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Inigo Jones: The Architect of Kings

[Vaughan Hart](#)

- [Department of Architecture & Civil Engineering](#)

Research output: Book/Report › Book

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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Masculine
Procession
Designer
Italian Architecture
Andrea Palladio
Hostility
Masque
Heraldry
Classical Language
Italy
Italian Masters
Poem

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Inigo Jones (/ˈɪnɪɡoʊ/; 15 July 1573 – 21 June 1652) was the first significant English architect (of Welsh ancestry) in the early modern period, and the first to employ Vitruvian rules of proportion and symmetry in his buildings. As the most notable architect in England, Jones was the first person to introduce the classical architecture of Rome and the Italian Renaissance to Britain. He left his mark on London by his design of single buildings, such as the Queen's House which is the first building in

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