

Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin (1812-1852)

Biography

Influences
and Built Works

Purposes

Contrasts

True Principles of Pointed
or
Christian Architecture

Influence/Criticism



A.W.N Pugin: Biography

Father: Charles Pugin, 1769-1832

immigrates from France

desired a revival of Gothic Architecture

Written Work: *Specimens of Gothic Architecture*

Pugin is educated by his father

studies and illustrates Gothic Cathedrals

Late 1820s: Pugin designs Gothic Furniture

Early 1830s: After the death of his Father, Pugin begins his own practice,

marries, and experiences some joys/hardships

Although at first successful, his architecture supply shop goes out of business

First wife dies, but remarries to have six kids

jailed for not paying rent

Mid 1830s: Converts to Catholicism, as inspired by ancient churches

Mid 1830s: Works on Parliament buildings in London

Mid 1830s and beyond: Murray of London, George Coppinger, Ashlin of Dublin, and J. Bethune of Ghen are some partnerships he directs

Designs mainly schools, Catholic Churches, and mansions in the Gothic Revival

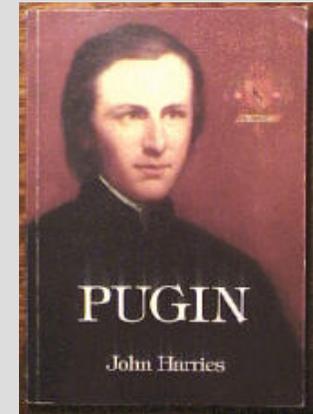
Late 1830s-1840s: Teaches at Oscott College, lectures, writes and researches structural design

Written Works: *Contrasts*, 1836 and *True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture*, 1841

1851: Exhibits a Medieval Court at the Great Exhibition located in the Crystal Palace

1852: Mental collapse causes his sudden death

1859: Church of Notre Dame in Dadizele, Belgium inspires Pope Pius IX grant him Knight status



Influences and Built Works

INFLUENCES:

Gothic Revival in 1700s

Industrial Revolution in 1800s

mass production/mechanization

results in social problems, greed, wealth disparities

Inspired to write Contrasts by

1. Nodier: Drawings of romantic French Gothic ruins and the present day's turmoil
2. Sir Thomas Moore: Questions Reformation
3. Palgrave: Novel Truths and Fictions of the Middle Ages
4. Charles Pugin

SELECT BUILT WORKS:



St. Augustine's Grange
1843, Residential



St. Chad's
1839, Cathedral



St. George's Cathedral
1839, Cathedral

Purposes for Writing

- 1. To discard the current style, the decaying Classical architecture**
 - Classical architecture based on Pagan principles
 - As a Christian nation, England should use architecture that expresses Christian principles
- 2. To advocate a style change to Gothic Architecture, which is superior to Classical, and a modification in a building's design**
 - Pure architecture is structurally simple
 - functional and structural aspects
- 3. To explain how there is a link between moral society and the type of buildings created**
 - call for a renewal of society's Christian faith to renew architectural styles
- 4. By advocating a change in building techniques to Gothic, this will help make architecture the "supreme art" and restore fame to the architecture Profession.**

Audience:

Friends and Influential leaders, such as Earl of Shrewsbury Chapel

Contrasts, or a Parallel between the Noble Edifices of the Middle Ages and Corresponding Buildings of the Present Day showing the Present Decay of Taste

Preface:

1. Catholicism produced the highest state of architectural excellence in Middle Ages
2. Revitalization of Pagan and Protestant Principles produced a corroded state of faith in 15th century, and people prefer glamorous architecture of ancient paganism over that of Christian principles
3. The principle aim of this treatise is to compare the flourishing Catholic excellence with the despair of modern times, which result from deterioration of true Catholic principles and practice

Chapter 1: On the Feelings which produced the Great Edifices of the Middle Ages

1. Principle: *Architectural beauty*: the design is appropriate for its intended purpose (includes propriety and fitness)
 - a. Ornament enhances building's construction by details serving a meaning or purpose
 - b. Propriety- "proper quality of being proper for the function housed"
2. Christian architecture should express symbolism of the faith to fulfill the purpose of teaching the community about Christian practices.

Chapter 1: On the Feelings which produced the Great Edifices of the Middle Ages

3. Fundamentals of Christian Architecture

a. Belief: Our Lord sacrificed himself on the cross to redeem man

- Translates into: cross plan for church, cross caps a spire and gable, seal of faith on altar furniture

b. Holy Trinity, "three equal persons in one God"

- arch arrangement, tracery, dividing the buildings

c. "Resurrection of the dead"

- vertical lines ascend to heaven, the pointed arch permits larger height with the same width

5. Effects of Christian Architecture

6. The creators of the architecture and art for a church felt heartfelt zeal and devotion for their religion and its practices

Chapter 2: On the Revived Pagan Principles

1. In the modern times, Christians use Pagan precedents for their churches, whereas in the Middle Ages they used Christian precedents
2. Discusses a series of contrasts: Art and sculpture motivated by popularity or use of pagan symbols vs. Middle Age's humble piety, Modern Buckingham Palace vs. Old Palace of Westminster, Dutch and French Timber Houses, Holy forms are disguised with Pagan symbolism, Altar Contrast

Chapter 3: Of the Protestant Principle and Pillage and Destruction of the Church under Henry the Eight

1. King Henry wants power over English Church and to break from Apostolic Tradition
2. Before: Church land is dedicated to God and caring for his people by providing hospitals, almshouses, for poor, teach youth, and monasteries study art/science
3. After King takes over: King usurps Church's power to use the former church lands for his own purposes, thereby abolishing many church land uses and destroying former church property
4. Result: Unity under the apostolic tradition was destroyed

Chapter 4: On the Ravages and Destruction of the Churches Under Edward VI, and After the Final Establishment of the New Opinions of the Act of Parliament

1. The government uses Edward VI, who is 9 years old, as a tool to use church property and ornament to maintain their power
2. New Protestant Churches are based on economy, not propriety and fitness
3. Use old buildings for the new service, and block the nave with pews, put screens, convert chapels into corporation pews, and enclose parts of the church

Chapter 5: On the Present Degraded State of Ecclesiastical Buildings

1. What is the current state of ancient Ecclesiastical architecture after 300 years of neglect?
 - a. *Cathedrals in Old days:*
 - Grand,
 - specific area houses a different function
 - Decoration & function linked
 - b. *Cathedrals Now:*
 - People don't use the church space for functions and holy purpose, such as prayer
 - Keep costs low, rent pews to make money,
 - Ignore propriety and fitness,
 - do not manifest that they house a sacred activity

Conclusion: Reflections on the Probable State of the English Church if the Country remained in Communion with the Catholic Church

1. Even if England remained Catholic, Pugin thinks the same fate would happen to churches because of a tendency towards Paganism for the last three centuries all over Europe.
2. If the Pointed Architecture style is revived without a heartfelt change and awareness of meaning, then the style is a disguise
3. Elements of Pointed for a revival: pillars, arches, windows, screens, stone altar, chapels, etc.

True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture

Background:

1. Expresses a functionalist view, influenced by 18th century French architects
2. Revive the hand crafted nature in a time of industrial revolution

True Principles:

1. Purpose: Define pointed architecture principles as a measure of architecture excellence.
2. Two Rules for Design
 - a. All features contribute to convenience, propriety, or construction
 - b. Ornament should enhance the construction
3. Relate to Climate and Materials
4. Stone, timber, and metal are three main types of construction
 - a. Stone
 - Pillars, arches, vaults, and tracery are need to be executed in stone
 - Greeks use wooden techniques for building in stone, so bad example
 - Examples: flying buttresses, rib vaulting, roofs and moldings
 - b. Metal
 - Design must be suited to the material
 - Hinges, locks, bolts, nails: Not only decorative by covering a large portion of the c durable than modern hinges
 - c. Timber
 - Beams support the weight of the roof and provide an opportunity for structural carving
 - Gables: Barge boards project over the ends to create shelter near the front
 - Paneling: Carvings on panels. Interstitial spaces provide for hangings of tap
5. Decoration should relate to Propriety
 - a. Propriety's definition: the purpose of the object should govern both the internal and external appearance
 - b. buildings erected for God are eternal and have a higher ranking on the scale of propriety
 - Human as a means of proportion

True Principles:

6. Propriety as related to
 - a. Greek architecture unable to be used by Christians with propriety
 - Christians within church, not outside; no windows in Greek temples, no bell towers, flat roofs in Greece because of mild climate, but England has snow
 - b. Propriety as related to Collegiate architecture
 - Chimney needs to be in the front of chapel to give extra space, buttress the wall, reduce risk of fire and create a distinguishing character
 - c. Propriety as related to Domestic and Civil Architecture
 - Do not imitate Italian classical styles because their climate is opposite of England
 - d. Propriety as related to Scale and Proportion of Buildings
 - Soaring light needed in churches
 - Details magnified in classical architecture, but multiplied in Pointed, so the scale appears proper
7. Conclusion: Allow Pointed Architecture , along with Catholic feelings, to overcome Paganism

Criticism and influence:

1. Religious revival ideas divert attention from the principle that says all features should enhance convenience, and propriety
2. Ideas are precursor to Arts and Crafts movement
 - a. discusses problems with industrial revolution and corroding of society, but do not suggest this
 - b. Secularization of Gothic Revival is what Morris proposes
3. Gothic Revival vs. Quest for Design Principles
 - a. Giedon comments that in England between 1845-1860, men were looking for design to create reform
 - b. Architects at the time were unable to “proffer a new artistic vision”, but had solutions
 - c. theorizes function as a protest about the Industrial Revolution’s abuses

References

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Pugin. A.W.N. Contrasts and True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture. Reading : Spire Books in association with the Pugin Society, 2003.

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Images:

Portraits:

<http://www.pugin.com/>

Built Works:

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http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/9/9f/St_Chad%27s_Cathedral%2C_Birmingham.jpg/180px-St_Chad%27s_Cathedral%2C_Birmingham.jpg

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/56/St_georges_roman_catholic_cathedral_southwark.jpg/180px-St_georges_roman_catholic_cathedral_southwark.jpg

Contrasts Images:

<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/>