

ABOUT ME WILLIAM KENT

IMAGE GALLERY CONTACT ME

William Kent
Architect, Furniture Designer, Painter and Garden Designer

About Me

After studying Archaeology at Flinders University and arriving in the United Kingdom in 1996, I began visiting important archaeological and historical sites in and around London.

One of the first I found was Chiswick House and gardens in west London. Chiswick House was built by Lord Burlington and decorated by the painter William Kent. After he had painted some ceilings in British Art, because he is a *rubbish* painter. He can't really paint people very well, he's slapdash and just generally a bit crap.

William Kent then reappeared when I started working at Kensington Palace. Although he was not really had painting skills, he was good at marketing and got lots of important commissions, including commissions to paint some of the ceilings at Kensington Palace. His work is still pretty bad, but at least it's a long way away. He is much better at gardens.

William Kent

William Kent (1685 – 1748) was the leading architect and designer of early Georgian Britain.

Kent's career began as a sign and coach painter who was encouraged to study art, design and architecture by his employer. A group of Yorkshire gentlemen sent Kent for a period of study in Rome, and he set sail on 22 July 1712. Kent arrived in Rome on 15 October. By 18 November he was in Florence, staying there until April 1710 before finally setting off for Rome.

In 1713 he was awarded the second medal in the second class for painting in the annual competition run by the Accademia di San Luca for his painting of A Miracle of S. Andrea Avellino. He also met several important figures including Thomas Coke, later 1st Earl of Leicester, whose son Horace described Kent as below mediocrity as a painter, a restorer of science as an architect and the father of modern gardening and inventor of an art.

- Chiesa di San Giuliano del Flaminio, painted ceiling (c.1717) York Minster, marble pavement (1731–33)
- Hampton Court Palace, gateway in Clock Court and rooms for the Duke of Cumberland, (1722)
- Kensington Palace, interior, Cupola Room and several murals and painted ceilings (1733–35)
- former Treasury building Whitehall, (1733 – 37)
- St. James Palace, the library (1736 – 37), demolished
- Westminster Hall, Gothic screen enclosing law courts (1736 – 37), demolished c.1825
- York Minster, Gothic pulpit and choir furniture (1741), removed
- Gloucester Cathedral, Gothic choir-screen (1741), removed 1820
- Horse Guards, (1750–59)

Image Gallery

In country house building, major commissions for Kent were designing the interiors of Houghton Hall (c.1725–35), recently built by Colen Campbell for Sir Robert Walpole, but at Holkham Hall the most complete embodiment of Palladian ideals is still to be found; there Kent collaborated with Thomas Coke, the other "architect earl", and had for an assistant Matthew Brettingham, whose own architecture would carry Palladian ideals into the next generation. Walpole's son Horace described Kent as below mediocrity as a painter, a restorer of science as an architect and the father of modern gardening and inventor of an art.

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