Inigo Jones: The Architect of Kings

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Abstract
Inigo Jones (1573-1652) is widely acknowledged to have been England's most important architect. As court designer to the Stuart kings James I and Charles I, he is credited with introducing the classical language of architecture to the country. He famously travelled to Italy and studied firsthand the buildings of the Italian masters, particularly admiring those by Andrea Palladio. Much less well-known is the profound influence of native British arts and crafts on Jones' architecture. Likewise, his hostility to the more opulent forms of Italian architecture he saw on his travels has largely gone unnoted. This book examines both of these overlooked issues. Vaughan Hart identifies well-established links between the classical column and the crown prior to Jones, in early Stuart masques, processions, heraldry, paintings, and poems. He goes on to discuss Jones' preference for a 'masculine and unaffected' architecture, demonstrating that this plain style was consistent with the Puritan artistic sensitivities of Stuart England. For the first time, the work of Inigo Jones is understood in its national religious and political context.

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Fingerprint
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Died: Inigo Jones died. Career - Architect, Painter, Stage Designer and King's. Famous for: Architecture and designing the Queen's House (1616–1619) at Greenwich, London. Working with Ben Jonson designing the sets for Jacobean masques. Short Biography, Facts & History about the life of Inigo Jones: Son of a wealthy cloth maker. Travelled to Italy to study architecture, painting and design. Inigo Jones caused a revolution in English architecture. Trace the career of this master builder. The first and greatest of English Renaissance architects, Inigo Jones was an unlikely candidate to change the landscape of British style and design. Yet this self-taught son of a Smithfield clothmaker had an enormous effect on the course of British art and architecture. He had none of the advantages of birth, influence, and education possessed by his successors, such as Christopher Wren, yet this man with the unusual name rose to the post of Surveyor-General of the King's Works on the basis of his enormous talent, and in the process changed history. It is thought that Jones visited Italy Inigo Jones was Surveyor of the King's Works, and the Queen's House was one of his first designs for Anne of Denmark, wife of James I. After the queen’s death in 1619, the building remained unfinished and thatched over at ground-floor level until 1629. Jones completed it around 1635 for Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I, when he completed a single first-floor central bridge joining the two halves of the building. East and west bridges were add in 1662. The new house was such a novelty that people called it 'The White House'. Inigo Jones's influence. Inigo Jones’s genius created an English Palladianism which influenced and inspired later architects in the classical tradition. A detail of the portrait of Inigo Jones painted by William Hogarth around 1757-1758 (BHC2810, © NMM).