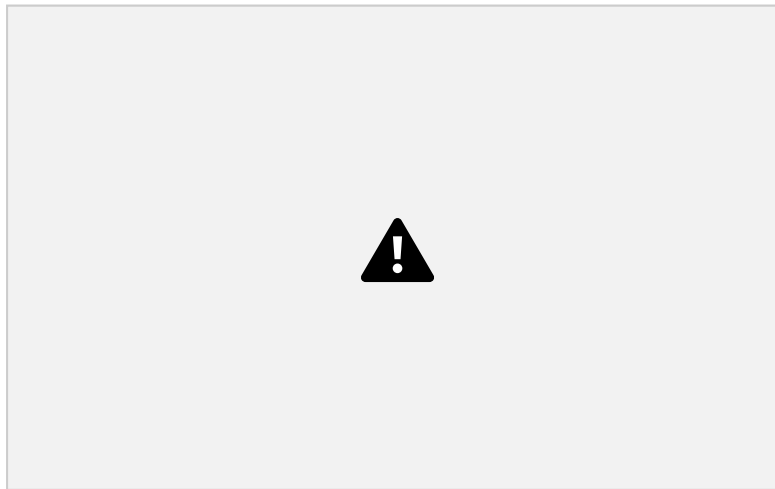


History and Theory Assignment 1

Architecture in Your Hometown

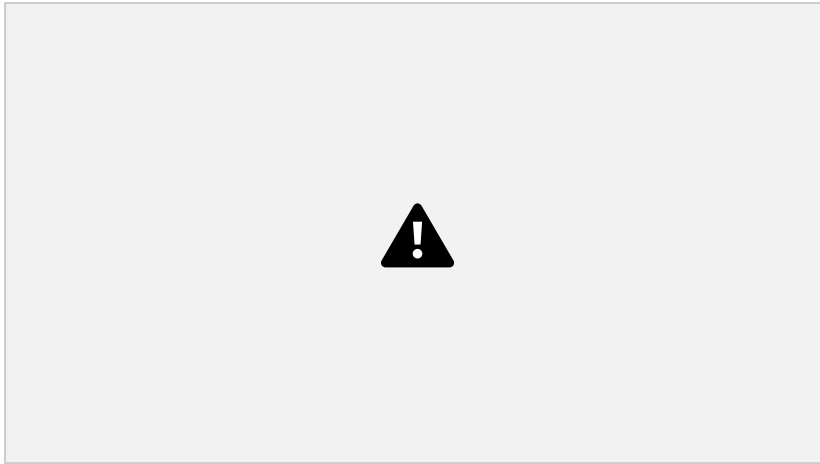
Tredegear House is a manor house located in Newport, Wales. The architect of the House is unknown. There are records of Tredegear House that date back to the medieval period but the red brick house seen on the site today was built by the Morgan family in 1670. The house is a 17th century Charles II era with influence from Sir Roger Pratt's Clarendon House in London. It is an imposing structure with a Baroque influenced interior.

By the industrial age the estate had grown to 40,000 acres. Sections of the land were leased out to coal mines and iron works due to the minerals on the land. This use led to the development of the Monmouthshire and Beacon canal. The house is now surrounded by a network of main roads, with the M4 on one side and the A48 to Newport on the other. The land in front of the House has now been developed to be used as offices, a new housing estate, a large Asda and three schools. It was used as a Catholic girls boarding school in 1951, after being sold by Lord Tredegear, before being bought by Newport Council in 1974 and opened to the public. In 2012 it was taken over by the National Trust who have continued to restore the building and grounds.

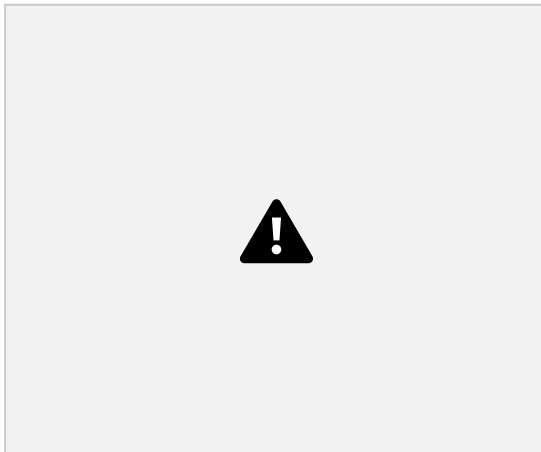


[<https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid>]

The site location of Tredegear house is marked in blue. The neighbouring land is a mixture of main road networks and new housing estates. There is a large car park area for visitors, and good access from the M4 or A48. There is a new estate on the other side of the site that has meant new roads and lighting opposite the site. Despite being surrounded by a very built up area the approach and parkland has remained a large area of green. There is road, pedestrian and cycle access. From the aerial image below it can be seen that the space at the front of the House has been preserved but the new housing estate is built up to the boundary at the back.

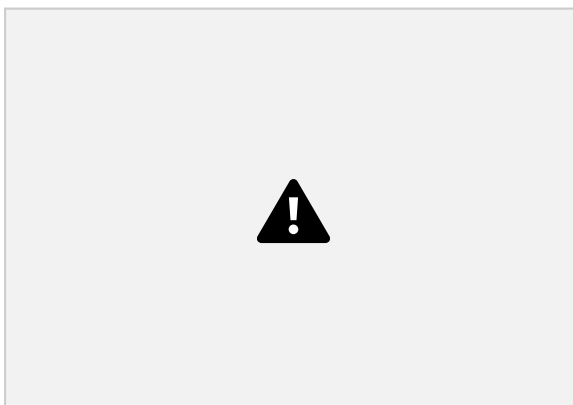


[<https://www.davies-sutton.co.uk/tredegarhouse>]

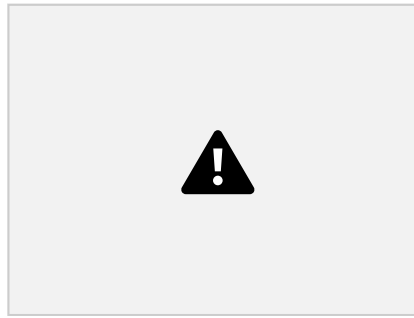


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The aerial photograph above shows the site layout which shows the rectangular garden boundaries, the house in the middle of the plot and the outbuildings at the back. The formal approach is shown with the elaborate gates at the entrance. The site is flat making access easy. The numerous outbuildings on the site have been adapted to use for visitors such as workshops, café, giftshop.



[<https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=o0VJqy2%2F&id=E314238A2A6DD4FC76477F441D32B95A13AE2424&thid>]



[\https://www.davies-sutton.co.uk/tredegarhouse

[https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=mZNzcOBu&id\]](https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=mZNzcOBu&id)

The building was rebuilt and enlarged by William Morgan to create the striking red brick house that can be seen today in the Carolean style. The large symmetrical rectangular windows, with the small square windows in the attic provides the building with unity. There is a sense of proportion to the building with the steps being in the middle with the door. The roof was replaced in the 19th century which is pitched with a cupola that admits light but is also an ornamental feature to add to an ornate impression of the building. The balustrade adds to the extravagance of the outside of the building. There are many carved forms used in the building, the spiral twist columns on either side of the door. The interior uses expensive materials and textures. There are carved motifs of nature in the wooden furniture and arches. The colours are rich golds with fireplaces in marble as a focal point and wooden floors. The staircase is also central with elaborate carvings that provides a focus point in the house. The Gilt room has wood panelling bordered in gold leaf. The brown drawing room has carved wood panelling, a fine painted ceiling and candelabra. The detail, colour and contrast of textures gives a sense of awe.

Tredegar House is owned by the National Trust and open to the public. Each room has been dressed to reflect different points in the Houses history which stretches from the 17th century to the 1930's, with art and furniture from the periods. Visitors have to follow a formal route through the rooms and cannot wander in any order through the building so this can feel restrictive to visitors. The gardens offer a tranquil space where visitors can move as they please through the orchard garden, the cedar garden and the orangery. The parkland surrounding the Mansion House also serves as a space for the local community. There is a large lake for families to walk around and plenty of paths to explore. Park run also hosts an event here making it a centre for all ages on a Sunday. The Mansion sits at the entrance to the parkland so the red brick can be seen and appreciated by all those enjoying the park. Outbuildings on the estate have been converted to house local crafts which connect to Welsh culture.

In contrast the Riverfront Arts Centre in Newport is a modern design by architectural firm Austin-Smith; Lord that opened in October 2004. It is located with the River Usk on one side with a pedestrian walkway and a road on the other. It is shaped with an overhang at the front and is in the style of Zaha Hadid and was in the deconstructivism style. The material is steel and is in a distinctive blue colour where it stands out amongst the older brick buildings. In a link to local history Newport's Medieval Ship was discovered while this site was being built

and halted building work for a time. It is a hub for Newport, hosting workshops, shows, a café and clubs.

It was difficult to get floor plans and section plans for Tredegar House, despite it undergoing restoration at the moment on parts of the building. I would allow more time to be able to get these or send off for them. Looking at site plans and aerial photographs showed me how near to the site new housing developments were. Seeing how important every aspect of a restoration project is and the detail needed so that the experience of visiting the House is not interrupted. Adapting timescales and plans is important as shown by the discovery of the Medieval Ship on the site of the Riverfront Arts Centre.

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