



Unit of work
John Douglas – local study of architect

Year group
6

Prior learning

- Humanities –local study of buildings of Chester
- Trip to see the buildings
- Knowledge of architecture
- Arabesque patterning (Y5)

National Curriculum

- to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including **drawing**.
- about great artists, **architects** and designers in history.

Vocabulary and definitions

Word	Definition
Architecture	Architecture is the science of the design of structures or buildings such as houses, places of worship, and office buildings.
Architect	An architect is a person who designs buildings and prepares plans to give to a builder. What he or she designs is called architecture. Architects make drawings with pens, pencils, and computers, and this is also called drafting.
Diapering	Diaper is any of a wide range of decorative patterns used in a variety of works of art, such as stained glass, heraldic shields, architecture, and silverwork.
Gothic revival	Gothic Revival architecture is architecture that has been made to look as if it is from Medieval times, but is really much newer.
Gothic style	Gothic styled buildings have features that are like real Gothic buildings. They often have: Pointed arches round the doors and windows, Arched stoned roofs called "vaults", Towers and sometimes also spires on top of towers, Many stone-carvings around the doors and fireplaces, Stained glass windows.
Vernacular architecture	Vernacular architecture is architecture characterised by the use of local materials and knowledge, usually without the supervision of professional architects.
Joinery	The wooden components of a building, such as stairs, doors, and door and window frames, viewed collectively.
Wood carvings	The art of fashioning or ornamenting objects of wood by cutting with a sharp handheld implement.
Plastering	Plaster or mortar applied over part of a building, typically with an ornamental pattern.

Knowledge/ Skills



John Douglas (11 April 1830 – 23 May 1911) was an English architect who designed over 500 buildings in Cheshire, North Wales, and northwest England, in particular in the estate of Eaton Hall. He was trained in Lancaster and practised throughout his career from an office in Chester. Initially he ran the practice on his own, but from 1884 until two years before his death he worked in partnerships with two of his former assistants.

Douglas's output included new churches, restoring and renovating existing churches, church furnishings, new houses and alterations to existing houses, and a variety of other buildings, including shops, banks, offices, schools, memorials and public buildings. His architectural styles were eclectic. Douglas worked during the period of the Gothic Revival, and many of his works incorporate elements of the English Gothic style. He was also influenced by architectural styles from the mainland of Europe and included elements of French, German and Dutch architecture.

However, he is probably best remembered for his incorporation of **vernacular elements** in his buildings, in particular half-timbering, influenced by the black-and-white revival in Chester. Other vernacular elements he incorporated include tile-hanging, pargeting, and the use of decorative brick in **diapering** ([link to arabesque from Y5](#)) and the design of tall chimney stacks. Of particular importance is Douglas's use of joinery and highly detailed wood carving.

Pictures and links

