

Architectural Terms

Gothic

A style of architecture used in Western Europe from the 12th to 16th century, periodised into three styles: Early English, Decorated Gothic and Perpendicular Gothic. This style was characterised by sculptures, paintings and other art forms that were grotesque and gloomy, often involving the supernatural.

Jacobian

The period of James I, who ruled between 1603 – 1625. The style of furniture current at the time was characterised by dark brown carved oak. In Britain, this style of architecture surfaced as a combination of late Gothic and Palladian motifs.

Medieval

The architectural style of the Middle Ages: informal, old fashioned and primitive. Appearing from around 1000 AD to the 15th century.

Minimalist

In early 20th century Russia, architectural structures were built to create the maximum effect by keeping the designs and styles simple, using as few elements as possible.

Neoclassical

A late 18th and early 19th century style inspired by surviving classical models - typically characterised by decorative and fine art.

Norman

The style of Romanesque architecture used in Britain from the Norman Conquest until the 12th century. Norman architecture is characterised by rounded arches, groin vaults and large masonry walls.

Palladian

Styles created by Andrea Palladio, 16th century Italian architect whose designs rendered him an influential figure of the Italian Renaissance.

Renaissance

The period of European history marking the rise of the modern world - characteristics often include intensified classical features.

Rococo

A style of architecture and decoration that originated in France in the early 18th century. It is characterised by elaborate but graceful light ornamentation often containing asymmetrical motifs.

Roman

Used by the Ancient Romans, generally with large scale masonry domes, barrel vaults and semi-circular arches.

Rural/Rustic

The styles of furniture that were popular in England in the 18th and 19th century. In these styles, the legs and feet of chairs and tables were made to resemble roots, trunks and branches of trees.

Tudor and Stuart

The architectural style of England Royal House, ruling from 1485 – 1603, typically characterised by half-timbered houses.

Victorian

During the reign of Queen Victoria (1837 – 1901), architecture was characterised by large scale construction and elaborate ornamentation.