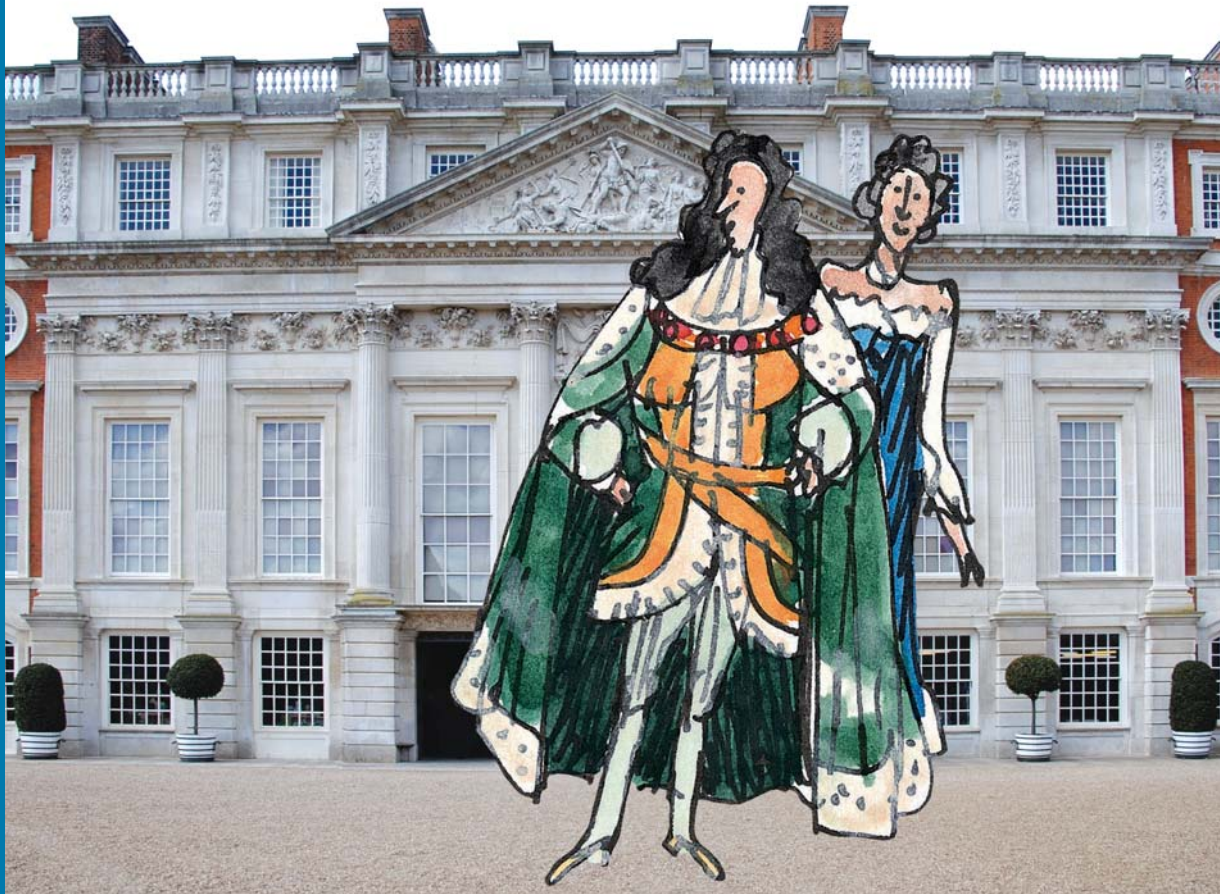


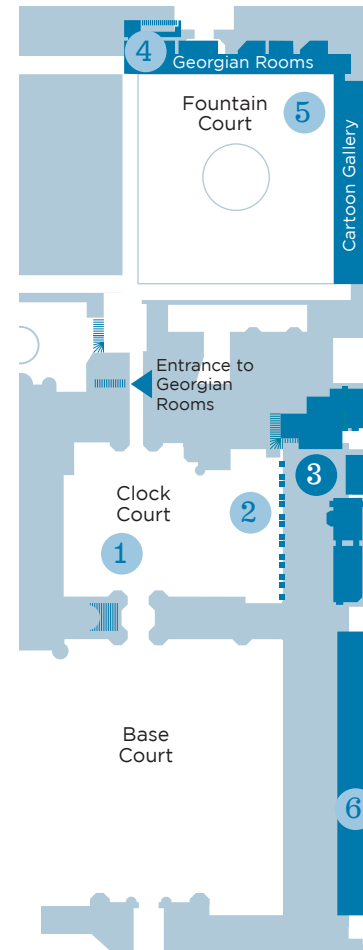
William's classics

How did the Greeks and Romans influence Hampton Court - and why? Discover the architectural treasures that make the palace a classical masterpiece.



Hampton Court presents a fascinating mix of architectural styles. They range from Henry VIII's Tudor gems to Gothic fantasies created by the Victorians. In between, you will find a world of glorious classical treasures, many added by William III and his wife Mary II.

Follow me and discover how I made Hampton Court the greatest palace in Europe.



So, what is classicism?

Classicism was inspired by the architecture and art of the ancient Greeks and Romans, and the heroic tales of their emperors and gods. Some of the features you will find in classical buildings include arches, columns and domes. Now let's discover Hampton Court's classical treasures for ourselves.

Tudor vs classical

Let's begin our classical trail in Clock Court. Look around you at the different architectural styles. Can you tell the difference between them? Put these architectural elements from Clock Court into two groups - classical or Tudor.



classical

Tudor

Heroic heads

Look up, you're surrounded! Can you spot the Roman emperors on the walls around you? Known as the roundels, these sculptures of heroic leaders were commissioned by Cardinal Wolsey. He wanted to impress Henry VIII and the King's followers by making Hampton Court look even grander using elements of classical influence. They are the oldest classical features at Hampton Court. How many of these roundels can you see? Why do you think people admired the Roman emperors so much? Make a list of their qualities - good and bad.

good qualities

bad qualities

Answer: 1, 2 and 5 are Tudor, 3, 4 and 6 are classical.

Grand designs

King William III and his wife Mary II decided to give Hampton Court Palace its biggest classical makeover in 1689. They wanted to make it even more fabulous than the French king's palace at Versailles. William was not physically impressive and his position as king was weak. But he wanted Europe to believe he was a brilliant leader - with a brilliant palace to match.

They asked the greatest architect of the day, Sir Christopher Wren, to knock down all Henry's buildings, except the Great Hall, and replace them with a brand new classical palace. Fortunately for us, there wasn't enough time or money. So Sir Christopher only rebuilt the King and Queen's private rooms.

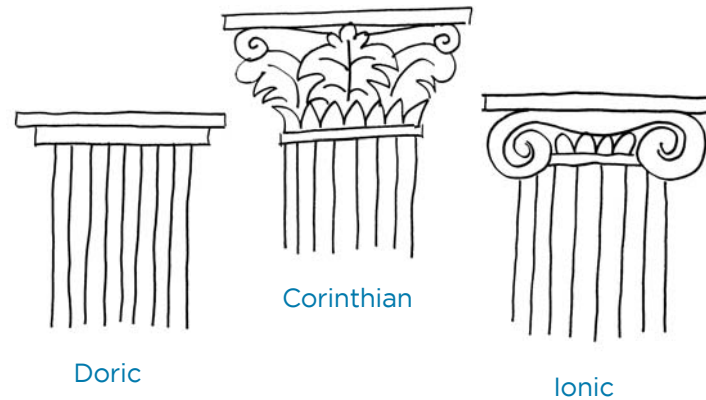


Ugly goth!

Mary described Henry's Tudor buildings as 'Gothic monstrosities'. [Do you agree with her? Or are you glad that some of Henry's buildings survived? If so, why?](#)

Walk this way

Along one side of Clock Court runs an elegant colonnade, which leads into William and Mary's private apartments. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the classical style, it is supported by massive columns. [There are three types of classical columns: Corinthian, Doric and Ionic. Can you identify which type of column is holding up the colonnade?](#)



Answer: The colonnade is supported by Ionic columns.

Making their mark

The entrance to the King's Apartments is at the end of the colonnade. [Can you see the graffiti on either side?](#) It was probably carved by the King's guards and is over three hundred years old. [Look out for more ancient graffiti as you follow the trail. When you find it, sketch some of it here:](#)

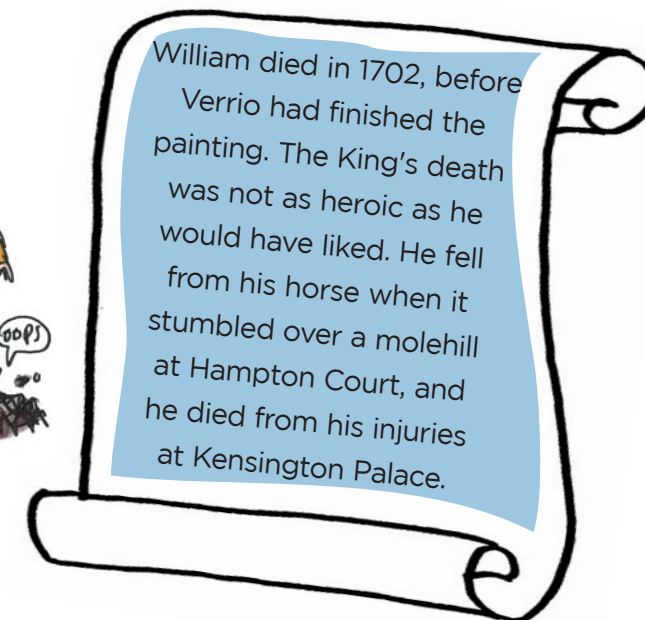


Light relief

Look up at the ceiling. [Can you spot the naughty cherub spending a penny at the top of the painting?](#) You can't take him anywhere!

Stairway to victory

Now take the imposing King's Staircase, which leads to William's apartments and was built to impress. Its steps may be small, but there are certainly lots of them. As for the walls, they are decorated with a magnificent classical painting by the Italian artist, Antonio Verrio. It shows William depicted as Alexander the Great in a blue cloak and helmet, triumphing over his Catholic enemies as the gods celebrate his victory. [Can you also spot Hercules with his nailed club and lion skin?](#)



What, no Mickey?

Find your way back down the stairs to Clock Court and follow the trail to the Georgian Rooms, where you will pass through the Cartoon Gallery. You won't see Mickey Mouse or his friends in here. In William and Mary's day cartoons were rough sketches for bigger paintings. The cartoons here are copies of those by the famous Italian artist Raphael. In 1986 the gallery was badly damaged by fire and took six years to restore.

Super dome

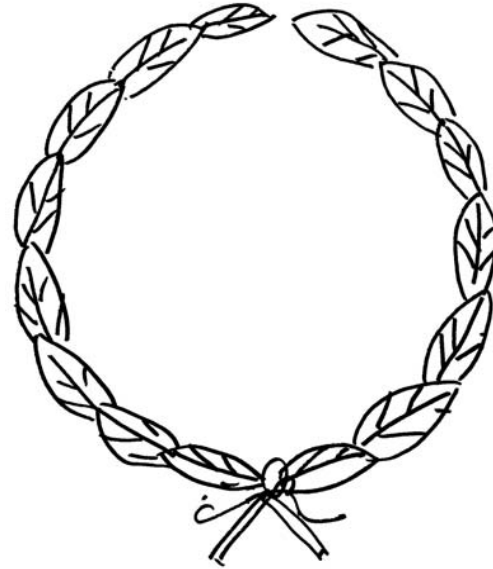
The Queen's Private Oratory was once used as a chapel by Queen Mary. Look up and you will see an elegant glass-domed ceiling designed by Sir Christopher Wren. He designed another famous dome in London at around the same time.

Do you know where it is? And can you name two other domes in London?

Answer: St Paul's Cathedral. Here are some more suggestions: the Royal Albert Hall, the Planetarium, Regent's Park Mosque, the Dome and the very tip of the Gherkin!

Mr Big

The trail now takes us to Fountain Court, also designed for William and Mary by Sir Christopher Wren. They would have liked the whole palace to follow this style. Look up - it's Hercules again. This time he's carrying out his nine super-human labours. It seems that little William used heroic Hercules to big himself up whenever he got the chance!



Labour of love

Finished in 1694, the *Labours of Hercules* are very faded. Use them as the inspiration for your own heroic scene called *The Labours of School Life*. Draw it in the laurel wreath above.

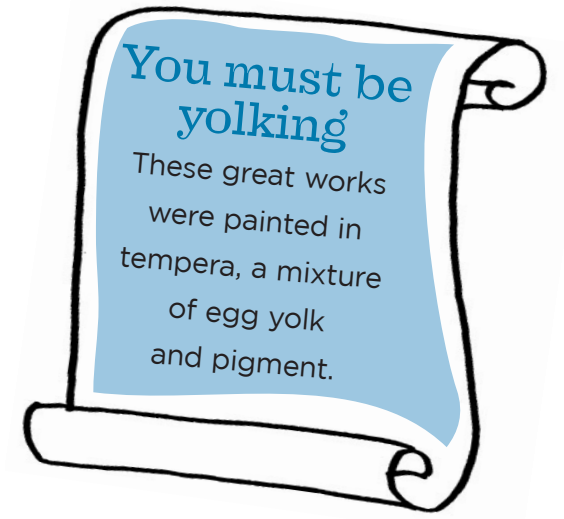
Hail Caesar!

From Fountain Court make your way back to Clock Court and follow the signs to Andrea Mantegna's *Triumphs of Caesar*. These magnificent paintings, depicting a victorious Julius Caesar returning from war, were brought to Hampton Court by Charles I in 1630. Mantegna was the most accomplished and expensive artist of his day, only royalty could afford his works. Bringing this series to England was Charles's way of saying that he was the most powerful monarch in the world.

Animal magic

The scenes depict soldiers carrying plundered goods back home from their triumphs. They took anything they could, including live elephants.

What other animals can you spot in the paintings? List them below. Can you find Caesar in his triumphal chariot?



I'm a celebrity

The sculptures and busts in these rooms are genuine classics. They date from Roman times and portray the most famous celebrities of the day. Can you spot the two celebrities without a name, including the one without a nose? Give them a name each, and explain what might have happened to the missing nose.

Create your own classic

Here are some architectural elements that you might find in a classical building.
Now design your own using as many of these shapes as you can.

