

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

P R E S E N T



ARCHITECTURE KERRY

W I T H

CREATIVE IRELAND

A N D

IRISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY

For the YEAR 2020

CONTAINING

An exact Description of

BUILDING *A* GEORGIAN HOUSE

and other interesting facts



K E R R Y :

<https://architecture.kerrycoco.ie/>

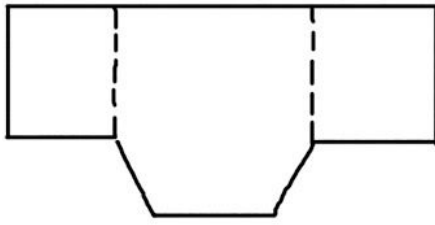
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BUILDING *A* GEORGIAN HOUSE

T O O L S N E E D E D

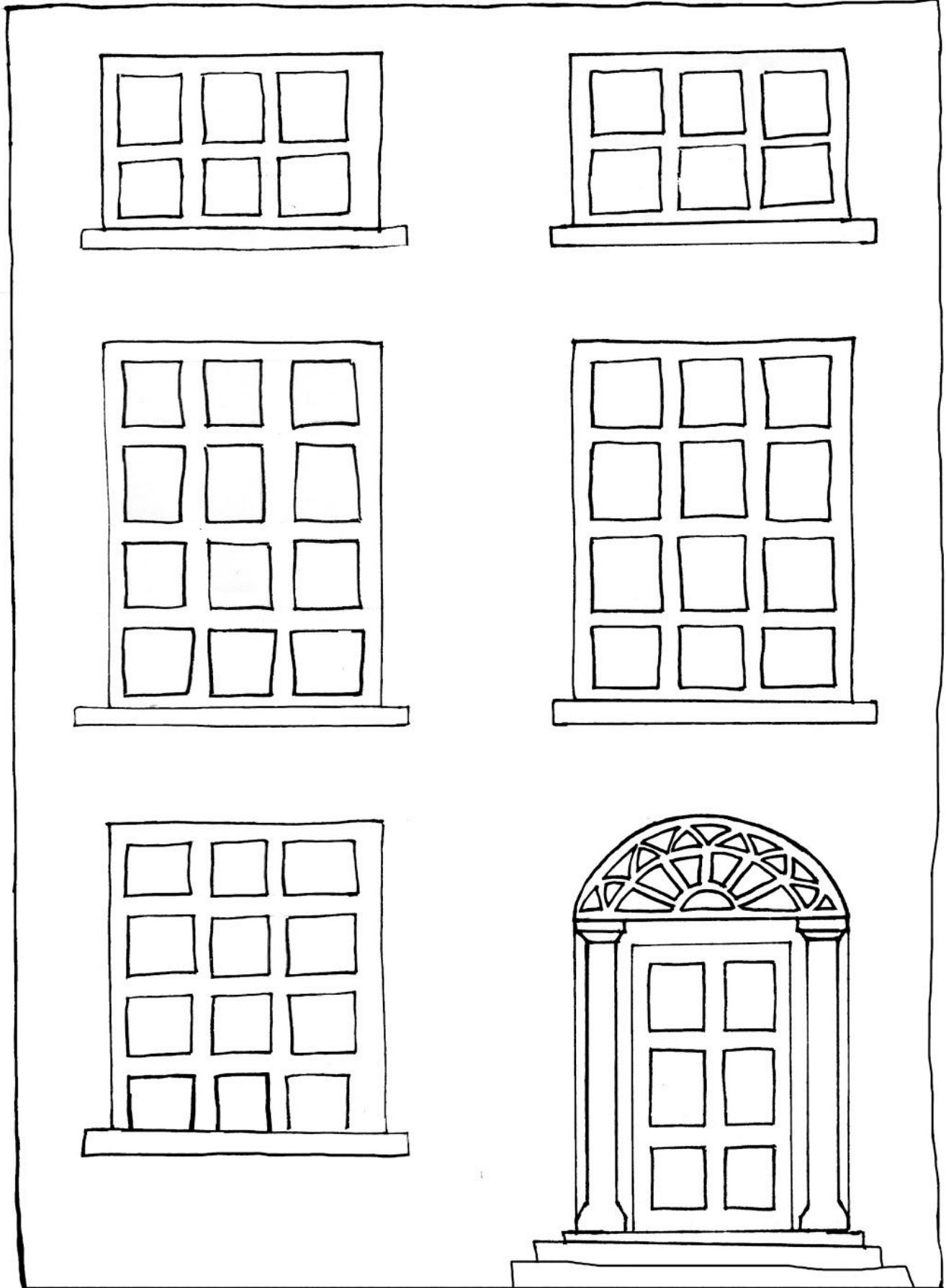
1. Printer
2. A4 Paper
3. Cardboard Box
4. Pencil
5. Colouring tools eg paint, colouring pencils, crayons
6. Scissors
7. Masking tape
8. Small amount of glue



Cut out chimney template





Cut out Georgian House





FUN FACTS *About*


GEORGIAN TOWNHOUSES

 Georgian townhouses are usually built as part of a terrace. Mostly they have very plain brick elevations and their charm comes from their simple classical proportions. Wood used to build the houses came from far away places, like Latvia (in Northern Europe) and Honduras (in the Caribbean)

 Most families didn't buy their homes, they rented them

 The windows of a Georgian townhouse start off large and then become smaller as they go up a storey. The biggest windows are located at the ground floor, known as the 'piano nobile' (Italian for the 'noble floor') where the family would entertain. The smallest windows are at the top floor (attic floor) where the children would sleep and where they had their nursery and their governess would teach them


 Georgian townhouses are bright inside because of the big windows proportionate to their walls. The windows are rarely wider than they are high. The windows are made of timber and have up-down sliding sashes, so they are known as 'sash windows'. Original and early timber sash windows in Georgian townhouses are rare today and so should be kept where surviving as they give so much character to the building - some people call them 'the eyes' of the building.


 The main decorative feature of the exterior of a Georgian townhouse is its fanlight. The fanlight lends light into the entrance hall, and is shaped like a fan, thus the name. The glass in the fanlight is mounted into lead, and Georgian townhouse fanlights come in a lovely array of patterns.


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FUN FACTS *About*


GEORGIAN TOWNHOUSES


 Other than the fanlights, Irish Georgian townhouses are very plain on the outside with a simple brick elevation but often have flamboyant decorative plasterwork inside. This plasterwork is hand modelled by master plasterworkers, known by the Italian word 'stuccodores'.

 It would take approximately 50,000 (fifty thousand) bricks to build a two-bay, three-storey Georgian townhouse like the one you are making from your cereal box. The bricks you see on the front elevation of the house represent only about one tenth of all the bricks that are needed to build such a house. Bricks were often made locally from clay dug out of the ground near to the building site. (Brick info courtesy of Susan Roundtree)


 When Georgian houses were built there was no electricity, and so the house was heated using coal. Coal was expensive and so to store it securely, many Georgian townhouses had it delivered by the coalman to the top of their granite steps and dropped down into their coal bunker through a coal hole. The coal hole often has an attractive cast iron cover, known as a coalhole cover. The coal hole covers frequently have pretty patterns cast into them.


 Other iron elements found on a Georgian townhouse are the wrought iron railings flanking the stone steps that lead up to the front door, and the 'rain water goods', i.e. the gutters and downpipes needed to keep the water away.


 Georgian townhouses were lived in by wealthy people who had servants to do their cooking. This meant that the kitchens were located underground in the basement so as to keep the smells (as well as the servants) separate to the family's living accommodation.


 There are no bathrooms in a Georgian townhouse that is because people in the Georgian era didn't wash as often as us. Not understanding the importance of hygiene for health they instead used perfumes to mask unpleasant body odours.


Even
M O R E
FUN FACTS *About*
GEORGIAN TOWNHOUSES

 Toilets were rarely indoors, even in the poshest houses, instead there were commodes or 'chamber pots' in the rooms, which the chambermaid would empty.

 Georgian townhouses have slate roofs that are concealed from view by brick parapets (where the front elevation of the wall continues four or five brick courses/rows past the height of the top floor).

 Kerry's Georgian townhouses have handsome smooth dark heather purple coloured slates from the famous quarry at Kerry's Valentia Island.

 The slates on a Georgian townhouse's roof are fixed with iron nails. Did you know that nails can get sick. 'Nail sickness' is when the iron nails rusts and then the slates on the roof start to slip. Unfortunately the nails can't be made better by the doctor and new nails need to be used but often the old slate can be re-used.

 Georgian townhouses are often protected, but so are their roofs' inhabitants. Did you know that a builder needs to check the roof to see if they have any bats in the roof. If there are, and it is the time of year for bats to have babies (usually May to September), then they may need to wait until the bats have grown up and flown away before they can start roof repairs!



*Courtesy of the Irish Georgian Society, Susan Roundtree,
and Dr Conor Lucey, Assistant Professor
Architectural History, UCD.*