

Factsheet

Kew Palace Second Floor

The expression “if the walls could speak” really applies at Kew Palace – we have learnt so much about the building as well as the people who lived there over the years through the archaeology and physical evidence they have left behind. Rather than cover up these layers of fascinating evidence and the stories we have subsequently learnt, we have left them exposed for 21st Century visitors to enjoy in an unrestored yet conserved state.

The rooms on the second floor of Kew Palace have never previously been opened to nor even seen by the general public. The representation not only gives access to this fascinating floor of the building, but also explains to visitors how conservators and curators have accurately identified historic architectural details and decorating schemes in the palace.

These rooms were occupied by Princess Augusta and Princess Amelia whilst living at Kew. The stories of the Princesses, who compared their lives (that they claimed to spend “vegetating”) to living in a “nunnery”, will be explored here illustrated with projected images that provide a haunting reminder of their residence in these rooms.