

= Buildings and architecture of Bath =

The buildings and architecture of Bath , a city in Somerset in the south west of England , reveal significant examples of the architecture of England , from the Roman Baths (including their significant Celtic presence) , to the present day . The city became a World Heritage Site in 1987 , largely because of its architectural history and the way in which the city landscape draws together public and private buildings and spaces . The many examples of Palladian architecture are purposefully integrated with the urban spaces to provide " picturesque aestheticism " . It is the only entire city in Britain to achieve World Heritage status , and is a popular tourist destination .

Important buildings include the Roman Baths ; neoclassical architect Robert Adam 's Pulteney Bridge , based on an unused design for the Rialto Bridge in Venice ; and Bath Abbey in the city centre , founded in 1499 on the site of an 8th @-@ century church . Of equal importance are the residential buildings designed and built into boulevards and crescents by the Georgian architects John Wood , the Elder and his son John Wood , the Younger ? well @-@ known examples being the Royal Crescent , built around 1770 , and The Circus , built around 1760 , where each of the three curved segments faces one of the entrances , ensuring that there is always a classical facade facing the entering visitor .

Most of Bath 's buildings are made from the local , golden @-@ coloured , Bath Stone . The dominant architectural style is Georgian , which evolved from the Palladian revival style that became popular in the early 18th century . The city became a fashionable and popular spa and social centre during the 18th century . Based initially around its hot springs , this led to a demand for substantial homes and guest houses . The key architects , John Wood and his son , laid out many of the city 's present @-@ day squares and crescents within a green valley and the surrounding hills . According to UNESCO this provided ... " an integration of architecture , urban design , and landscape setting , and the deliberate creation of a beautiful city " . Development during modern eras , including the development of the transport infrastructure and rebuilding after bomb damage during World War II , has mostly been in keeping with earlier styles to maintain the integrated cityscape .

= = Celtic , Roman and Saxon = =

Buildings from Bath 's pre @-@ Norman period either no longer exist , or their remains are below street level . Archaeological sites in the central area of the city have supplied some details about how they may have looked , while the lower areas of the Roman Baths reveal significant remains from the Roman period .

The Baths were built around hot springs , the only ones naturally occurring in the United Kingdom . Archaeological evidence suggests that the main spring in its natural state was treated as a shrine by the Celts . During the early Roman occupation of Britain , in the 60s or 70s AD , engineers drove oak piles into the mud to provide a stable foundation and surrounded the spring with an irregular stone chamber lined with lead . These still survive . At this early stage the spring was an open pool in the corner of the temple precinct . It fed a bathing complex on its south side within a barrel @-@ vaulted building . The complex was gradually built up over the next 300 years . All the stonework above the level of the baths is from more recent periods including the 12th century , when John of Tours built a curative bath over the King 's Spring reservoir , and the 16th century , when the city corporation built a new bath (Queen 's Bath) to the south of the spring . The spring is now housed in 18th @-@ century buildings designed by architects John Wood , the Elder and John Wood , the Younger ; visitor access is via an 1897 concert hall by J M Brydon , which is an eastward continuation of the Grand Pump Room with a glass @-@ domed centre and single @-@ storey radiused corner .

Beside the baths , a temple , in classical style with four large , fluted Corinthian columns and dedicated to Minerva was constructed . It stood on a podium above a surrounding courtyard . The columns supported a frieze and decorated pediment parts of which can be seen in the museum within the baths . In the 2nd century it was expanded by the addition of side chapels and an ambulatory , which may have encouraged some historians to argue that there were two temples .

The temple remained in use for worship until around the 4th century , but the site is now occupied by the Grand Pump Room .

The city was given defensive walls , probably in the 3rd century , but they disappeared during subsequent redevelopments . The line of then formed the basis of the medieval walls enclosing 23 acres (9 @. @ 3 ha) , some which survived until the 18th century . The Anglo @-@ Saxons called the town Bađum , Bađan or Bađon , meaning " at the baths , " the source of the present name . In 675 , Osric , King of the Hwicce , set up a monastic house at Bath , probably using the walled area as its precinct . The Anglo @-@ Saxon poem known as The Ruin may describe the appearance of the Roman site about this time . King Offa of Mercia gained control of this monastery in 781 and rebuilt the church , which was dedicated to St. Peter . By the 9th century the old Roman street pattern had been lost , and Bath had become a royal possession ; King Alfred laid out the town afresh , leaving its south @-@ eastern quadrant as the abbey precinct .

= = Norman , Medieval , Tudor , and Stuart = =

Bath Abbey was founded in 1499 on the site of an 8th @-@ century church . The original Anglo @-@ Saxon church was pulled down after 1066 , and a grand cathedral dedicated to Saint Peter and Saint Paul was begun on the site by John of Tours , Bishop of Bath and Wells , around 1090 ; however , only the ambulatory was complete when he died in December 1122 . The half @-@ finished cathedral was devastated by fire in 1137 , but work continued until about 1156 ; the completed building was approximately 330 feet (101 m) long . By the 15th century , Bath 's abbey church was badly dilapidated and in need of repairs . Oliver King , Bishop of Bath and Wells , decided in 1500 to rebuild it on a smaller scale . It is in a late Perpendicular style with flying buttresses and crocketed pinnacles decorating a crenellated and pierced parapet . The new church was completed just a few years before Bath Priory was dissolved in 1539 by Henry VIII . Major restoration work was carried out by Sir George Gilbert Scott in the 1860s , funded by the rector , Charles Kemble . The choir and transepts have a fan vault by Robert and William Vertue , in the 1860s , completing the original roof from 1608 . The nave was given a matching vault in the 19th century . The building is lit by 52 windows .

The medieval era is represented by the remains of the city walls in Upper Borough Walls . There are no other surviving buildings from this period . Several areas of the city underwent development during the Stuart period , in response to the increasing number of visitors to the spa and resort town who required accommodation . The St Thomas à Becket Church was built between 1490 and 1498 by John Cantlow , Prior of Bath Abbey and took the place of an older Norman church . The church was commonly called Old Widcombe Church and used to be the principal church of the parishes of Widcombe and Lyncombe . The Domesday survey of 1086 shows a small settlement around the church although no trace of it remains . In 1847 a much larger church , St Matthews , was built in Widcombe parish . On 22 April 1847 , it was announced that the church bells , which had for centuries been in the tower of St. Thomas à Becket , were to be removed and installed in the new St. Matthew 's . Widcombe Manor was originally built in 1656 and then rebuilt in 1727 for Philip Bennet the local MP . Thomas Guidott , moved to Bath and set up practice in 1668 . He became interested in the curative properties of the waters and he wrote A discourse of Bathe , and the hot waters there . Also , Some Enquiries into the Nature of the water in 1676 . This brought the health @-@ giving properties of the hot mineral waters to the attention of the country and soon the aristocracy started to arrive to partake in them .

The early 18th century the central area around the Abbey was expanded including the Abbey Church Yard which contained Marshal Wade 's House , and Trim Street , which was named after George Trim who owned the land . Number 5 , which is also known as General Wolfe 's house , is a 2 @-@ storey building with a parapet and rusticated quoins , built by Thomas Greenway . The doorway has Ionic pilasters and a tympanum decorated with the implements of war . In 1716 the architect William Killigrew was commissioned to rebuild St John 's Hospital which was founded around 1180 , by Bishop Reginald Fitz Jocelin and is among the oldest almshouses in England . The 2 storey Bath stone building has a heavy ground floor arcade of round @-@ headed arches on

pillars , and retains its original window mouldings and sashes . Building work continued after 1727 under the 23 @-@ year @-@ old John Wood , the Elder , his first commission in Bath .

= = Georgian = =

The dominant style of architecture in central Bath is Georgian ; this evolved from the Palladian revival style which became popular in the early 18th century .

The original purpose of much of Bath 's architecture is concealed by the honey @-@ coloured classical façades ; in an era before the advent of the luxury hotel , these apparently elegant residences were frequently purpose @-@ built lodging houses , where visitors could hire a room , a floor , or (according to their means) an entire house for the duration of their visit , and be waited on by the house 's communal servants .

The architects John Wood , the Elder and his son John Wood , the Younger laid out the new quarters in streets and squares , the identical façades of which gave an impression of palatial scale and classical decorum . Much of the creamy gold Bath stone which was used for construction throughout the city , was obtained from the limestone Combe Down and Bathampton Down Mines , which were owned by Ralph Allen (1694 ? 1764) . Allen , in order to advertise the quality of his quarried limestone , commissioned the elder John Wood to build him a country house on his Prior Park estate between the city and the mines , replacing his Town House . Queen Square was the first speculative development by John Wood , the Elder who lived in one of the houses . Queen Square was described by Nikolaus Pevsner as " one of the finest Palladian compositions in England before 1730 " .

The west side (numbers 14 ? 18 and 18A , 19 and 20) was designed by John Pinch the younger in 1830 and differs from Wood 's original design as the central block is in Neo @-@ Grecian style . The Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (BRLSI) now occupies 16 ? 18 . The south side (numbers 5 ? 13) was originally left open , but is now occupied by a hotel . The obelisk in the centre of the square was erected by Beau Nash in 1738 .

The Circus is seen as the pinnacle of Wood 's work . It consists of three long , curved terraces designed by the elder John Wood to form a circular space or theatre intended for civic functions and games . The games give a clue to the design , the inspiration behind which was the Colosseum in Rome .

Like the Colosseum , the three façades have a different order of architecture on each floor : Doric on the ground level , then Ionic on the piano nobile and finishing with Corinthian on the upper floor , the style of the building thus becoming progressively more ornate as it rises .

Gay Street links Queen Square to The Circus . It was designed by John Wood , the Elder in 1735 and completed by his son John Wood , the Younger . The houses are of 3 storeys with Mansard roofs , with many also having Ionic columns . Hester Thrale , who was also known as Mrs Piozzi , lived at number 8 , with its 4 Corinthian pilasters on the ground and 1st floors in 1781 .

Number 41 is on the corner between Gay Street and Queen Square . It was the home of John Wood , the Younger .

One of the main shopping streets is now Milsom Street , which was built in 1762 by Thomas Lightholder . The buildings were originally grand town houses with mansard roofs and Corinthian columns .

The bank at number 24 was built by Wilson and Willcox and includes baroque detail not seen on the other buildings . Numbers 37 to 42 which are known as Somersetshire Buildings have been designated as Grade I listed buildings .

The Octagon Chapel was a place of worship when it was built in 1767 , then a furniture shop by Mallett Antiques , and is now a restaurant .

Milsom street leads up hill , from the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases , which was founded in 1738 as The Mineral Water Hospital , to The Paragon which overlooks the Walcot area . The Paragon was designed by Thomas Warr Attwood . Each building has matching doors and windows with central pediments and flat entablatures either side of the 1st floor windows and Tuscan pilasters and pediments to the doorways . Numbers 22 to 37 continue the theme from

numbers 1 to 21 and were completed in 1775 by Joseph Axford , a local mason . Numbers 28 to 32 were damaged by bombing during World War II but have since been restored .

St Swithin 's Church was built between 1779 and 1790 by John Palmer . The church house which forms number 38 The Paragon was built in the early 18th century . The adjoining cemetery has gates with a rusticated base and panels with inverted torches between pilasters . There is an entablature with metopes and triglyphs .

The best known of Bath 's terraces is the Royal Crescent , built between 1767 and 1774 and designed by the younger John Wood . But all is not what it seems ; while Wood designed the great curved façade of what appears to be about 30 houses with Ionic columns on a rusticated ground floor , that was the extent of his input . Each purchaser bought a certain length of the façade , and then employed their own architect to build a house to their own specifications behind it ; hence what appears to be two houses is sometimes one . This system of town planning is betrayed at the rear of the crescent : while the front is completely uniform and symmetrical , the rear is a mixture of differing roof heights , juxtapositions and fenestration . This " Queen Anne fronts and Mary @-@ Anne backs " architecture occurs repeatedly in Bath .

In front of the Royal Crescent is a Ha @-@ ha , a trench on which the inner side of which is vertical and faced with stone , with the outer face sloped and turfed , making the trench , in effect , a sunken fence or retaining wall . The ha @-@ ha is designed not to interrupt the view from Royal Victoria Park , and to be invisible until seen from close by .

The other crescents which give Bath its architectural identity include : Camden Crescent which was built by John Eveleigh in 1788 , and damaged by a landslide in 1889 , Lansdown Crescent , designed by John Palmer and constructed by a variety of builders between 1789 and 1793 , and Somerset Place for which the facades were designed by the architect John Eveleigh who went bankrupt during the building , which started in 1790 but was not completed until the 1820s . Some of Somerset Crescent was destroyed during the Second World War and rebuilt as student accommodation in the 1950s and 1960s . It used to form part of the campus of Bath Spa University , but has since been sold .

The area of North Parade , South Parade , Pierrepont and Duke Streets was part of a wider scheme to build a Royal Forum , similar to Queen Square , which was never completed . Wood designed the facade , of Bath stone , after which a variety of builders completed the work with different interiors and rear elevations . Many of the buildings are now hotels and shops whilst some remain as private residences .

North Parade Bridge was built almost 100 years later in 1836 by William Tierney Clark . His original bridge was made of cast iron on stone abutments , with lodges and staircases . This was rebuilt in 1936 completely in stone . Many of the buildings in South Parade are now hotels and restaurants whilst some remain as private residences . The area which Wood envisaged as an area of sunken gardens matching the houses is now a car park .

On the southern side of the road is the Roman Catholic St John 's Church , which was designed and built between 1861 and 1863 by Charles Francis Hansom who added the 222 @-@ foot (68 m) spire in 1867 .

The heart of the Georgian city were Wood 's Assembly Rooms , and the Pump Room , which , together with its associated Lower Assembly Rooms , was designed by Thomas Baldwin , a local builder responsible for many other buildings in the city , including the terraces in Argyle Street , the Guildhall , The Cross Bath , Widcombe Crescent and Royal Baths Treatment Centre in Bath Street .

The Grand Pump Room itself includes a North Colonnade of 9 bays , with unfluted Ionic columns . The South Colonnade is similar but had an upper floor added in the late 19th century .

The colonnades and side wall of the Pump Room have a facade on Stall Street . Baldwin rose rapidly , becoming a leader in Bath 's architectural history . Great Pulteney Street , where Baldwin eventually lived , is another of his works : this wide boulevard , constructed c . 1789 and over 1 @, @ 000 feet (305 m) long and 100 feet (30 m) wide , leading from Laura Place is lined on both sides by Georgian terraces .

Around 1770 the neoclassical architect Robert Adam designed Pulteney Bridge , a three @-@ arched bridge spanning the Avon . He used as his prototype an original , but unused , design by

Andrea Palladio for the Rialto Bridge in Venice . Thus , Pulteney Bridge became not just a means of crossing the river , but also a shopping arcade . Along with the Rialto Bridge , is one of the very few surviving bridges in Europe to serve this dual purpose . It has been substantially altered since it was built . The bridge was named after Frances and William Pulteney , the owners of the Bathwick estate for which the bridge provided a link to the rest of Bath .

At the end of Great Pulteney Street is the Holburne Museum of Art , which was originally designed as the Sydney Hotel and was built by Charles Harcourt Masters in 1795 ? 6 . It stands on Sydney Place and within the Sydney Pleasure Gardens which stretch from the road to the Kennet and Avon Canal . Next to the church of St Mary the Virgin is Bathwick Hill which leads up to Claverton Down , including Claverton Manor which was built in the 1820s and is now home to the American Museum in Britain and the University of Bath .

The early 18th century saw Bath acquire its first purpose @-@ built theatre , the Theatre Royal , along with the Grand Pump Room attached to the Roman Baths and assembly rooms . Master of Ceremonies Beau Nash , who presided over the city 's social life from 1705 until his death in 1761 , drew up a code of behaviour for public entertainments . The population of the city had reached 40 @,@ 020 by the time of the 1801 census , making it one of the largest cities in Britain , which was expanding up the surrounding hills .

William Thomas Beckford bought a house in Lansdown Crescent in 1822 , eventually buying a further two houses in the crescent to form his residence . Having acquired all the land between his home and the top of Lansdown Hill , north of the city centre , he created a garden over half a mile in length and built Beckford 's Tower at the top .

To the west Partis College was built in the Newbridge area as a large block of almshouses between 1825 and 1827 . It was founded by Ann and Fletcher Partis for women " who had been left in reduced circumstances " , and still provides accommodation , in 30 terraced houses set around three sides of a quadrangle , for women , aged over 50 in membership of the Church of England . In 1862 , George Gilbert Scott redesigned the original chapel , which had been built by Goodrich .

= = Victorian = =

In the early 19th century the romantic medieval gothic style appeared as a backlash to the symmetry of Palladianism which brought certain changes to the city 's appearance . Many of the new churches , for example , were built in the gothic style as were a number of new villas . Most of the new civic and retail buildings however continued to be designed in the classical mode but along much more ornamented and elaborate lines than their 18th century predecessors . However virtually all the new buildings were constructed using the local bath stone so the city continued to have a cohesive look . By the middle of the 19th century , as a result of new technology , construction was able to develop incorporating steel as a building component .

In 1810 the Kennet and Avon Canal opened linking the River Avon at Bath to Reading . Bath Locks mark the divergence of the River Avon and the canal , 656 yards (600 m) south of Pulteney Bridge . Alongside the bottom lock are a side pound and a pumping station that pumps water up the locks to replace that used each time the lock is opened .

The next stage of Bath Deep Lock is numbered 8 / 9 as two locks were combined when the canal was restored in 1976 . The new chamber has a depth of 19 feet 5 inches (5 @.@ 92 m) , making it Britain 's deepest canal lock . Just above the ' deep lock ' is an area of water enabling the lock to refill and above this is Wash House Lock , followed by Abbey View Lock , by which there is another pumping station and , in quick succession , Pultney Lock and Bath Top Lock .

Above the top lock the canal passes through Sydney Gardens including two short tunnels and under two cast iron footbridges dating from 1800 . Cleveland tunnel is 173 feet (53 m) long and runs under Cleveland House , the former headquarters of the Kennet and Avon Canal Company . A trap @-@ door in the tunnel roof was used to pass paperwork between clerks above and barges below .

Many of the bridges over the canal are also listed buildings .

Victoria Bridge which was built in 1836 across the River Avon , was an important early example of a

cable @-@ stayed bridge .

As the size of the city and numbers of visitors grew new facilities opened . Cleveland Pools in Hampton Row , is a semi @-@ circular lido built , by John Pinch the elder , around 1814 . It is believed to be the oldest surviving public outdoor swimming pools in England .

The Corridor is one of the world 's earliest retail arcades , designed by architect Henry Goodridge and built in 1825 , with a glass roof . The High Street end has a Doric colonnade . Each end has marble columns . A musicians gallery , with a wrought iron balustrade and gilt lions heads and garlands , is in the centre of the arcade . Cleveland Bridge was built in 1826 by William Hazledine with Henry Goodridge as the architect .

St Michael 's Church was rebuilt between 1835 and 1837 and St. Stephen 's Church built in Walcot. by James Wilson , between 1840 and 1845 . The Bear Flat area south of the city centre was started by the Georgians but the main estate of Poets ' Corner is late Victorian and Edwardian .

The opening of the Great Western Railway in 1841 removed much of the canal 's traffic , and in 1852 the railway company took over its running . Bath Spa railway station is the principal railway station in Bath . It was built in 1840 by Brunel . It is in an asymmetrical Tudor style with curving gables , and lies on the north bank of the Avon , with the line swerving elegantly across from the southern bank to the station and then back again .

Green Park railway station opened in 1870 as the terminus of Midland Railway 's Mangotsfield and Bath Branch Line . For some of its life , it was known as Bath Queen Square . It includes a vaulted glass roof in a single @-@ span wrought iron arch structure . Parts of the distinctive glass roof were damaged during bombing raids in April 1942 , and the glazing was not re @-@ instated during railway usage after the war . Following the Beeching Report , passenger trains ceased from 1966 and the last goods train ran in 1971 . In the 1980s the rail approaches to the station were redeveloped as a major supermarket opened in December 1982 , and the station itself is used as a pedestrian passageway to and from the city ; there are a number of small shop units in the former station buildings .

The Victoria Art Gallery , a free public art museum and library was built between the Guildhall and Pulteney Bridge . It was designed by John McKean Brydon . The exterior of the building includes a statue of Queen Victoria , by A. C. Lucchesi , and friezes of classical figures by G. A. Lawson .

= = Twentieth century = =

The Empire Hotel was built in 1901 on Orange Grove close to both Bath Abbey and Pulteney Bridge .

In the 1920s and 1930s Bath 's architectural traditions combined with an art deco style in buildings such as The Forum which opened as a 2 @,@ 000 @-@ seat cinema in 1934 , and has since been converted into a church and concert venue . The Royal United Hospital opened in the Weston suburb , about 1 @.@ 5 miles (2 @.@ 4 km) from the city centre in 1932 .

During World War II , between the evening of 25 April and the early morning of 27 April 1942 , Bath suffered three air raids in reprisal for RAF raids on the German cities of Lübeck and Rostock , part of the Luftwaffe campaign popularly known as the Baedeker Blitz . Over 400 people were killed , and more than 19 @,@ 000 buildings were damaged or destroyed . Houses in the Royal Crescent , Circus and Paragon were burnt out along with the Assembly Rooms , while part of the south side of Queen Square was destroyed .

A postwar review of inadequate housing led to the clearance and redevelopment of large areas of the city in a postwar style , often at variance with the Georgian style of the city . In the 1950s the nearby villages of Combe Down , Twerton and Weston were incorporated into Bath to enable the development of further housing , much of it council housing such as the Whiteway estate .

In the 1970s and 1980s it was recognised that conservation of historic buildings was inadequate , leading to more care and reuse of buildings and open spaces . In 1987 the city was selected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site , recognising its international cultural significance .

In the 1960s and early 1970s the way in which some parts of Bath were redeveloped , resulting in the loss of some 18th- and 19th @-@ century buildings , led to a popular campaign to change the

way the city was developing , which drew strength from the publication of Adam Fergusson 's The Sack of Bath . Since 2000 , developments have included the Bath Spa , SouthGate , and the Bath Western Riverside project .

= = 21st century = =

Controversy has continued in recent years with the demolition of the 1930s Churchill House , a neo @-@ Georgian municipal building originally housing the Electricity Board , to make way for the new Bath Bus Station . This was part of the Southgate redevelopment begun in 2007 in which the central 1960s shopping precinct , bus station , and multi @-@ story carpark were demolished and replaced with a new area of mock @-@ Georgian shopping streets . As a result of the changes the city 's status as a World Heritage Site was reviewed by UNESCO in 2009 . The decision was made to let Bath keep its status , but UNESCO has asked to be consulted on future phases of the Riverside development , saying that the density and volume of buildings in the second and third phases of the development need to be reconsidered . It also says that Bath must do more to attract world @-@ class architecture to any new developments .