

# The buildings

## Cut-away view through Kings Weston House

This model suggests how Vanbrugh's original design would have appeared with the entrance hall and stair hall separated by an arcaded gallery. The hard stone entrance hall was "rendered totally useless by a vast echo" and was remodelled by Robert Mylne in the 1760s for Edward Southwell III.

Vanbrugh was very particular about the design of the unique chimney arcades that crown the house. In 1713 he wrote to Edward Southwell "In my last [letter] I told you, I wish'd you would not go up with the chimneys till, I was with you on the spot, to make a tryall of the heights &c with boards. I am glad to find you now of the same opinion tho' you had not yet received my letter, for I would fain have that part rightly hit off".

Until they were removed in the 1840s the same arcades were repeated on each floor of the staircase hall directly below the chimneys, forming a core around which the rest of the building was arranged. This structure was intended to suggest the house had evolved from an ancient medieval keep and to evoke the "castle air" that Vanbrugh hoped for many of his buildings.

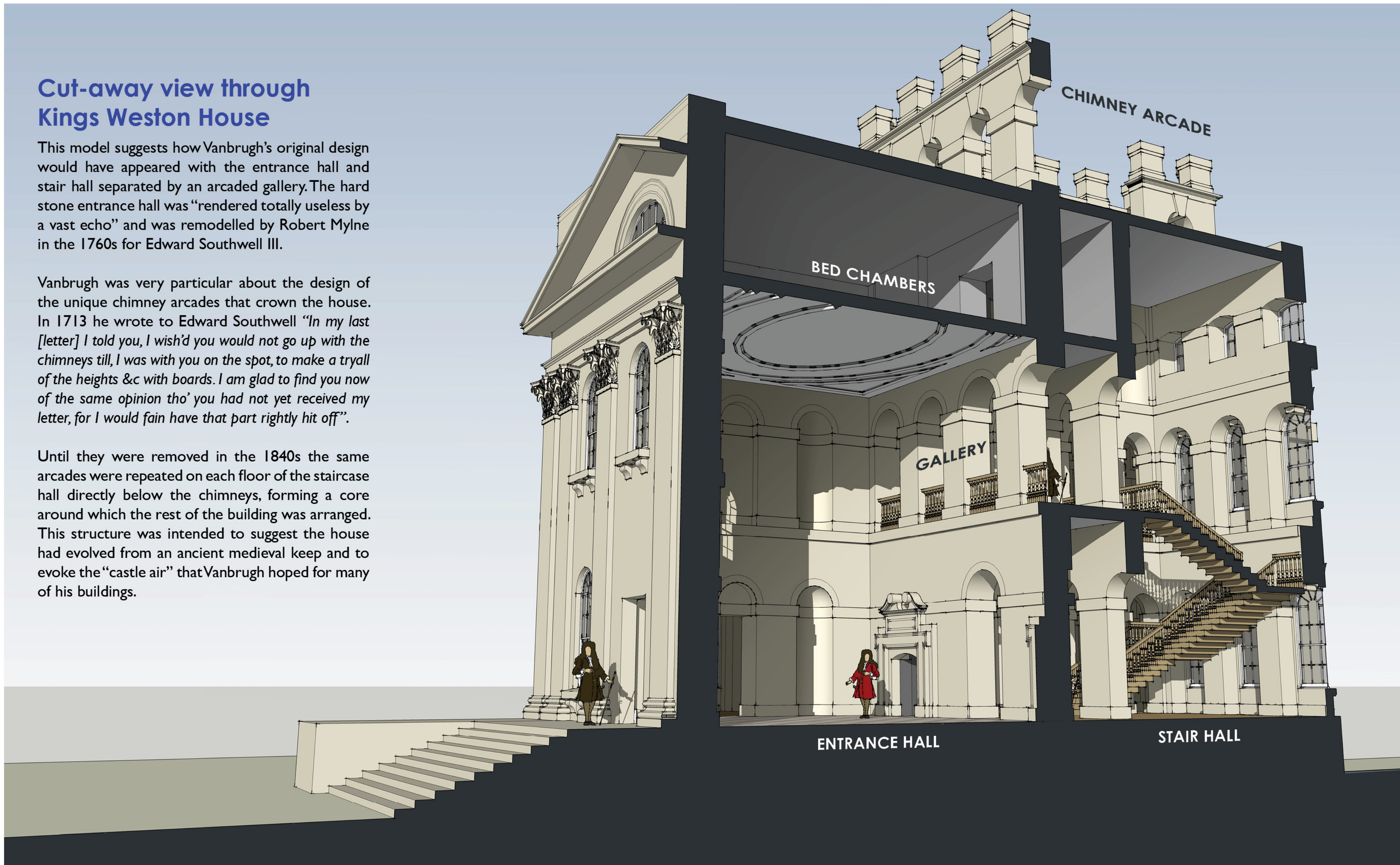


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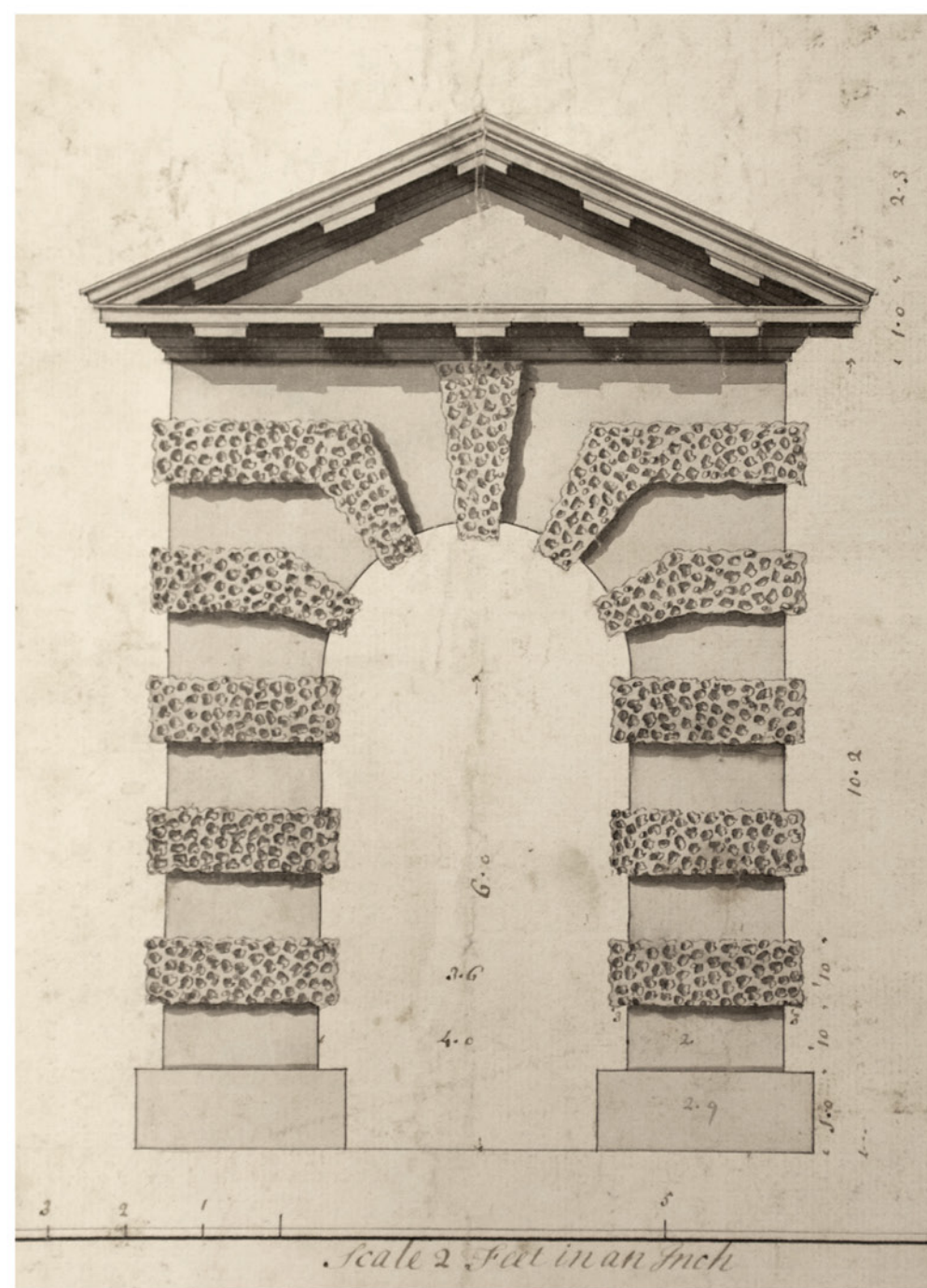


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LODGE, PENPOLE POINT, SHIREHAMPTON.

## The Loggia, c.1920

After the house the Loggia was one of Vanbrugh's earliest commissions for Edward Southwell. Designs were drawn-up in 1718 for a building to re-front the old Banqueting House and terminate the long vista along the Great Terrace. After several design variations the present building was constructed in about 1720. The high platform on which it sits gives some indication of the height and scale of the lost terrace.

The Loggia now serves as a grand entrance to a private house built within the outline of the old Banqueting House after it was abandoned and demolished in the 1980s.

## An Echo of the Echo?

This Vanbrugh design, made in 1722, was intended for a doorway that would have sat close to the front of the Loggia. It has a strong resemblance to the 'Echo' pavilion at the far south-eastern end of the garden. The Echo was probably designed at about the same time, although the gate shown here was either never built or has been destroyed.

In about 1820 Rev John Evans wrote in *Beauties of Clifton* "The house is situated in a noble park of about 500 acres, and the gardens are laid out in the first style of elegance. Here opposite the grand alcove, is an echo that repeats eight or ten times". It is from this natural phenomenon that the Echo takes its name.

## The Brewhouse c.1980

No drawings exist of the Brewhouse, but it can be attributed to Vanbrugh through its unique character and design. A brew house was once an important feature of any large estate in an era when fresh water was often not fit to drink. Robert Southwell and his son Edward were deeply fascinated by the science of brewing beer and cider and the size and ornament of this building reflect its importance to them.

The building was almost lost in the 1760s when the buildings around it were swept away. It survived into the 1990s when it was restored by the Bristol Buildings Preservation Trust.

## Penpole Lodge in 1910

Penpole Lodge replaced the earlier gate and viewing tower at the point where the Estate boundary met the common grazing land on Penpole Point. Also known as the Breakfast Room, a number of variations of this design exist in Vanbrugh's hand, as well as another, more restrained design by Colleen Campbell – a rising star in the 1720s.

Stone steps in one pier of the arch accessed the upper room and a small dwelling was hidden in the other pier. It was demolished in 1950 after years of dereliction though the ruins can still be discovered. Part of one of the distinctive urns now lies at the bottom of the hill where it rolled more than sixty years ago when the building was pulled down.