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978-1-108-00241-7 - Architecture in Cambridge: Examples of Architectural Styles
from Saxon to Modern Times

David Theodore Fyfe

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The city of Cambridge received its royal charter in 1201, having already been home to Britons, Romans and Anglo-Saxons for many centuries. Cambridge University was founded soon afterwards and celebrates its octocentenary in 2009. This series explores the history and influence of Cambridge as a centre of science, learning, and discovery, its contributions to national and global politics and culture, and its inevitable controversies and scandals.

Architecture in Cambridge

First published in 1942, Theodore Fyfe's book on Cambridge architecture was written to 'enable the visitor to Cambridge to realise the value of the Town and University for illustrating the sequence of styles in English architecture'. Including over fifty drawings of both famous and lesser-known Cambridge architectural sights, and a glossary giving clear definitions of technical architectural terms, the book remains a valuable guide for the modern visitor. The Introduction outlines the principal English architectural styles, from Romanesque to Gothic to Renaissance, the periods during which they flourished, and their significant characteristics. Fyfe then analyses over thirty selected Cambridge examples in detail, including a description of the Perpendicular Gothic style as exemplified on a grand scale by the world-famous King's College Chapel – 'the glory of Cambridge'.

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The 'Gate of Virtue', Gonville and Caius College; west side

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*Examples of English architectural styles
from Saxon to Modern times*

by

THEODORE FYFE

M.A., F.R.I.B.A.

*Sometime Lecturer in Architecture and
Director of the School of Architecture
in the University of Cambridge*

with an Introduction and fifty-four illustrations



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To the Memory of

PROFESSOR SIR ALBERT C. SEWARD

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

STYLES IN ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE	<i>pages</i> 3, 4
ROMANESQUE	5, 6
GOTHIC	7–13
THE DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GOTHIC PHASES IN ENGLAND	8–13
TUDOR ARCHITECTURE AND THE INTRODUC- TION OF RENAISSANCE	13–20
DUTCH AND FLEMISH INFLUENCES	18–20
RENAISSANCE	20–24
IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL AND DOMESTIC BUILDINGS	21, 22
ORDERS	22
THE RECTILINEAR AND HORIZONTAL CHARACTER OF RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE	23, 24
CARVING, ORNAMENT AND DECORATION	24–35
<i>Saxon Romanesque</i>	
<i>Norman Romanesque</i>	
<i>Early English Gothic</i>	
<i>Fourteenth-Century Gothic</i>	
<i>Fifteenth-Century ('Perpendicular') Gothic, Tudor and Early Renaissance</i>	
<i>Full Renaissance</i>	
<i>Plasterwork</i>	
<i>Paint</i>	

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00241-7 - Architecture in Cambridge: Examples of Architectural Styles
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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND AFTER	36–39
THE GOTHIC REVIVAL AND THE CLASSIC REVIVAL	37–39
THE LATER NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURIES	39
NOTES TO INTRODUCTION	40, 41

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00241-7 - Architecture in Cambridge: Examples of Architectural Styles
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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PLATES AND DESCRIPTIONS

Frontispiece. The 'Gate of Virtue', Gonville and Caius College;
west side. (*Immature Renaissance*)

Saxon Romanesque

- I. St Benedict's Church, Tower Arch *pages* 44, 45

Norman Romanesque

- II. Sturbridge Chapel, the Chancel Arch 46, 47
III. Sturbridge Chapel, Window on South Side 48, 49

Early English Gothic

- IV. Jesus College, the Chapel 50, 51

Decorated Gothic

- V. Church of St Mary the Less, Interior, looking East 52, 53
VI. Corpus Christi College, the Old Court 54, 55

Perpendicular Gothic and Tudor

- VII. St Botolph's Church, from South-East 56, 57
VIII. King's College, the Chapel, South Side 58, 59
IX. Pembroke College, Entrance Gateway 60, 61
X. Queens' College, Cloister Court, West Range 62, 63
XI. Jesus College, Entrance Gateway 64, 65
XII. St John's College, First Court, West Range 66, 67
XIII. Trinity College, Great Court from the Screens 68, 69

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00241-7 - Architecture in Cambridge: Examples of Architectural Styles
from Saxon to Modern Times

David Theodore Fyfe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Immature Renaissance*

- | | |
|---|--------|
| XIV. Peterhouse, the Chapel, West Front | 70, 71 |
| XV. Clare College, from King's College Bridge | 72, 73 |
| XVI. Pembroke College, Ivy Court, South Side | 74, 75 |

Full Renaissance

- | | |
|---|--------|
| XVII. Pembroke College, Chapel Window | 76, 77 |
| XVIII. Emmanuel College, the Chapel | 78, 79 |
| XIX. St John's College, the Old Gates | 80, 81 |
| XX. Trinity College, the Library | 82, 83 |
| XXI. St Catharine's College, the Front | 84, 85 |
| XXII. St Catharine's College, Front to Queens' Lane | 86, 87 |
| XXIII. Christ's College, the Chapel | 88, 89 |
| XXIV. Emmanuel College, Westmoreland Building | 90, 91 |
| XXV. King's College, the Fellows' Building | 92, 93 |
| XXVI. The Senate House | 94, 95 |

Late Renaissance

- | | |
|--|--------|
| XXVII. The Old Schools, Part of the East Front | 96, 97 |
| XXVIII. Christ's College, the Master's Lodge | 98, 99 |

Gothic Revival

- | | |
|---|----------|
| XXIX. Corpus Christi College, the Front | 100, 101 |
|---|----------|

Classic Revival

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| XXX. The Fitzwilliam Museum | 102, 103 |
|-----------------------------|----------|

Modern (20th Century)

- | | |
|---|----------|
| XXXI. Clare College, the Memorial Court | 104, 105 |
|---|----------|

GLOSSARY

INDEX

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00241-7 - Architecture in Cambridge: Examples of Architectural Styles
from Saxon to Modern Times

David Theodore Fyfe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

FIGURES IN THE TEXT

King's College Chapel and Peterhouse wall, from Coe Fen

	<i>page</i>
Fig. 1. Sturbridge Chapel: details	6
„ 2. 'The Abbey Church': window head	7
„ 3. St Mary the Less: window heads	9
„ 4. St Mary the Less: window head	10
„ 5. Queens' College: window	11
„ 6. St Mary the Great: door head	12
„ 7. Trinity Hall: window head	13
„ 8. Trinity College Hall: bay window details	13
„ 9. Jesus College Chapel: details	14
„ 10. Christ's College, Fellows' Building: window	15
„ 11. Clare College: door and window details	16
„ 12. Pembroke College: finial of dormer window	18
„ 13. St John's College: gable	19
„ 14. Trinity Hall: gable	19
„ 15. Jesus College: capital in Cloister	26
„ 16. St Mary the Great: wall tomb, detail	27
„ 17. St Mary the Great: wall tomb, detail	28
„ 18. Queens' College, President's Lodge: wood bracket	30
„ 19. Ely Cathedral, Bishop West's Chapel: ceiling panel	31
„ 20. Caius College, 'Gate of Honour': detail	32
„ 21. Downing College: south-west pavilion	38

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978-1-108-00241-7 - Architecture in Cambridge: Examples of Architectural Styles
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[More information](#)

P R E F A C E

This book may enable the architecturally-minded visitor to Cambridge—who has more leisure than can be afforded in a brief inspection—to realise the value of the Town and University for illustrating the sequence of styles in English architecture; for which purpose, the series of thirty-one Plates and Descriptions of subjects from Cambridge has been augmented by an Introduction dealing with England as a whole. In this, again, subjects from Cambridge have been used for the most part, though no excuse should be required for the frequent reference to Ely Cathedral; and only by its inclusion with Cambridge can Gothic architecture, as a whole, be adequately explained.

The examples have been selected as typical of the more important aspects of architectural *style*, without consideration of the inclusion of all the Colleges; the only explanation that need be offered for the omission of Magdalene and Sidney Sussex. A more solid objection might be maintained to the omission of one of the timber-framed domestic buildings in the Town; but these buildings show rather a phase of construction than of style, belonging to a type which was widely prevalent and unvarying in essentials.

There have been so many books on Cambridge that I may, perhaps, be excused for not mentioning any of them except Willis and Clark's great work, and the late J. W. Clark's *A Concise Guide to the Town and University of Cambridge*, now in its eleventh edition; to these, and to the former in particular, I have been much indebted. The present work was begun many years ago and has been laid aside more than once, but it has been a labour of love and the illustrations,

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[More information](#)

with their many deficiencies, were all drawn on the spot by myself. I have inscribed it to the Memory of the late Sir Albert Seward, who, when he was Master of Downing, was actually responsible for its inception and general form. Shortly before his death, he accepted its dedication to himself. In the early stages of production, without his enthusiasm for its main purpose, the book might never have been realised.

I wish to thank Mr Hugh Easton for encouragement and advice about the illustrations; Dr Ellis Minns for information about Pembroke College; Mr W. Parker Dyson for reading through the Introduction; and my son-in-law, Captain Michael Gillilan, for reading through the Descriptions of the Plates. In addition, I wish to express my deep indebtedness to the Staff of the Cambridge University Press; particularly to Mr W. Lewis, the University Printer.

THEODORE FYFE

Longstowe Hall, Cambridgeshire

January, 1942