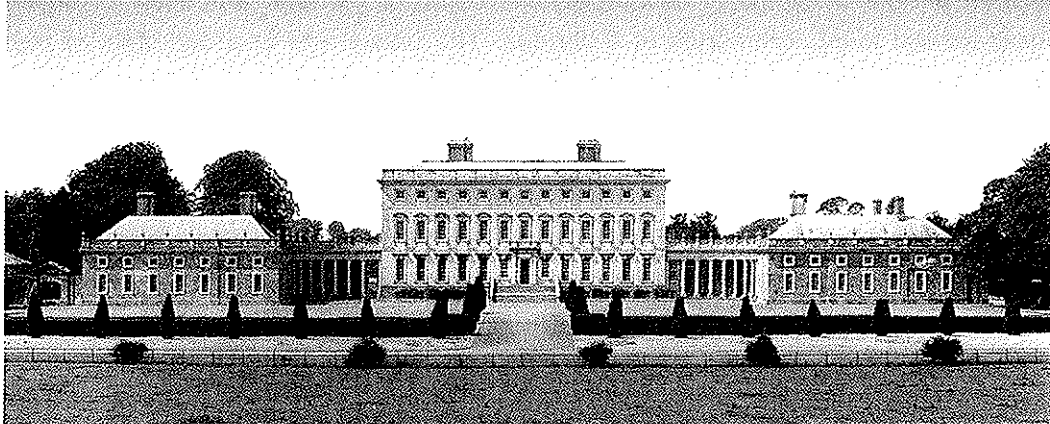


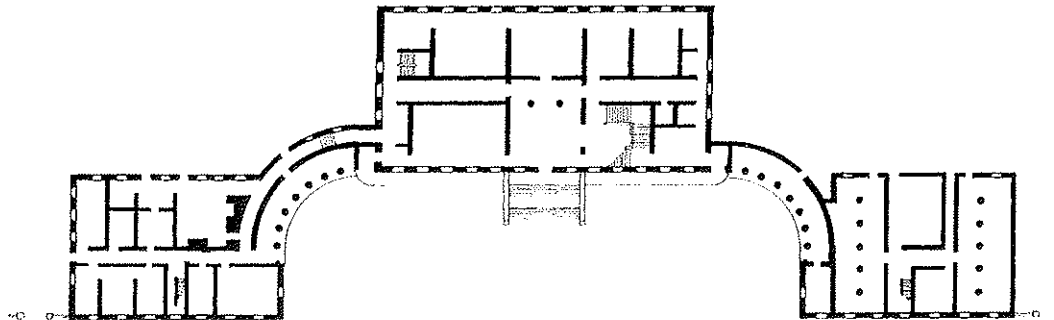


Worksheet C7
Case Study: Castletown House

Do this with Lesson 10.
 Put all completed work in your folder.



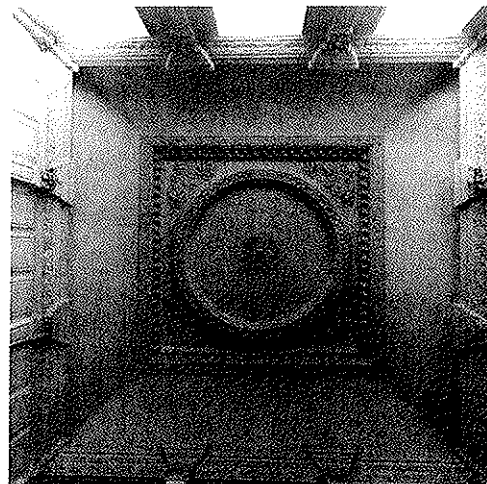
Castletown House, Co. Kildare, 1732,
Architects: Alessandro Galelei and Sir Edward Lovett Pearce



Plan



Entrance hall



Ceiling of entrance hall



BUILDINGS THROUGH HISTORY

Built in 1722, Castletown House is the largest Palladian country house in Ireland. It was built for William Connolly, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons. Its first architect was Alessandro Galilei. Some later parts were designed by Sir Edward Lovett Pearce.

Castletown House was occupied by the Connolly-Carew family until 1965. The estate was then bought by property developers and some of the land was used for building houses for the local community in Celbridge. The house was in a bad state of repair when purchased in 1967 by Desmond Guinness, president of the Georgian Society. In 1979, the house was given to the Castletown Foundation which was established to maintain the house. Today, the house is maintained by the State.

1. What features can you find in this house which remind you of classical Greek architecture? Use the appropriate terms in your answer.

2. Why do you think a house like Castletown House was abandoned and sold to property developers?

3. Why do you think Desmond Guinness might have wanted to buy a house in such a bad state of repair, with most of its original furniture sold?

4. Suggest some reasons why you think he gave the house to the Castletown Foundation.

5. This house is now being maintained by the State, using taxpayers' money. What are your views on this?



6. What kind of conservation work might have to be undertaken both inside and outside a building like Castletown House?

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7. What organisations are involved in protecting buildings of architectural significance?

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8. Sometimes, owners find a solution to financing the maintenance of a building by converting it into a commercial property. What suggestions could you make which would allow Castletown House to pay for its own upkeep?

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9. What alternative uses could be made of the buildings on Information Sheet 25 "Shapes in Buildings", which would ensure their survival and preserve their intrinsic character and style?

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