

The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art

**CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE & DECORATIVE ARTS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: BALLYFIN, DUBLIN & BEYOND**

November 7 – 13, 2018

Arranged by Classical Excursions



Ballyfin House

The great classical buildings of Ireland can be considered equal to anything comparable in Europe. Inspired by the architecture of Inigo Jones, who was the first to establish the Palladian style in 17th-century England, Ireland at the same time developed its own dramatic Palladian movement starting with the new façade for the country house, Castletown, designed by Alessandro Galilei in 1719. He provided details that reflected Palladio's villas in the Veneto, such as colonnaded connections that linked the main building to end pavilions.

The leading architect of Palladian country houses in Ireland was Sir Edward Lovett Pearce, who provided interior details at Castletown among other work. He developed a style that combined baroque inventiveness, movement and boldness with the somberness of the English Palladian style. The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art is pleased to announce that Castletown, Ballyfin House and Abby Leix and at least ten other outstanding Irish country houses will be included on this exclusive tour with several lectures on Irish architecture and the decorative arts by prominent Irish experts and specialists.



Kilruddery House

The excursion will be led by Lani Summerville of Classical Excursions, who has organized five previous tours of Ireland along with Mark Donnelly, a private art consultant and former Sotheby's agent. Robert O'Byrne, one of Ireland's best-known writers on architecture and design, as well as a board member of the Irish Georgian Society will also be joining us. Peter Lyden, President of The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, will be joining the tour as your special host.

The tour includes private lunches and dinners at historic homes, as well as a four-night stay at the five-star and historic Merrion Hotel, located in the heart of Dublin.



Townley Hall

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

*A two-night stay with exclusive use at **Ballyfin House**, County Laois, now a five-star luxury country hotel, built in the 1820s as a private estate by father/son architects Richard Morrison and William Vitruvius Morrison. The house is considered highly important in the realm of 19th-century Irish neo-classical architecture, famed, for example, for its elaborate Empire-style interiors. With nine years of meticulous restoration from the roof on down, the project served to highlight the wealth of traditional building skills still available in Ireland.

*A visit to **Castletown** in County Kildare, Ireland's first Palladian house to be erected with proper classical proportions and designed by a professional architect- Alessandro Galilei (1691-1737). This house is said to have inspired the White House.

*A private lunch and tour at **Abbey Leix**, designed by the fashionable James Wyatt and commenced in 1773. He also designed the plasterwork in the main rooms. Floors are laid with carpets made by the Abbeyleix Carpet Factory, which opened in the town in 1906. Today, the Abbey Leix retains its setting of estate cottages, parkland and woods. William Laffan, noted historian, author and curator, will be on hand to lecture on "Exploring the Architectural History and Landscape of Abbey Leix."

*Lunch and visit with Lord and Lady Ardee at **Kilruddery House**, whose neo-classical interiors were designed in the early 19th century by the Morrisons within a neo-Tudor exterior. Furniture and marbles were imported from France and Italy.

*A view of **Slane Castle**, 1773, that incorporated the talents of James Wyatt (interior plans and 1785 exterior remodeling), Francis Johnston (interior work) and Thomas Hopper (1812 Gothic ballroom or library with elaborate tracery ceiling). “Capability” Brown designed the stable block.

*A tour of the incredible Palladian jewel **Russborough House**. Built in 1741 by Joseph Leeson. “No other Palladian house in Ireland equals it either for its architecture or its spectacular setting”.

* A day spent with architect John O’Connell visiting important Dublin sites including The Royal Irish Academy, housed in an 18th century townhouse, The Irish Architectural Archive, Kildare Street & University Club and the Kings Inn & Library a masterpiece by James Gandon.

* A special visit to the privately owned Charleville House, in Co. Wicklow.



Russborough House

A stop at **Townley Hall** designed by Francis Johnston in 1794. The neo-classical four-square house is considered his masterpiece with its extraordinary soaring rotunda stair hall and flawless decoration and workmanship throughout.

*A tour with Robert O’Byrne of the spectacular **Arbraccan** c.1770 (former palace of the Anglican Bishops of Meath) and now a private residence.

*A visit and dinner at the privately owned **Lodge Park**, the 18th-century home of Robert Guinness. Known both for its grand architecture and extraordinary 18th-century gardens.

*An excursion to **Marino Casino** (little house), the pleasure pavilion designed by Sir William Chambers and built in 1762. It is considered to be one of the most perfect buildings in Europe.



Marino Casino

To reserve a space please contact Lani Summerville of Classical Excursions,
lanis@classicalexcursions.com tel:413-446-8728. Space is limited