

The Basic
Principles of
Good Architecture

Good architecture is all about, symmetry, balance, proportion, with everything built to within its rightful and proper scale, along well laid out street-plans. It is well structured, often made up of orderly spaced apart, continuous rows of regimented vertical shapes and to explain further there are a few examples given below. It's also about the communities that live in them, structures that are easy on the eye and not least of all with some semblance of beauty. A new building should be inspirational, and where that's not possible it should at least be unobtrusive, something today's developers so often fail with on both counts.



A row of cottages with a continuous row of regimented vertical doors and windows with each one sitting within its own bay. Stone quoins on the corners, stone surrounds around each aperture and a complete row of chimney stacks and all doors the same colour.



A viaduct consisting of a continuous regimented row of vertical columns and arches.



And again rows of vertical doors and windows each sitting within their own bays.

Other examples of continuous orderly rows are to be found everywhere, from the stately homes of the aristocracy to the more modest terraces, from the interior design of the Royal Albert Hall to Stonehenge. Principles incidentally that have held us in good stead for many thousands of years. Not only does it look good and characterful but it gives buildings integrity too. The bays contain the functioning features, such as windows or doorways, while the columns of brick or stonework in between affords them their strength. Apertures appearing outside a bay may compromise this, an example can be seen on the ground floor, to the right in the photograph above.

Modern architects however have seen fit to abandon these tried and tested principles, much to the detriment to anyone who has to look at them. New housing estates are thrown up and even where some individual designs might be half reasonable the general attitude still tends to be one of crudity.

Examples will be given in a later chapter.

To be continued...



The Portico

The entrance to a building, sitting on a plinth, always with an even number of columns, with an entablature and a pediment mounted on the top.