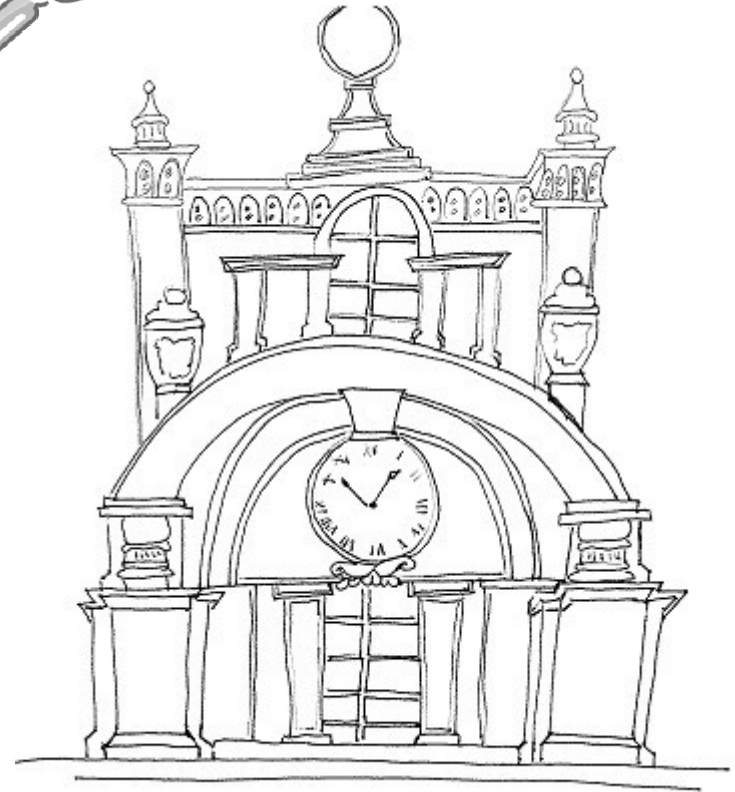
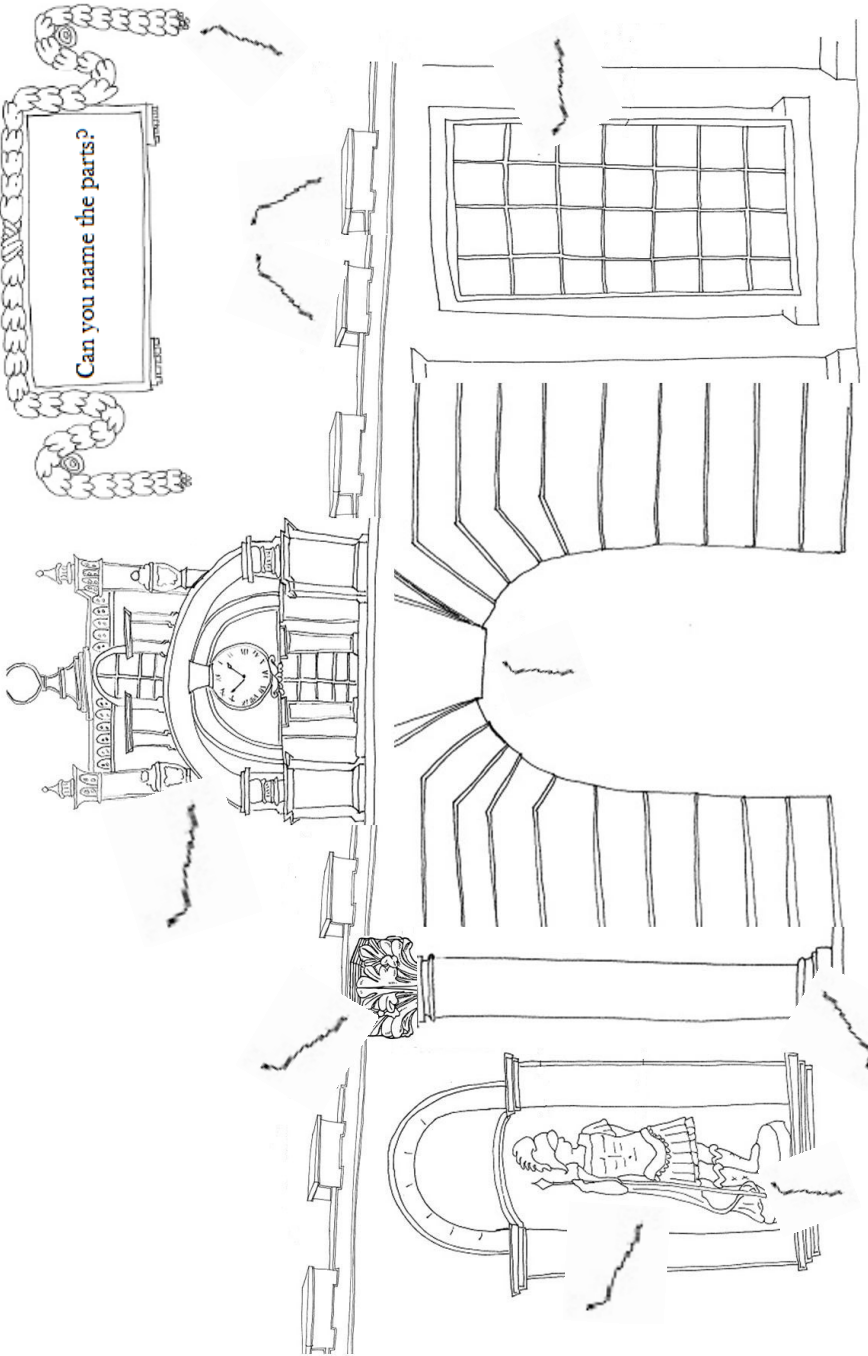


Can you name the parts?



I- spy...

Architecture

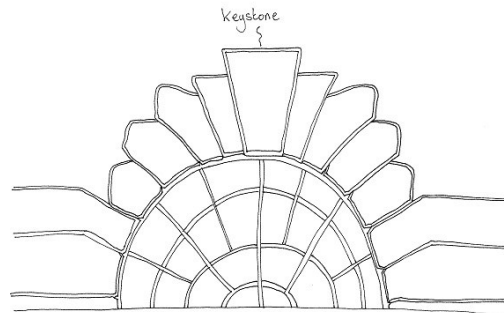
ARCHITECTURE I-SPY

KITCHEN COURT

The Keystone



a. The keystone is the most important part of an arch. Both sides of the arch lean in against the keystone. The keystone acts like a wedge and stops the arch falling in.



1. How many keystones can you spot in this courtyard?

b. Crenellations

Crenellations or battlements line the top of a building and go up and down in shape. Originally they were built for defensive reasons. The 'up' bit gave shelter for archers to defend their castle and the 'down' bit gave them space to shoot at any attackers. On the Palace the crenellations are just for show.

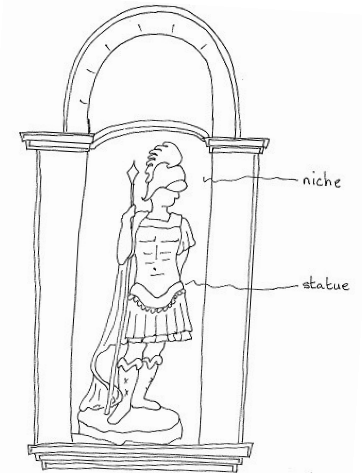


2. How can you tell that these crenellations are not there for defensive reasons?



12. What do the Blenheim stone lions have in their paws?

13. How many niches hold statues?



ARCHITECTS AND STONE MASONS

John Vanbrugh (1664-1726) was the architect of Blenheim Palace. He was helped by another great architect Nicholas Hawksmoor (1661-1736). The master masons were the ones who actually built the Palace and they were the aptly named Strong brothers, Edward and Thomas. They worked on many of the great building projects of their day including St Paul's Cathedral in London.

In addition to Blenheim Palace Vanbrugh also designed Castle Howard in Yorkshire, Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland, Kimbolton Castle in Cambridgeshire, Kings Weston in Gloucestershire, Grimsthorpe Castle in Lincolnshire and Lumley Castle in County Durham.

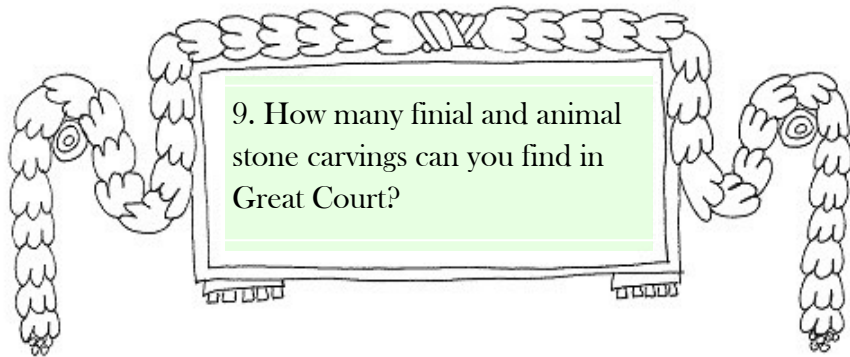
Lumley Castle is now a hotel. Seaton Delaval is owned by the National Trust. Castle Howard is still the family home of the Howard family. It is open to the public. Kimbolton Castle is a boarding school. Grimsthorpe Castle is owned by a trust and is the home of Lady Willoughby de Eresby, a descendant of the original owner, Lord Willoughby. Kings Weston was for a time a Police College and is now a wedding venue.

h. Animals and twiddly bits

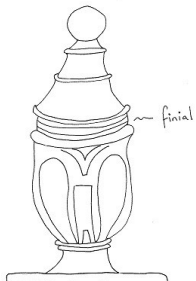
Baroque architecture is highly decorated with statues, animals, scrolls, faces, finials, chimneys, urns, balls, balustrades and festoons. The Palace is a fine example of Baroque Architecture.



festoon



9. How many finial and animal stone carvings can you find in Great Court?



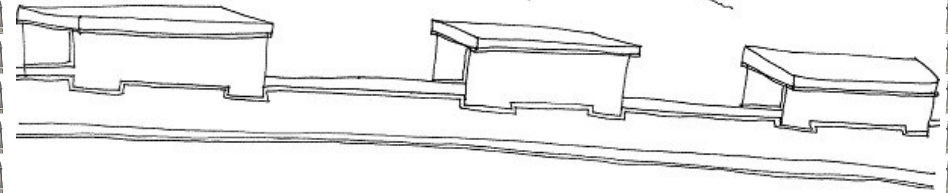
finial

10. What is interesting about the shape and size of the finials on top of the colonnades at Blenheim Palace?

11. What is special about some of Blenheim Palace's spheres?

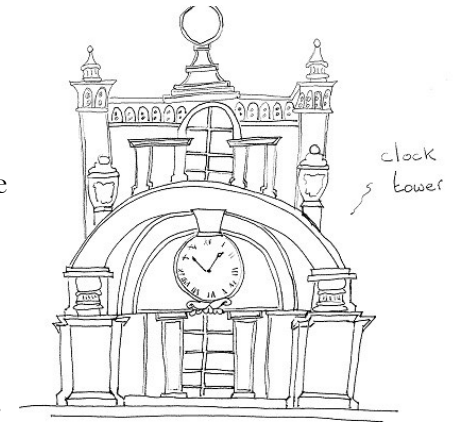


crenellations



c. Tower

Originally towers were part of defensive buildings like castles. Towers provided a clear view of the surrounding country side and the approaching enemy. Some churches have towers instead of spires. The towers usually held the church bells. The tower here was built so people could see the clock.

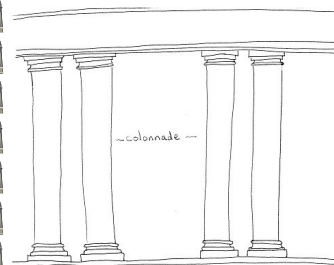


3. How many faces does the clock have?

GREAT COURT

d. Colonnades

Blenheim Palace has round columns which form colonnades on each side of Great Court. When there are columns arranged in a line and only attached to the building at the top this is called a colonnade.



colonnade

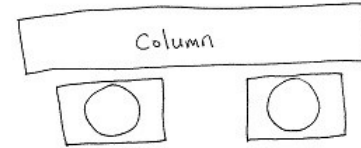
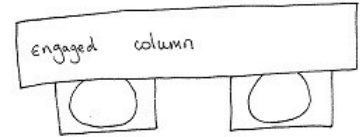
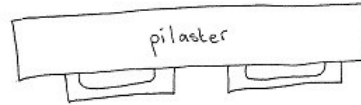


4. Are there the same number of columns in the colonnades on each side of Great Court?

e. Name that column

Some columns are attached to the building all the way up and are called 'engaged columns.' If the column only projects (sticks out) slightly from the wall it is called a Pilaster. In the picture below you can see some round Pilasters on the

side of the north front.



5. See if you can find one example of each kind of column in the Great Court .

f. Column decoration

Sometimes columns have elaborate decorations at the top. Often they are decorated with volutes (swirly bits) and leaves. The leaves are usually Acanthus leaves. The Acanthus plant had medicinal properties and is supposed to symbolise long life.



6. How many columns have leaf decorations in Great Court?



g. Windows

The palace has many, many windows of all shapes and sizes. During the early 1700's, when the Palace was built, architects liked symmetry (each side of the building to be a mirror image of the other side) so the windows in the Palace are set out so that they are symmetrical. To have a lot of windows was a sign of wealth as glass was very expensive when the Palace was built. Each window is divided into 'lights' (which some people now just call 'panes').



7. How many different shaped windows can you find in Great Court?

8. How many lights does one of the round windows have?

