

City of Bath World Heritage Site 18th Century Architecture activity – Creating Columns

Did you know?

Bath's Georgian buildings are built in the 'neo-classical style', which was a fashion for using ideas of symmetry, balance and ornamentation from the past, many of which had been used in ancient times by the Romans and Greeks. Top architects of the day designed buildings for Bath using classical principles set out by the famous Italian architect Andrea Palladio in the 16th century. This is where the term 'Palladian architecture' comes from.

Bath's crescents, squares, Circus and terraces, built using local limestone, are recognised internationally. Buildings were designed with the same scale and height so the houses in a terrace look almost identical from the outside – from the front at least. Look how different these houses at the Circus are from the back!



View from Gravel Walk of the back of the Circus

The inside of a Georgian townhouse had a fairly standard layout but the owners could show off their personality, style and wealth with the furnishings and decorative schemes they chose. Number 1 Royal Crescent is a museum in which you can find out what went on behind the closed doors <https://no1royalcrescent.org.uk/> .



Circus houses, Bath

Some of Bath's Georgian houses and public buildings are decorated with classical columns on their facades (fronts). You can see these on this picture of the front of the Circus. There are three types of classical column, which were first used in Greek and Roman architecture and came back into fashion in the 18th century. The three types are called Doric, Ionic and Corinthian.

They are similar at the base and in the middle but have different patterns at the top of the column.



Doric columns, ground floor level, Circus

Doric columns may be smooth or indented (fluted). They tend to have a round top, with a square on top of that.

Ionic columns may also be smooth or 'fluted'. You can easily spot them due to the 'scroll-like' detail on top. These details are known as 'Volutes'.



Ionic columns, first floor level, Circus



Corinthian columns, second floor level, Circus

Corinthian columns can be spotted due to the leaves on top of the them. These leaves are usually from the Acanthus plant.

Activity One

Have a go at designing your own column here.

Will your column be flat or smooth? What shapes will you add to the top? Will it stand on its own, or will you add others alongside it?

Activity two

Why not have a go at building your own 3D models of columns?

You could use cardboard tubes and paper, Lego, building blocks – the choice is yours.

These models were made out of cardboard envelopes and the inside of loo rolls.



Do share your creations with us. You can tweet us [@BathWHS](https://twitter.com/BathWHS), send us a message on Facebook [BathWorldHeritageSite](https://www.facebook.com/BathWorldHeritageSite) or send us an email World_Heritage@bathnes.gov.uk. We would love to see and hear how you got on.