The early struggles of these settlers with the native Irish resulted in buildings based on defence. The bawns or defended farms with their walled courtyards, battlements and corner towers recall those of the earlier period in Britain. Some of the largest bawns were built as headquarters for the London Companies in **Co.Londonderry**. Among the best are those of the Fishmongers at **Ballykelly** and of the Skinners at **Dungiven** and **Brackfield**.

The Scottish planters introduced building details like crow-stepped gables, projecting stairs and turrets supported on layers of corbelling. **Monea**, **Castle Balfour** and **Enniskillen castles** in **Co.Fermanagh** display examples of these features. So, too, does **Ballygalley Castle** in **Co.Antrim**.



Above, Tully Castle, Co.Fermanagh



Above, Monea Castle, Co.Fermanagh

The enclosure wall of a bawn could be strengthened at the corners by flankers. These projecting towers could be circular or rectangular and provided good attacking positions. Larger versions could provide accommodation as at **Bellaghy** in **Co.Londonderry**, **Dalways Bawn** in **Co.Antrim**, **Tully Castle** in **Co.Fermanagh** and **Benburb** in **Co.Tyrone**.

At the same time timber frame houses were imported and assembled, but were less easy to defend. In the rebellion of 1641 many of these were burned to the ground and replaced using traditional local materials. Humbler houses of the plantation period were built of rubble, mud, turf, timber and thatch and only excavation provides information today. Some traditional buildings with stone roofs are probably of this period.

THE TOWER MUSEUM IN DERRY CITY AND ENNISKILLEN CASTLE ARE WORTH VISITING, AND BOTH HAVE EDUCATION OFFICERS.



Plantation Homes 1600 - 1714 AD



Above, Killyleagh Castle
Left, Richhill Castle

After the mid 17th century wars, Ulster architecture took on a Classical flavour. The castle at **Richhill in Co. Armagh**, built about 1660, consists of a central block with projecting wings finished with Dutch gables and a classical doorway.

A small group of very grand houses showed the Renaissance tastes of their builders. **Castle Caulfield** and the building at **Dunluce** had three tall bay windows and Renaissance detailing of the door and fireplace, probably reflecting English tastes. **Killyleagh Castle** could be considered as the bridge between the Scottish high house and the Renaissance style.

In Ulster, the plantations led to new urban development as landowners began to appreciate the advantages that could accrue in commerce, trade and rents if town properties were well managed. Plantation towns like **Derry** and **Donegal** developed certain features in common and were frequently laid out on a grid plan with the main streets intersecting at right angles forming a market square or diamond. The **city of Derry** is the same layout today as it was in 1622 with a regular layout of streets and a central square.



Left, Derry Plan

Bawn Yesterday



Plantation 1600 - 1714

Many towns can trace their beginnings back to the 17th Century. In 1608 Sir Arthur Chichester carried out a survey of Ulster which resulted in the planning of twenty three new towns, e.g. Londonderry, Coleraine, Killyleagh, Newtownards, Money more and Lisnaskea. London companies and private individuals were also responsible for others like Draperstown, Salterstown, Hamilton's Bawn and Poyntzpass.

Towns had to be defended settlements as well as centres of trade, providing homes for craftworkers and merchants. Town layouts were carefully planned starting with a fortified house with a bawn and streets leading from it in an organised fashion. Some towns had a central square or Diamond into which two main streets ran at right angles to one another.

During the Plantation, the English and Scots brought new styles to Ulster. Houses had gables with massive chimney stacks and mullioned and transomed windows. Stairs were straighter. Timber was used for floors and stairways. Decorative plaster was used on ceilings.

1



Using the picture on the left can you locate and draw the following features?

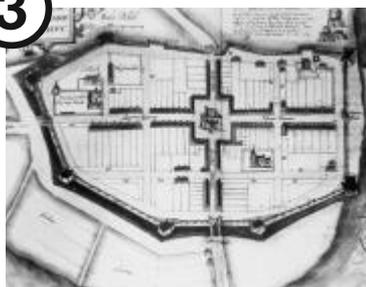
bartizan, crow stepped gable, flankers, corbels, chimney stacks, pistol loops, dormers, bawn, barbican.

2 Windows to the World...

'Window' is derived from 'wind's eye'. Early windows were just holes in the wall. Later, translucent animal skins were stretched across the opening to stop the wind. Windows allowed light in, but also let heat out. Glass was not widely used until the 18th century.

- Find examples of early doors and windows.
- How did people protect themselves from the weather?
- What kind of lighting was used?

3



- Examine an early Ordnance Survey map of your town. **Can you work out the original layout? What were the earliest buildings and streets? Can you identify the town boundary?**
- Compare this with later maps. **How many original buildings remain? What changes have occurred and why?**

Tasks!

Collect pictures of a number of different Irish castles.

Can you sort them according to style and period?



Georgian Homes 1714-1837 AD

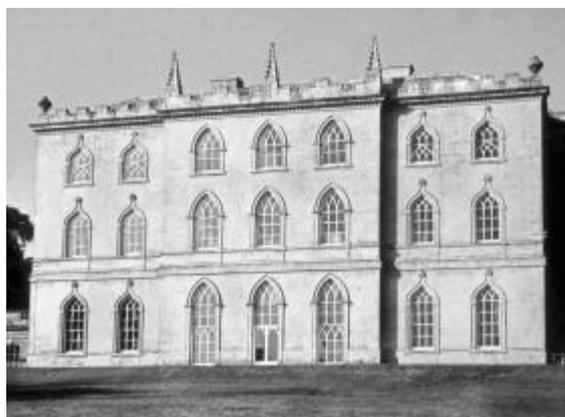


The 18th century was an age of improvement, a time for new ideas for industrial and agricultural development and growth. The years between 1724, when George I became King, and 1830 when George IV died, became known as the Georgian Era. English and Irish architecture became more sophisticated and was greatly influenced both by the Classical architecture of ancient Rome and the Italian Renaissance. Andrea Palladio was one of the most admired Italian architects. Sons of major families travelled to Europe and brought back a knowledge of art and culture in what was dubbed 'the Grand Tour'.

A fascinating mix of Palladian and 'Gothic' architecture can be found at **Castle Ward** - the result possibly of the differing tastes of Lord and Lady Bangor. **Hillsborough**, laid out by the Hill Family between 1730 and 1790, has an exceptionally fine Georgian square with an excellent row of brick houses on the north built in 1799. At **Castlewellan** the Annesley family laid out a new town with two squares, one with bowed sides and the other as a half octagon. The city of **Armagh** provides a prime example of improvement planning with its tree-lined mall laid out by Richard Robinson soon after he became Archbishop of Armagh in 1767.



Above, Castle Ward front elevation



Above, Castle Ward rear elevation

The growth of the merchants and their increasing wealth resulted in more houses built of stone and of a new material - brick - as local brickworks were established. They were usually three stories high. Sash windows, which moved up and down, replaced the timber casements and were set flush with the outer face of the brickwork. They had solid frames and were divided into small panes with heavy moulded glazing bars. Window proportions tended to be tall and narrow. The terraces of Georgian houses around **Armagh Mall** are particularly good examples of late Georgian Classicism. Their windows are much bigger and the detail is somewhat finer than previously.

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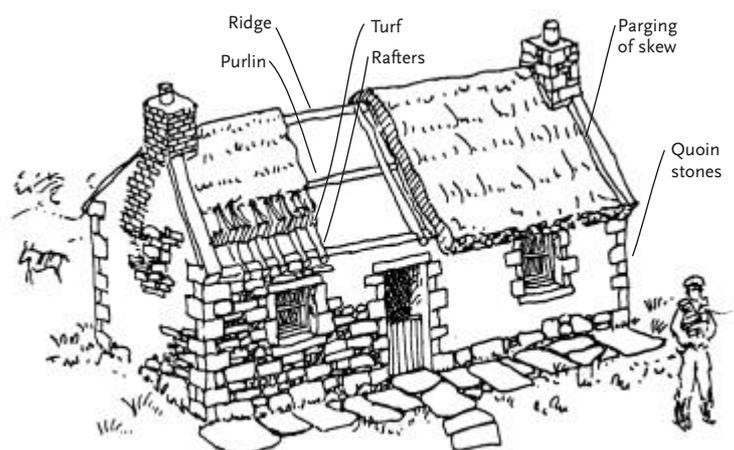
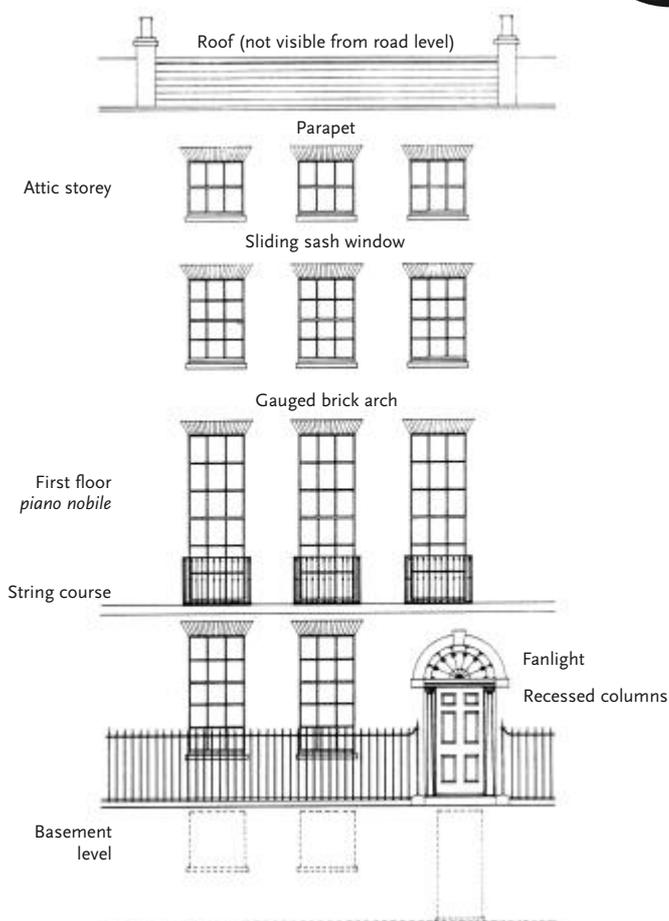


Georgian Homes 1714-1837 AD



Above, A simple terrace in Armagh
Right, Front elevation of Georgian style house

Early doors were plain with stone surrounds and simple fanlights set in flat or segmented arched openings. Classical doors with columns were fashionable in the mid 18th century. Wider doorways permitted sidelights. Fanlights became more ornate with spider's web and pearl drop patterns and lit the narrow entrance hallway.



sallies on turf scraws laid over timber rafters. The rafters span from the top of the wall to a ridge pole, probably a stout tree trunk, and are also supported by purlins.

The floor inside was possibly mud originally, but probably now has clay 'quarry tiles' laid over it. The half door is an unusual survival now, but is still to be found occasionally. Often the lintels over the tops of doors and windows are timber rather than stone, and sometimes the walls of part of a house are mud rather than stone or brick. The stone slabs along the front of the house carry water from the roof away from the walls in order to keep the house dry. Notice how small the windows are compared with modern houses, and how the roof wraps over the house so that the building looks very compact and low.

There is no typical traditional Ulster house, but this shows a type that might be found in **Co. Antrim** and elsewhere. It has been altered over the years in a number of respects. The chimney on the left for instance has been rebuilt in brick - originally it would have had an open flue without a chimney pot, and indeed it may not originally have been at the gable at all but rising from a more central partition between a bedroom on the left and a central living room. The roof is fairly traditional, being thatch held in position by

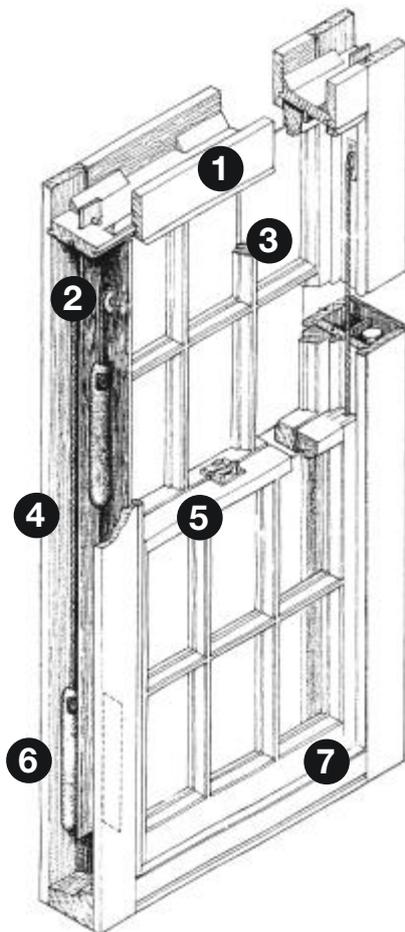
Georgian Homes 1714 - 1837 AD



Above, Clady Cottage, Dunadry, Co. Antrim

Smaller houses in rural Ireland and in country towns tended to use less sophisticated materials than those in the cities. These were commonly built from local stone. For economy, walls were left in the form of rubble masonry and finished on the outside with rough cast of lime plaster. The simple rhythms and proportions of the Classical influence were reflected in the architecture of smaller dwellings in both town and countryside, as architects became increasingly involved with such buildings. The 'gentleman's vernacular' dwelling above at **Dunadry, Co. Antrim** is a prime example of this marriage.

Between 1695 and 1850 a tax was levied on windows which encouraged people to have as few windows as they could, but made it more important to get as much light as possible through them. The typical 18th century window is known as a double hung window with six pane sashes: this means quite simply that two frames or 'sashes' of six panes each were hung one above another inside the window opening in such a way that they could be raised or lowered past one another. When both sashes are at the top, air gets in the bottom; with both sashes at the bottom, air gets in the top; and there are infinite variations between.



Sash windows are still made, and are considered by many authorities to be the most efficient type of window, but they have changed over the years. In very early examples the sashes had to be wedged open, but the idea of the counterweight was soon developed. In many old houses the frame is quite wide because the ropes and weights counterbalancing the sashes have to be contained within the frame. Later windows took full advantage of the opening in the wall and recessed the frame in its depth so that we see only a narrow frame round the sashes. As it became easier to make large areas of glass the sizes of panes changed and you will see a great variety of types now.

1. Top rail
2. Pulley wheel
3. Glazing bar
4. Sash cord
5. Meeting rail
6. Counterweight
7. Bottom rail



Elegant Georgians



Georgian Era 1714 - 1837

The style of houses when George I came to the throne in 1714 was derived from architects, such as the Venetian Andrea Palladio, who were impressed by the temples of Greek and Roman architecture.

The style is elegant and symmetrical. Sliding sash windows are an important part of the design, with 6 panes over 6 panes being the most common formation. Fanlights are a key feature. Dublin and Armagh boast many good examples.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, brickworks sprang up in Ballycastle, Ballymena, Belfast, Coalisland, Limavady and Lurgan. Regional differences are expressed through the use of local stone in construction. For example, basalt was used in County Antrim, granite in the Mourne, schist in Derry City, Scrabo sandstone in Newtownards and mud on the shores of Lough Neagh.

1



Armagh is famous for its Georgian buildings. This terrace is built from local limestone, which is quite easy to carve.

- a) Mark out the sources of building materials on a map of Northern Ireland using a key.
- b) Consider the pros and cons of building with them.

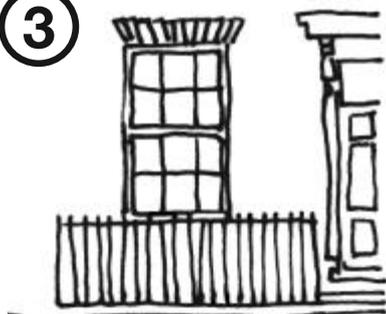
2



Georgian fanlights often borrow from forms found in nature, such as cobwebs and petals.

- a) Why not design some of your own?

3



- a) Copy and then fill in the other half of this Georgian ground floor.
- b) If the height of the windows on the 1st floor are 1.5 times the height of those on the ground floor, the 2nd floor are the same size as the ground floor, the servants rooms have windows half that size and the house is 3 windows wide, can you draw the whole façade?

Tasks!

Discover how weights and pulleys apply to the manufacture of sash windows.

Sash windows are traditionally built using timber. Discuss the impact of plastic imitations on the environment. What happens when we try to dispose of u-PVC?





Victorian Homes 1837 - 1903 AD

“The 19th century buildings of Ulster, which survive today are the tangible evidence of life in the province during its most important period of industrial and mercantile growth. Many of us live in, work in or visit these buildings on a daily basis without recognising their architectural qualities.”

Hugh Dixon, An Introduction to Ulster Architecture, UAHS.

The Industrial Revolution spawned a new range of housing. The railway companies built whole rows of small terraced houses for their workers, following the example of the earlier canal companies with their houses for lockkeepers. As the century progressed and the wealth of the province grew, so too did the demand for the skills of architects and engineers. The Industrial Revolution was making an impact. Mills and factories were being built especially in the north east; roads, railways and bridges had to be constructed to enable goods to be transported and exported. The new middle class industrialists, mill owners, distillers and brewers housed their workers near their enterprises. Workers had to be accommodated in new housing and this resulted in street after street of identical brick houses. The listed terrace below is a good example.



Above, McMaster Street, Belfast



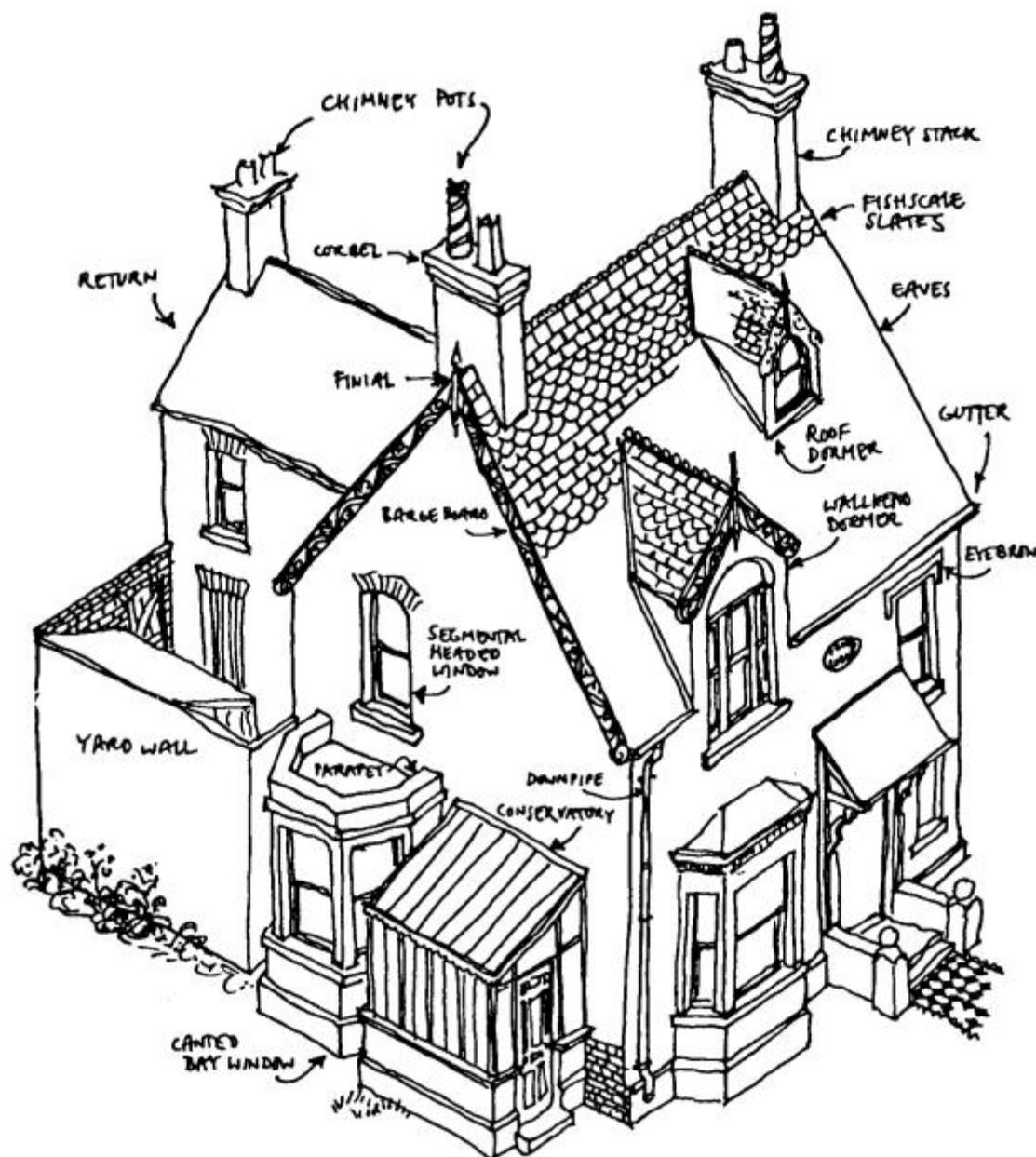
Above, Ballywalter Park

Meanwhile, larger terraces and semi-detached dwellings in the suburbs were built for more senior staff. Owners commissioned impressive villas further afield. Ballywalter Park was built for Andrew Mulholland, proprietor of York Street flax spinning mill in Belfast. These wealthier people could afford more elaborate ornamentation in their homes. Decoration was a hallmark of 19th century architecture. The Victorians felt no inhibitions about adding woodcarving, elaborate plasterwork, stone sculpture, coloured tiles and stained glass to their buildings. To achieve all this, architects were obliged to settle in the area and to train local assistants, some of whom became their partners or rivals. Their offices in turn developed, dealing with a range of building, engineering and surveying projects. Lanyon, Lynn, Barre and Duff are some of the best known Victorian architects. With this progression the province had become architecturally self-sufficient and by the middle of the century it was unusual to find a ‘foreign’ designer at work.



Victorian Homes 1837 - 1903 AD

The century saw the growing use of new building materials, chiefly local brick and stone imported from England. Portland stone was imported in larger quantities and Bath stone was used for interior carvings. Machine-made bricks, such as Bridgewater, and Welsh slates from **Bangor** were also imported. Increasingly the walls were plastered for the purposes of waterproofing but also to allow for small economical decorative materials and colour washes. There was a growing use of cast iron. The mechanisation of the building industry led to a decline in hand craftsmanship. The typical builder's yard of the 19th century had open sheds for stonecutters and a simple joiner's shop.



This is a late Victorian house, probably built about 1890. It is built with 9-inch brick walls and has timber ground floors except in the kitchen area at the back. The roof is slate, laid both in ordinary and in fishscale styles, and there are elaborate bargeboards to the gable and dormers. The bay windows provide light but are also decorative, and the porch and conservatory are stylish as well as functional. The yard at the back enables clothes to be dried outside. Note the prominence of the chimneys and elaborate chimney pots. The roof is almost more important than the ground floor.

Victorian Country Times



1 The Big House...



Ballywalter Park was originally built for Andrew Mullholland, proprietor of a flax spinning mill in Belfast. It was designed by Charles Lanyon.

- Find out about a local landlord.
- Compare his home with that of the workers he employed.

2



The skills and trades of this era are fading fast and some are in danger of dying out.

- How many skills and trades can you name?
- Read the Seamus Heaney poem "Thatcher". Compose a poem about a trade or craft. Illustrate with photos & drawings.
- Interview an older person in your locality about traditional skills.

3



Sometimes, members of the same family would live close together in a grouping known as a **clachan**. Hanna's Close in Kilkeel (above) has been restored and is now used for tourist accommodation.

- Can you find examples of rural homes over 100 years old? Describe their condition and use.

1837-1903

Most people lived in the countryside. The land was owned by a small number of very wealthy landlords. Their houses were usually elaborate buildings designed by architects to plans and ideas brought back from the continent by the owners.

These landlords rented their land to tenant farmers. Some were quite prosperous and built substantial homes for themselves. The walls were solid and usually built of stone (or mud when stone was scarce). They were then covered with a lime wash.

Poorest of all were the labourers who could not afford to rent land but had to work for landlords and farmers. The farmers' homes were usually one room deep and were built with rubble, stone or clay.

After the famine, living standards of rural workers, farm labourers and crafts people improved greatly. New cottages were single storey or 1.5 storeys high. They were usually built of stone and rendered in lime plaster. The roofs were deeply pitched and slated. Some of these cottages had porches.

Tasks!

Charles Lanyon, WH Lynn and Thomas Duff were among the best known Victorian architects. Can you name some of the buildings they designed? Try using the listed buildings database at: www.ehsni.gov.uk



Victorians Go to Town



1

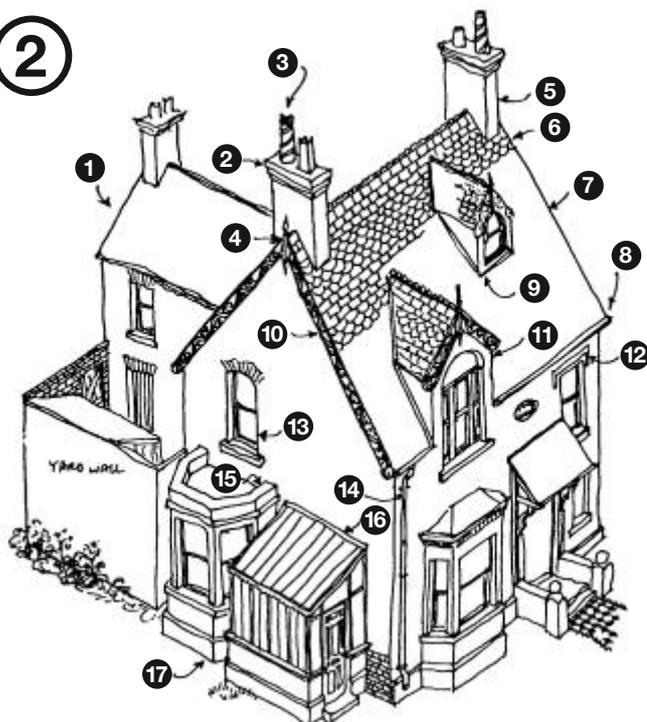


This is a row of workers' houses from McMaster Street in East Belfast.

- List the materials used to build them.
- What happens to the appearance of terraces when windows and doors are changed?

c) Spot the differences between the cover and the inside of your teachers pack.

2



On a separate sheet, match the numbers on the picture above with their correct names below:

bargeboard, parapet, canted bay window, chimney pot, corbel, downpipe, eaves, eyebrow, finial, conservatory, fishscale slates, gutter, return, roof dormer, segmental headed window, wallhead dormer, chimney stack.

3



The practice of making encaustic tiles was revived in Victorian times. A soft clay is pressed into a mould, leaving an indented pattern. Once fired, the gaps are filled with liquid clay and fired again.

- Design tiles for your hall at home.
- How many tiles are required for the area?
- In what pattern should they be arranged?

Victorians 1837 - 1903

As the 19th century progressed many people moved towards towns and cities to seek employment.

The biggest industrial town in Ireland was Belfast. Shipbuilding, tobacco production, engineering and linen manufacturing attracted thousands of workers. The population exploded from 20,000 in 1801 to 350,000 by the start of the 20th century.

The railways arrived in 1847 and new houses were built to accommodate the growing urban population. Senior staff moved to the suburbs, while the industrial barons moved farther out to mansions in the country.

Houses combined a number of styles borrowed from different ages. This 'pick and mix' approach is what gives Victorian architecture its peculiar charm.

Tasks!

Decorative stained glass featured in many Victorian homes. Look out for different patterns and investigate how this glass was made.



Modern Homes 1903 - Present



The 20th century in many spheres is characterised as the age of mass production. In architecture, combined with new materials and technological advances, the effect of this can be seen in the design of offices, industrial buildings and housing. The handling of space in a fluid and continuous way is the essence of modern architecture. The influence of the Modern Movement dictated that buildings should be simple and that they should have a form to match their function. Decoration was considered to be unnecessary. This desire for simple and uncluttered design stems from the Arts and Crafts movement of the mid 19th century. At **'Dallas'** on the **Malone Road in Belfast**, the architect, Voysey, bridges the gap between Victorian decoration and functional planning. The first acclaimed modern house in Ulster was built at **Moyallan, Co.Armagh** in 1934. It was white in colour and cubic in shape, with horizontal lines, a flat roof and corner windows supporting the idea that all facades are of equal importance.



Above, Dallas, Belfast



Above, Merville Garden Village, Newtownabbey

Following the Second World War, the great scarcity of materials led to restrictions on building. New housing and flats provided badly needed accommodation, but the appearance of the houses and layout of the estates generally left a lot to be desired. The Northern Ireland Housing Trust was set up by the state in 1945 to help resolve the housing shortage after the war. The Trust engaged architects, engineers and other experts and laid out development for local authorities.

One of the earliest developments, **Cregagh Housing Estate** (1945-1950) designed by T.F.O. Rippingham, developed the theme of two storey brick terraced housing in a spacious layout. The recessed entrances, bay windows, decorative brick detailing and the alternating flush and projecting eaves gave an added visual interest. **Merville Garden Village** at **Newtownabbey in Co.Antrim**, built to provide high quality accommodation for rent, is an almost intact example of the architecture of the early 1950s, and has been designated as a conservation area.

Modern Homes 1903 - Present



Tower blocks of flats have been considered social and architectural disasters, but a case can be made for them if they are sited in wooded parkland and are strongly modelled as at **Seymour Hill, Dunmurry**. **Aldervale Flats at Craigavon in Co.Armagh**, designed in 1967 by a consortium of leading designers, are distinctive three storey functional buildings.

At **Cargan, Co.Antrim** (1976) the Housing Executive infused their housing design with a touch of local tradition. The house types were standard but each was given an individual personality by small variations in window pattern and roof pitch. At **Springfarm** and **Bushmills, Co.Antrim** houses were grouped around small courtyards provided with parking space and play areas.

While much needed accommodation was being supplied in the public sector, private development continued. A house at **Brocklamont, Ballymena**, one of a series of fifties and sixties designs by Noel Campbell, brought panache and opulence to domestic architecture. Flat roofs, glass walls and natural materials such as random rubble walling and timber boarding were used. Another house in this manner is **Little Rock, Portstewart** completed in 1961.

There is a school of thought that the development of modern architecture has been at the expense of Ulster's traditional buildings, and this led to the formation of groups like the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society. Thousands of vernacular dwellings have been, and continue to be, demolished throughout the countryside as a result of replacement schemes. Today there is a growing interest in conservation and sustainable development, with more architects concerning themselves with the re-use of existing buildings, and the incorporation of energy saving features.

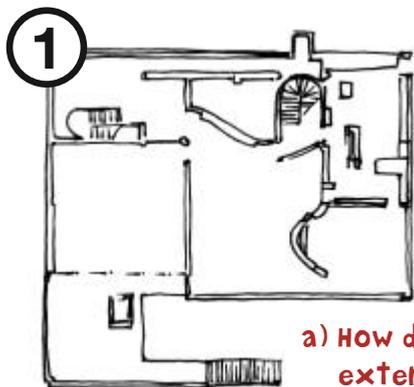


Above, Converted mill near Crossgar

THE ECOS CENTRE AT BALLYMENA EXPLORES FEATURES OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY DESIGN, AND HAS A PROGRAMME TAILORED TOWARDS KEY STAGE 2 PUPILS. SEE www.ecoscentre.com ANOTHER RESOURCE IS THE CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY AT www.cat.org.uk

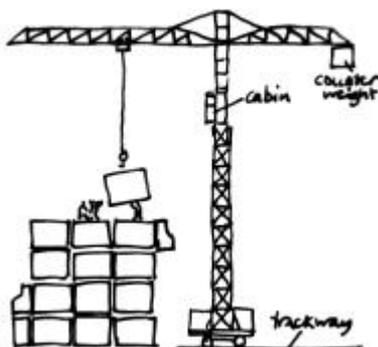


Modernising Influences



Here is the ground floor plan of a house by the world famous modern architect, **le Corbusier**.

- a) How do you think the exterior of this building would look?
- b) Design your own home of the future!



- a) Discuss the differences between traditional and modern construction.
- b) Group the following into natural and man-made materials:
aluminium, clay, glass, slate, stone, timber, straw, steel, mud, concrete, plastic, lime.
- c) Which can be repaired, recycled and renewed?



The above dwelling near Crossgar began its life as a mill.

- a) Can you think of other building types that would make good homes?
- b) Are there any examples of such conversions in your area?

1903 - Present Day

The Arts and Crafts style appeared in the mid 1800s. It was followed by the distinctive flowing style of Art Nouveau in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Bold, geometric Art Deco emerged in the 1920s and 1930s.

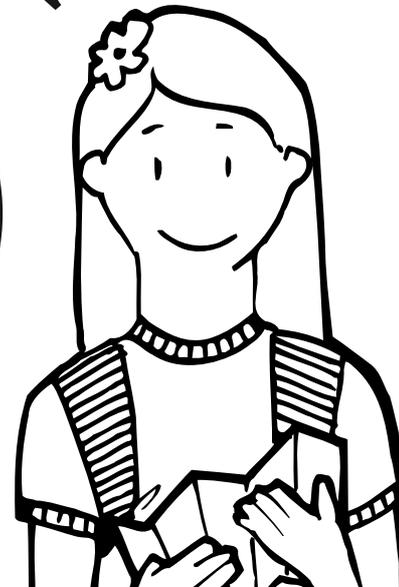
Changing technologies led to very different building forms in the 20th century, known as the era of mass production.

Modern Movement buildings are simple and functional. Decoration was considered unnecessary.

Recent awareness of global environmental problems has emphasised the importance of energy efficiency. Most people recycle bags, bottles and tins. It also makes sense to recycle buildings and their materials.

Tasks!

Approximately 17% of people in Northern Ireland are disabled in some way. How can homes be adapted to cater for their varied needs?





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