

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE GROUP

WINTER CONFERENCE 2017 / 2018



**Vernacular
Survival: The
Vernacular
Architecture
of the ‘long
eighteenth
century’**

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th January 2018

To be held at
College Court
Conference Centre,
Leicester
LE2 3TQ



SATURDAY 6th – SUNDAY 7th JANUARY 2018

Vernacular Survival

Vernacular Buildings in the Long Eighteenth Century

The theme of the 2018 Winter Conference is the vernacular architecture of the 'long eighteenth century'. The period between the mid-seventeenth century and the early nineteenth century is apt to be represented by vernacularists as spelling the gradual extinction of a living vernacular tradition. The resulting neglect of the period, particularly in England, has prevented us from developing the increasingly textured and resilient understanding that we have come to take for granted in earlier periods. More than twenty years after *Georgian Vernacular* (1996), the outcome of a joint VAG and Georgian Group symposium, this conference will re-examine the period in the light of recent regional, national and transatlantic research. It will explore the barometer of change over the course of this long but far from changeless period, including the persistence of vernacular forms and practices within the wider building culture, the tension between tradition and innovation in materials and design, the social choices manifested through the appropriation of polite forms to everyday buildings, and the emergence, by the end of the period, of a tentative understanding of vernacular architecture as regionally diverse and culturally significant.

Our venue used until 2016 is no longer available because, as elsewhere, Leicester students demand all-year round availability of accommodation. So last year we switched to College Court, which has purpose-built conference suites and accommodation within the same building - 4* hotel standard rather than student accommodation - with en-suite single rooms and twin-bedded rooms available (at no additional cost). College Court is situated in the Knighton area of Leicester, within two acres of landscaped gardens and is a little closer to the Railway Station than the Conference Centre previously used. Ample car parking is available adjacent to College Court. The Conference fee for 2018 is unaltered from 2017 and reflects the superior facilities and accommodation that we shall be using.

The IHBC recognises that this programme may provide part of the compulsory CPD requirements of a Full Member.



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The Conference Venue

This year's Winter Conference will be held in Leicester for the twelfth consecutive year, at the College Court Conference Centre which proved to be generally satisfactory in January this year. All accommodation is in single rooms with en-suite facilities and a double bed; couples will therefore need to decide whether they would prefer one room or two (and indicate on the Booking Form accordingly), although it would be helpful if they could use just one room to enable maximum use of the accommodation.

Accommodation is also available for visitors with disabilities. All facilities, including the conference suite & dining room are within the same building.

A room adjacent to the Conference Hall will be set aside for the display and sale of members' literature, in the usual way. A bar will be open after dinner on Saturday evening.

Vegetarian, or other dietary needs, can be met by the catering staff.

VAG WINTER CONFERENCE 2017/18
COLLEGE COURT CONFERENCE CENTRE
PROGRAMME

Saturday 6 January

14.00 Welcome & Introduction

Keynote lecture

14.10 *Where Vernacular and Polite Collide: Creating the Suburban Environment in the Long Eighteenth Century*

Elizabeth McKellar (Open University)

15.00-15.30 Coffee

Session 1: Vernacular inheritance, appropriation and presentation

15.30 *Houses of Ancient Form and London Fashion: Urban Building in Late Seventeenth-Century Norwich*

Christopher King (University of Nottingham)

16.15 *Antiquity and Improvement: Polite Living and Shopping in Georgian York*

Matthew Jenkins (University of York)

17.00 *Black, Red, White – or perhaps Blue? The Design, Cladding and Colouring of Farm Buildings in Georgian High Suffolk*

Philip Aitkens (independent consultant)

17.45-18.30 Break

18.30-19.50 Dinner

20.00-20.30 AGM

20.40 *The Social Life of Pews: Clement Walcot's distress, William Horner's ambition*

Penny Copeland and Jude Jones (University of Southampton)

21.20 Bar opens

Sunday 7 January
07.45-08.45 Breakfast

Session 2: Contesting vernacular and polite

09.00 *Commodification and Craftsmanship in the Construction of English Housing, c.1660-1830*

Adrian Green (Durham University)

09.40 *The Transformation of Vernacular Techniques: A Case Study of Barns in the South-East*

Lee Prosser (Historic Royal Palaces) and Tansy Collins (Archaeological Solutions)

10.20-10.50 Coffee

10.50 *The Georgian Town House, Georgianisation and the Long 18th Century: Concepts for Discussion*

Roger Leech (University of Southampton)

11.30 *The Cosmopolitan and the Vernacular in Early National Boston*

Jeffrey Klee (Colonial Williamsburg)

12.10 *A Final Reckoning? The Board of Agriculture Reports and Vernacular Practices*

Adam Menuge (University of Cambridge)

12.50-13.50 Lunch

Session 3: Reappraising the cottage

14.00 *Georgian Cottages in the Maldon District of Essex*

Tim Howson (Maldon District Council)

14.45 *The Appreciation of Cottages: Learning to Love the English Vernacular*

Daniel Maudlin (University of Plymouth)

Summing up

15.30 *From Georgian Vernacular to Vernacular Survival: A Reflection*

– followed by discussion

Nat Alcock (University of Warwick)

16.15 Tea and disperse

Leicester: How to get there

The City of Leicester is more or less central to England and Wales and is well served by motorways, rail services and airports (Birmingham, East Midlands and Manchester).

A location map for Leicester appears on the back page of this leaflet.

Members will be sent on request (see Booking Form) a leaflet giving travel directions to College Court from the M1/M69, the A6 and from the A47. This leaflet also provides a more detailed map, showing the location of College Court in the Knighton district of Leicester: postcode LE2 3TQ.

Leicester is well served by rail, with direct lines from London – St. Pancras (1hr.10min), Birmingham (55min), Sheffield (1hr.), and Lincoln (1hr.50min); from Leeds (2hrs.) change at Derby/Sheffield. For more information call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 or visit the website www.nationalrail.co.uk

From Leicester train station, **Bus Routes 44 and 44A** (every 15 minutes on Saturdays) take you to the Conference Centre, ask for the bus stop at the end of Queens Road, opposite the front of College Court.

A taxi from the station (1.4 miles) will cost about £6.

On arrival, report to Reception.

If arriving by car, park in the Car Park (or the Overflow Car Park if so directed), proceed to Reception from where **room keys will be issued between 13.00 and 13.50 hours** (subject to your room having been cleaned, etc.) and then take your luggage to your room. If you do not have sufficient time to check in before the start of the conference, leave your luggage in your car until later.

VAG Name Badges will be issued in the conference room, on the first floor.

Please note that no refreshments can be purchased at College Court (or nearby) & note that room keys will not be available before 13.00 hours.

The conference Programme will commence promptly at 14.00 hours.

Conference Fees and Registration

Fees for the Conference will be **£160 Resident** and **£97 Non-Resident** to include all meals shown in the programme, and, for Residents, breakfast on the Sunday morning. Cheques post-dated to 1st December 2017 are acceptable.

If you wish to attend, please complete the enclosed Booking Form and return it, with the appropriate fee payable to ‘**The Vernacular Architecture Group**’ to the Winter Conference Secretary (VAG), Monmouth Cap Farmhouse, Llangua, Abergavenny, NP7 8HD, **to arrive not later than Monday, 4th December, 2017.**

A supplement of £10 will be charged for applications received after the closing date and should be added to the appropriate conference fee. Applications posted after the closing date cannot be guaranteed a place.

Student members of the VAG are eligible to apply for a bursary award for this conference. Please apply direct to the Hon. Sec., or pay fees and then apply.

Subject to accommodation being available, Groups affiliated to the VAG may each send two of their members, not being full members of the VAG at the normal conference fee. Members attending may likewise introduce one non-member guest (for one year only for that guest), for which a supplement of £5 is payable to the appropriate standard fee. Members cancelling after the close of registration will be liable for all costs that the VAG is unable to recover, with a minimum cancellation fee of £10. Should you need to cancel please notify the Winter Conference Secretary as early as possible on 01981 240445. In the case of a last minute emergency, please inform the Conference Office on 0116 244 9669

Members should note that no refunds will be made, should adverse weather condition prevent their attendance.

A Central Location

By road

Just over 4 miles from Junction 21 of the M1 and the M69, giving excellent access from the UK's motorway network.

By rail

Leicester lies on the Midland Mainline service and has regular connections to London, St Pancras, Sheffield, Leeds, Birmingham and Lincoln. The city campus is just 15 minutes walk from the railway station and both are 3 miles from the halls of residence.

Airports

Leicester is well situated for access to airports:

	Miles
East Midlands	19
Birmingham	36
Manchester	101
Heathrow	105
Gatwick	123

Business Travel Office

For all your travel needs to and from the University, contact our in-house Business Travel Office on: 0116 223 1134 or 0116 223 1161.

