

Architects don't just design buildings

Architecture isn't just about designing buildings. There's more to it.

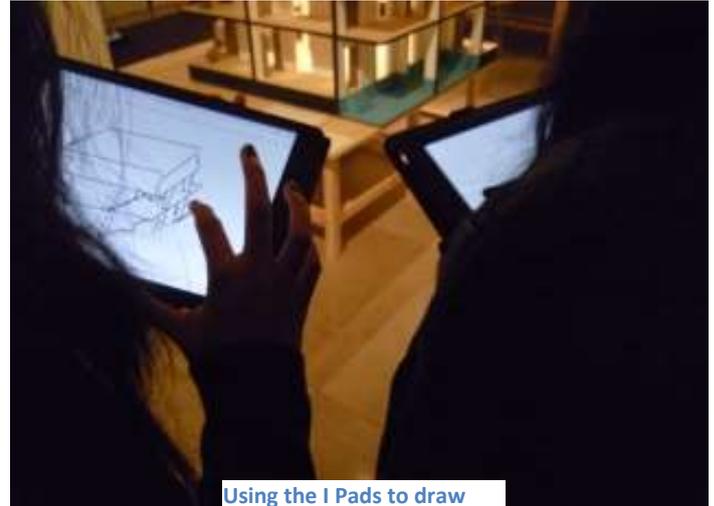
On Wednesday 2nd December, we (year 12 physics students) had the opportunity to visit the prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects, aka RIBA, in central London.



Using the I pads in the gallery to produce a plan

The programme of the day was definitely out of our comfort zone as, having not thought of architecture as a possible career choice before, we were thrown into a variety of very architectural challenges. Upon arrival, we met Fiona (a current architect working under RIBA) who talked us through some of the history of architecture, as well as the physics behind it. As intriguing as the history was, we were more intrigued by what came after it, namely RIBA's Palladianism exhibition. Now, tasked with uncovering the inspirations behind 16th century Italian architect Andrea Palladio, we set out to unravel the exhibits around us. This we did quite successfully, and we were all fascinated to find that many Palladian style features exist in modern architecture today.

In the afternoon, after doing some drawings on high quality software (or rather the app 'Brushes Redux' on iPads), we went out to apply the knowledge we had gained, in seeing the newly redesigned campus for Central Saint Martins, an Art and Design college in London. There we also had the chance to meet both Tom and Tom, who were architects from Stanton Williams (the company that redesigned the campus). Needless to say, the work they had done was impressive and a 'walkthrough' of the different newly added elements provided an insight into the physics involved in some of the structures. A major point of attraction was the cantilever both inside and outside the building, whereby a lever mechanism that balances the forces allows you to create the impression of an overhanging/floating edge.



Using the I Pads to draw

The day we had, on a whole, was an amazing insight into the architectural world, and this was followed up by a workshop on Friday 11th December. The architects, along with Fiona, whom we had previously met before, joined us at Woodford to invent our own designs for the expansion of the school. Again, the activities were lively and engaging and everyone contributed a variety of design ideas. This was a great insight as, being 'architects', we now had the responsibility of coming up with a design that not only looked good, but was practical to pupils as well.

And it was this, then, that lead to the ultimate conclusion that architecture isn't just about designing buildings



Some of our work

that you think look the best; it's about re-inventing an environment for all those who use it, in a way that is comfortable and integral to their lives.



Working on our designs for the school

Suhaa Mahmood and Maria Rehman