

2020-10-21 - Lecture 24

14.1 *The Picturesque* :: Informal, Exotic, Sublime

- 1) **English Gardens of the 18th Century**
 - **Pastoral landscapes featured** ::
 - Irregularity
 - Asymmetry
 - Surprise (delight)
 - Rare plantings
 - Exotic cultures
 - Follies
 - Artificial Ruins
 - Very often English Gardens supplemented a **Palladian** great house
- 2) **The Picturesque**
 - **Claude Lorrain** (1600-1682)
 - French painter working mostly in Italy. Contrived, or imagined landscapes that included great atmospheric distance, distant or foreground ruins, idyllic scenes with figures.
 - Very collectible paintings, brought back to England
 - Seen by British and others on the **Grand Tour** to the Italian sites and ruins
- 3) **The Exotic**
 - Garden Follies included Chinese, Persian, Roman, Greek, etc.
 - Purpose was to *delight visitors* in a designed natural setting
 - Different, curious, exotic
 - William Chambers' **Kew Gardens** in London, **1764**
- 4) **The Sublime**
 - Artistic / Philosophical concept of nature *so beautiful and so raw* that nature had the potential to be scary, frightening, terrible, dangerous
 - An **extreme representation of nature**
 - English Landscape designers tried to replicate this sensation in contrived, artificial, designed settings
 - **Stourhead Gardens** (south of Bath) about **1740-1770**
 - Architect: **Henry Flitcroft**
- 5) **Stowe House and Gardens** in Buckingham (north of London)
 - **1680s - 1780s**
 - Architects and Landscape Architects on Stowe ::
 - **John Vanbrugh** (see Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard)
 - **William Kent** (worked with Lord Burlington)
 - **James Gibbs** (St. Martin's in the Field)
 - **Capability Brown** - top Landscape Architect of the time
 - Except for the crisply articulated Palladian manor house, Stowe is a large estate of planned views, serendipitous discoveries, pastoral landscapes, garden follies, pathways with visual connection but require continuation on the pathway before arriving... etc...
 - Palladian Bridge
 - Gothic Temple
 - Lord Cobham's Pillar
 - Rotunda
- 6) **The French** :: French borrow the style of the English Garden
 - **Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)**
 - Tied together philosophical concepts of nature and natural gardens with theory of Natural Man, Natural Right
 - Rousseau was foundational to the **Romantic Movement** (which followed **Enlightenment**) and was an intellectual rebuttal to the science

of the Enlightenment as a return to nature, art, poetry and intellectual potential.

- **Column House** at the **Desert du Retz** (near Paris) 1770s
 - Owner **Racine de Monville** most likely designed the many follies himself
- **Hameau de la Reine - Marie Antoinette's** fake milk-maid village at Versailles for role-playing milk-maid and return to rustic, simple life
- **Parc Monceau**
- **Bagatelle**

- 7) From the ***Picturesque Landscape to Picturesque Architecture***
- Prelude to the **Gothic Revival** which comes at the end of the 18th century
 - **Horace Walpole** designs **Strawberry Hill (1749-1779)**
 - Coins term *serendipity*
 - Assisted by **Robert Adam** architect
 - Gothic features the house, as if from a cathedral, but scaled for a country house, very asymmetrical, picturesque, rambling
 - **William Beckford** design **Fonthill Abbey (1795)**
 - Architect :: James Wyatt
 - Picturesque, rambling, asymmetrical, dramatic country house with Gothic detailing and elements but at a residential scale
 - Structurally not very stable. Tower collapsed.
- 8) From the ***Picturesque Architecture to Picturesque Urbanism***
- Bath, England (about 120 miles west of London, very near Bristol)
 - Site of ancient Roman Thermal Bath
 - **Queen Square very urban**, like Place des Vosges :: **Circus much less urban and more suburban** :: **Royal Crescent very much suburban**, introducing landscape into residential space :: **Lansdown Crescent very suburban**

 - The **Queen Square at Bath (1730)**
 - **John Wood the Elder** (1704-1754)
 - The **Circus at Bath (1754)**
 - **John Wood the Elder** (1704-1754)
 - The **Royal Crescent at Bath (1767)**
 - **John Wood the Younger** (1728-1782)
 - **Lansdown Crescent at Bath (1789)**
 - **John Palmer** (1738-1817)
- 9) **Regent Street** in London (1810)
- Glamorous **Royal Mile** designed for Prince Regent George IV
 - **John Nash (1752-1835)**
 - Picturesque, shifting, rambling, large commercial street from St. James Park to Regents Park with curves, visual sight lines, discovered monuments and picturesque buildings, so that the **sequence of the pathway** becomes a path of discovery and delight
- 10) **Peak into the future**
- The Japanese aesthetic of the **Shoin Palace** type and garden plus concepts of the organic and the picturesque presage the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright which emerges 1890s-1900s