

Architecture in my Hometown

Newport is a constantly thriving city, beginning its architectural history somewhere in the “14th century”. A city varied in cultures and ethnicities which influence the designs of our buildings throughout history. My focus will be on two very contrasting buildings, widely popular in two completely different generations.



Newport's earliest addition, a well known castle built on the River Usk which was made to set a start of a new town/market place for people to thrive in. As this was the very first and main architectural structure it had to have been made to last. From a lot of the research I did, at that time, it was said to have had the purpose of “administrative centre of the eponymous lordship”. The first initial design and built by “Hugh de Audley”, which lasted for a while after the constant “remodelling mainly between the period of 1430-1445, this was kept until the late 17th century,” after it became a ruin, which was still used as a “brewery until the 19th century”. In this day and age this popular and well used castle is an unused ruin which still shows all the hard work that has been put into it.

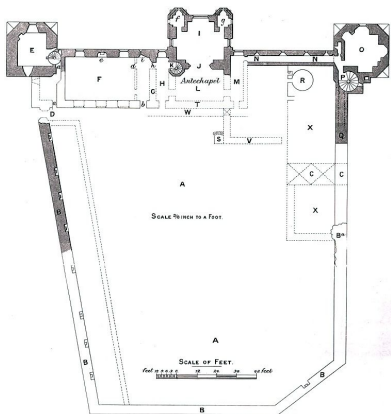


As I examined what the whole build used to look like on a smaller model, it looks to have been created in the Norman period, the windows looked to be arch shaped, with varied size of them. As it lies on the riverfront side, at the northern edge of the water bay, it looked to have really good foundations and ideas of the gate openings that led into the water making them small private docs to get in and out of. There was a big gate that was there to open into the main town area, which opened from a court area which was a walled “moated sub-rectangular court which was roughly 57m north-south by 62m”. What made this castle so spectacular was the polygon shaped towers on both ends of the towers and the mid-rectangular shaped on in the middle. These towers arose from “spurred bases, with the mid tower projecting the turrets flanking the docs.” Another amazing thing about this castle was that there were vaulted chambers above the water gates.



The main material usage for this castle was stones or limestone bricks for the walls and the arch decorations, and for the roof and the gates, the main component for

that was wooden planks with some thatched roofs, hence the reason why the walls have still lasted all this time meanwhile the roof has rotted and fallen away. The main reason for using the limestone bricks for the walls was to protect it from any enemies that were to attack the castle, with the roof, thatching was probably the most effective way back in those days to have that as a roof option. Some of the windows had stained glass to make it more decorative and others just had a plain and simple glass window put in, the windows had a bit of decorated patterns around made with cement. It is unclear to know whether in the courtyard of the castle the opening areas,



resampling windows had any glass put in or whether they were just there like that without. As a whole it looked to be a great piece of work that was we throughout it to be a central piece of that founding town and also a multipurpose area of having a courtyard with a few houses were in, a small doc and a large living area in the middle.

I found a site plan online of what the overall section of the castle looked like before it was gradually reconstructed and fallen apart to this day only be left with a front section of it still standing. Also including

a painting that was created in the early days of what this castle looked like.



Now looking at a complete contrast of a newly built area with the most modern technologies we now have out there today. Friars walk the first huge shopping structure developed and built within the town center. Newly opened at the 12th of November 2015 and costing a huge “£100 million to build and maintain” this center. It is a very impressive and modern looking structure that was well thought out to compliment the surrounding buildings and structures that were left over. There are many features to this and it is not an enclosed building, so there is a bit of everything everywhere. It is a very cool and modernised design that has a lot of

technology aspects that accommodate our needs, it's a well oriated site meaning the mid section resembling a sort of a pavilion is turned against the riverside meaning nearly no wind passes through that section making it very warm to pass through. I feel like it greatly compliments the town that has been left over as its in the middle its surrounded by very old age looking buildings, then that in the middle.

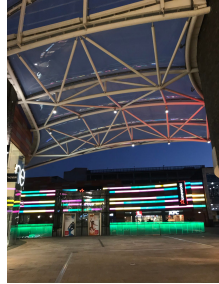
There are many features that look absolutely amazing, for example the roof of the mid opening

section looks like a ribbed roof design. Made from “A curved tubular steel frame which span 11m wide” which are located on large concrete plinths, which are made to look very thrilling and inspiring. Another great feature this shopping centre has is the all the rails and



some buildings have inbuilt LED lights which are turned on at night to make the overall build very vibrant and dynamic to experience at night. It is a “huge 36,230 square metre” of shopping retail center created and designed by an architect called “Leslie Jones” with a very modernist style. I have found a simple floor plan of what a section of the shopping part looks like and it is explained very simplistically, from where the facilities are located to what shops are going to be where. I feel like this is a very visually fascinating piece of work that has been noticed throughout the UK.

As a whole, I feel like I have looked at and explore two very different architectural styles and generations, both creating a different visual experience. Throughout this experience I have learned a lot about the modern day building expectation as well as the very olden day ones. If I was to do this study again I would try to go more in depth on the about the usage of space in each of the structures and also look at and sketching out some angles of the building. I feel like it has helped me a lot in understanding and visually imagining how things may go together. I learned that the styles change greatly over time and is clear to see how much we have progressed as a human species in our knowledge and quality expectations to build great architectural forms.



details
drawing



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Word Count: 1100