

Thames Architectural Trail



Teacher's Guidance Notes

Thames Architectural Trail

The Thames Architecture trail guides the students through the fascinating and diverse environment along the River Thames. By completing the trail they will cover some of the most varied land use and see different styles of architecture.

The trail consists of activities to do along the route with additional challenging issues for discussion in class to help encourage and develop a thorough understanding of the different styles of architecture, past, present and future.

It starts at The O₂, where the students will board a Thames Clipper at the QE2 pier answering questions en route to Bankside pier. At Bankside the students will disembark the Clipper and walk along the Thames to Waterloo pier completing tasks on the way. Finally at Waterloo pier they will board the Clipper back to the QE2 pier.

A trip on the London Eye would make an exciting addition to the day.

Materials provided to assist with the trail include:

Student trail booklets

PowerPoint slides for follow up work in the classroom


Teacher notes


Sample Day Programme

(Including trip on the London Eye)

Activity	Times	Notes
Board Thames Clipper at QE2 pier (by The O ₂)	10.20 am	Please be at the pier 15 minutes before departure time Start 1 st section of river trail
Arrival at Bankside	10.55 am	Disembark to undertake walking trail & have lunch
Arrival at British Airways London Eye	1.15 pm for 1.30 pm flight	Flight takes approx 30 minutes
Board Thames Clipper at Waterloo Pier (by London Eye)	2.35 pm	Please be at the pier 15 minutes before departure time Complete 2 nd section of river trail
Arrival back at QE2 Pier	3.20 pm	End of trip

Student Booklet Answers

 The Blue sections are to be completed on the Thames Clipper

 The Green sections are to be completed whilst walking

1 The O₂

Can you guess what the roof is made of?

Fabric

Can you think of a common form of shelter which is a tensile structure?

Tent

Can you name some other buildings which have domes?

Examples St Pauls, Royal Naval College, Greenwich Foot Tunnel, British Museum

You may have seen The O₂ in a film. Name the film? *The World Is Not Enough (1999) James Bond lands on the roof of the building*

When The O₂ was first built (at the time it was known as the Millennium Dome) there was a lot of disagreement about what it should be used for after the Millennium celebrations were over. If you could turn it into anything you wished what would it be?

Encourage the children to think of something aimed specifically at their age group.

Don't let the students worry too much about whether something is realistic or possible – let their imaginations run wild!

2 Board the Thames Clipper (Piers QE2 – Canary Wharf)

Circles

Round buildings include The O₂, entrances to Greenwich Foot Tunnel and the Gherkin, Round windows are quite common in Docklands Buildings which reference ship design Buildings with domes use circles in their plans

Triangles

Look for buildings with triangular pediments, pitched roofs i.e. Royal Naval College The Gherkin and City Hall use triangles in the structural composition of their glazing

Symmetrical

Many examples, perhaps the most striking is the Royal Naval College

3 Different ways to cross the river (Piers Canary Wharf - Bankside)

Can you think of any ways of crossing the river other than using a bridge?

Foot tunnel, boat and swim!

Tower Bridge - How do you think tall boats pass under this bridge?

The central part opens up

The Millennium Bridge famously didn't open on time, do you know why? *It wobbled*

Look for the following bridges as you travel along the river.

Bridge 1 – Cannon Street trains

Bridge 2 – Southwark buses, cycles, cars and pedestrians

Bridge 3 – Millennium pedestrians

4 Leave the boat at Bankside, turn right and stop outside the Globe theatre

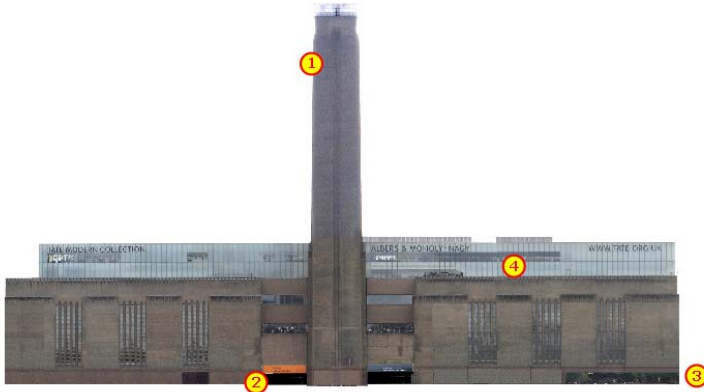
When did the first Globe theatre burn down?

1613

Which famous writer's plays are shown at the Globe? *William Shakespeare*

Continue under the Millennium Bridge and stop outside the Tate Modern art gallery

Add the windows, doors and decorative features to show the “elevation” of the building.
Don't worry too much about accuracy



The tall chimney has been capped with lights to become a landmark beacon at night (1).

Entry to building is most dramatic by going down the ramp at the western end (3) rather than using the side doors (2). The ramp leads you directly into the vast, 100ft high turbine hall.

During conversion, two storeys were added to the roof - the glass 'beam'. (4).

5

Continue straight past the Founders' Arms and stop just before you go under Blackfriars Bridge.

Take a line for a walk



(FOR EXAMPLE).

Looking at the line you have drawn, or the view in front of you and you will see that some buildings are much taller than those around them. Why do you think they are taller?

Important buildings - a landmark (for example a church) or a modern tall building – a building in the centre of the city where land value is higher

6

Continue straight under Blackfriars Bridge until you get to The Queen's Walk.

No correct answers – Observe people and the use of public space

7

Continue towards the National Theatre and stop before Waterloo Bridge.

Look at the entrances to the Royal National Theatre and the BFI Southbank:

A successful entrance is one that can be found without signs. Modern architecture is often criticised because entrance are understated and therefore difficult to find. On the other hand in buildings where an entrance is very prominent and grand this can be quite intimidating. Things to look for: scale visibility, details such as handles, 'porch', routes leading to it.

Go under Waterloo Bridge and find the undercroft of Queen Elizabeth Hall

Do you like this space? Give your reasons *Exciting, fun, subversive, scary, intimidating, ugly, cool, anarchic, 'belongs to' young people, feel welcome/unwelcome*

8 Continue to Festival Pier.

Royal Festival Hall



Jubilee Walk
Pedestrian

Trees providing shade
Building opens onto a view of the river



Belvedere Road
cars & pedestrian

backs of buildings - no widows

Why do you think buildings need to have a front and a back?

Entrance for public, entrance for deliveries, rubbish collection, staff entrance

9 Head past the London Eye to County Hall.

Write down the differences and similarities of County Hall & City Hall.

Similarities Both are landmarks, both by the river

Differences County Hall – more formal & grand, classical style (looks older than it is)
City Hall – modern, more in keeping with current trends in design

County Hall is no longer used for its original purpose. What is it used for now?

Site of businesses and attractions, including Dali Universe, the London Aquarium, a amusement arcade, restaurants, film museum, art gallery, a hotel and housing

10 Head back to the London Eye.

How is this drawing of the London Eye different from what you see in front of you?

There are fewer capsules

Can you guess what this is a picture of? *A cut through section of the a cable*

How tall is the Eye? *135m*

How thick is the glass used to make the widows in the capsules? *13.2mm*

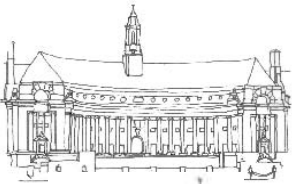
How long do you think it took to build the London Eye? *16 months*

How deep do you think the foundations are? *33m*

11

Board the Thames Clipper at Waterloo Pier.

Look out for these 22 buildings as you travel along the river



1. County Hall – Ralph Knott, 1911-22, 1931-3

County Hall was the headquarters of London County Council and later the Greater London Council. Today it is the site of housing, businesses and attractions.



2. Houses of Parliament – Barry & Pugin, 1835-60

Also known as Westminster Palace, this is where the House of Lords and the House of Commons meet.



3. Charing Cross/Embankment Place – Terry Farrell & Co

Charing Cross railway station is a central London railway terminus. It is the fifth busiest rail terminal in London. In 1990 most of the area over the platforms was covered by Embankment Place, a modern office and shopping complex.



4. Shell-Mex House – Joseph, remodelled 1931

The building was for many years the London headquarters of petrol companies Shell-Mex and BP Ltd



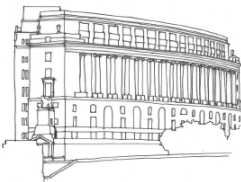
5. Royal Festival Hall – Leslie Martin et al. 1951

The Royal Festival Hall is a concert, dance and talks venue within Southbank Centre.



6. St Paul's Cathedral – Christopher Wren, 1675-1711

St Paul's Cathedral dates from the 17th century. The cathedral is one of London's most visited sites.



7. Unilever House – Lomax-Simpson & Burret, 1930-1

Unilever House, in the City of London, occupies a prominent site on Victoria Embankment overlooking Blackfriars Bridge.



8. Tower 42 (formerly NatWest Tower) – John Mowlem & Co 1979

Tower 42 is the tallest skyscraper in the City of London and the fifth tallest in London as a whole. It was originally built for the National Westminster Bank hence its former name, the NatWest Tower.



9. 30 St Mary Axe (also Swiss Re, Gherkin) – Foster & Partners, 2004

30 St Mary Axe is a skyscraper in London's main financial district, the City of London. It is widely known by the nickname "The Gherkin" because of its shape and "The Swiss Re Tower" after its first owner. It is 180m tall.



10. Globe Theatre – Reconstruction, 1997

(Original design was by James Burbage & Dr John Dee 1559)

The first Globe Theatre was associated with William Shakespeare. It was built in 1599 and was destroyed by fire. This modern reconstruction of the Globe, named "Shakespeare's Globe", opened in 1997.



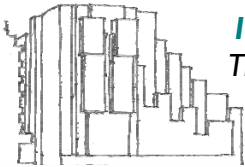
11. Fishmongers' Hall – Henry Roberts, 1834

This building is a fine example of classical design and has remained uniquely unaltered as one of the City's finest Livery Halls.



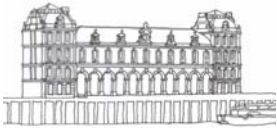
12. Adelaide House – Burret Tait & Partners, 1925

Adelaide House was one of the first buildings in London to have air conditioning, an internal mail system and a rooftop putting green. It was arguably the first modern office building in the City of London.



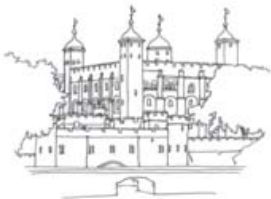
13. Northern and Shell Building, 1985

This modern dark glass building is home to Northern & Shell who own four national newspapers and many foreign publications.



14. Old Billingsgate – Sir Horace Jones, 1875

The Victorian incarnation of Billingsgate Fish Market in the City of London is now used as a hospitality and events venue. In 1982, the fish market was relocated to a new building close to Canary Wharf.



15. Tower of London – (various dates)

The Tower of London is often identified with the White Tower, the original stark square fortress built by William the Conqueror in 1078. However, the tower as a whole is a complex of several buildings set within two concentric rings of defensive walls and a moat. Since 1303, it is the home of the Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom.



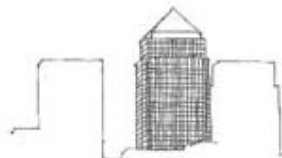
16. City Hall Norman Foster 2002

City Hall is the headquarters of the Greater London Authority which comprises the Mayor of London and London Assembly. The building has an unusual bulbous shape, intended to reduce its surface area and thus improve energy efficiency.



17. Oliver's Wharf 1870

In Victorian times, Oliver's Wharf was part of the largest warehouse complex in London. Completed in 1873, the warehouses housed huge quantities of tea, coffee, spices and other commodities, which were unloaded and loaded onto river boats. It has been converted in to apartments.



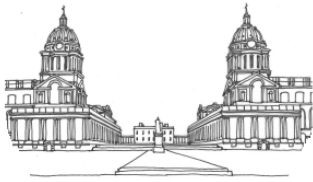
18. One Canada Square (Canary Wharf) – Cesar Pelli, 1991

One Canada Square (also known as the Canary Wharf Tower) is the tallest building in the United Kingdom at 240m above sea level.



19. Royal Observatory – Wren & Hooke, 1676

The Royal Observatory, Greenwich was commissioned in 1675 by King Charles II. Today the buildings include a museum of astronomical and navigational tools, which is part of the National Maritime Museum. The 120 seat Peter Harrison Planetarium officially opened on May 25, 2007.



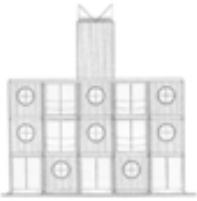
20. Royal Naval College - Christopher Wren, 1696 - 1712

It was originally built as a hospital for sailors and then used as training college by the Navy. It is in the centre of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site and is now occupied by the University of Greenwich and the Trinity School of Music.



21. The O₂ – Richard Rogers, 2000

The O₂ is a large entertainment district including an indoor arena, a music club, a cinema, an exhibition space, piazzas and bars and restaurants, built within a large dome-shaped building (formerly the Millennium Dome), on the Greenwich Peninsula.



22. Container City – Nicholas Lacey & Partners, 2001

Container City at Trinity Buoy Wharf is built using standard shipping containers, to produce flexible accommodation and offices at low cost. It was installed in 2001, in 4 days, and fitted out over 5 months.



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