

### Federal Architecture, Jefferson and Monticello.

1. After the American Revolution, Americans were eager to create an architecture of their own  
2. and their ideas began to assume a distinctly American shape in the Federal style, most popular  
3. from about 1790 to 1830. The Federal style is often linked with the Georgian in architectural  
4. history because of their many overlapping characteristics. However, in the Federal style  
5. lines are simpler, surfaces are smoother and decoration is more attenuated than in the  
6. Georgian style.

7. A personal twist was given to Federal architecture by Thomas Jefferson who, as well as  
8. being a legislator, an economist, an educationalist, and a president, was also an able and  
9. immensely influential architect, although he had no professional architectural training. Like  
10. many other Americans of his day, he sought to create what he believed would be a truly  
11. Republican architecture where buildings became provocative projections of what the  
12. Americans wanted to be. He had a profound faith in Roman law and by deduction in Roman  
13. architecture. He considered the Roman arch and dome not only more beautiful than Greek  
14. post- and- lintel construction but also more suited to the building needs of the New World.  
15. He was greatly influenced by Andrea Palladio and his interpretation of Roman Villa  
16. architecture, not because he admired the English Palladians but because he shared Palladio's  
17. own inspiration, that of Rome.

18. French Neo-Classical architecture with its simple and horizontal forms also had a great  
19. influence on Jefferson, although Palladio remained the fountainhead and touchstone.  
20. Jefferson came into contact with this architecture whilst in France and recognised it as one  
21. that he had already felt might be appropriate in the New World. He was particularly  
22. impressed by the Hotel de Salm in Paris and the Maison Carrée at Nimes, both of which  
23. influenced Jefferson's later works. Jefferson's years in Europe and his careful reading of  
24. Andrea Palladio are manifest in his 5-part house plans with central blocks and flanking  
25. wings, important porticoes (both front and rear), polygonal shapes and temple forms. His  
26. buildings exhibit simplicity, symmetry, restrained but emphatic classical ornament and  
27. dignity. Exquisite proportions are more important than decoration, Tuscan columns, for  
28. instance, rather than Corinthian.

29. Jefferson, the architect, is best known for his designs for the Virginian State Capitol, for  
30. the buildings at the University of Virginia and for his own house, Monticello, which is the  
31. building that is most readily associated with Jefferson.

32. Monticello was built in many stages from 1770 to 1808. Construction began in 1769 and  
33. was completed in 1784. However, Jefferson redesigned, reconstructed and enlarged the  
34. house on his return from France and eventually the final version was completed in 1808.  
35. When designing the house, Jefferson had Palladio's Villa Rotunda in mind and uses the  
36. Palladian plan form of a central pavilion with lower extensions to the left and to the right but  
37. makes these extensions into raised terraces below which, buried in the ground, is the service  
38. area. The house had porticoes front and back and a great forecourt with octagonal pavilions  
39. at the corners and square pavilions terminating the wings. Like the Hotel de Salm, it is a  
40. three storey house but it appears to be one storey tall. The most dramatic French element that  
41. Jefferson incorporated in his redesign of Monticello was the dome placed over the already  
42. existing parlour. The house follows the American tradition in its use of red brick from which  
43. the white architectural elements protrude. In the final version of Monticello, Jefferson  
44. combines the straight lines of Palladio with French elegance and it remains a fine example of  
45. Roman Neo-Classicism.

**A) Answer the following questions.**

- 1) After the American revolution, what did Americans want to do?
- 2) When was the Federal style most popular?
- 3) Name two features which distinguish the Federal style from the Georgian style.
- 4) Who and what architectural style influenced Jefferson's style of architecture?
- 5) Name the two buildings that Jefferson saw while in France which influenced his later works.
- 6) Name two features which characterise Jefferson's 5-part house plans.
- 7) What three designs is Jefferson best known for?
- 8) What is the most dramatic French element in Jefferson's reconstruction of Monticello?
- 9) In what way does Monticello follow the American tradition?
- 10) a) What shape were the pavilions at the corners of Monticello?  
  
b) What shape were the pavilions at the wings of Monticello?

**B) Write true or false next to each of the following statements.**

- 1) Thomas Jefferson was a professionally trained architect. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) In Jefferson's buildings decoration is not as important as the exquisite proportions he uses. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Monticello had one portico at the front only. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Monticello is a 3-storey house. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) The service area in Monticello is on the second floor. \_\_\_\_\_

**C) What or who do the following words refer to?**

- 1) "their" in line 1 refers to .....
- 2) "its" in line 18 refers to.....
- 3) "which" in line 22 refers to .....
- 4) "which" in line 37 refers to.....
- 5) "from which" in line 42 refers to.....

**English exam**  
**1 Appello 25 gennaio 2001**  
**Facoltà di architettura**

**Cognome** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nome** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Matricola** \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose the correct answer.**

- 1) Jefferson, \_\_\_\_\_ was the third President of the U.S.A, was also a very able architect.  
a) which b) whom c) who d) whose
- 2) He \_\_\_\_\_ born in 1743 and he \_\_\_\_\_ in 1826.

- a) were ..... died b) was ..... died c) is ..... was died d) were ..... die
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ did he stay in France as the American ambassador?
- a) How much b) How long c) How many time d) How many
- 4) What time \_\_\_\_\_ his exam yesterday?
- a) did he b) has he done c) did he do d) did he doing
- 5) The exam is not \_\_\_\_\_ difficult.
- a) go to be b) gone to be c) to go to be d) going to be
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ any public gardens in New York?
- a) Is there b) Are there c) There are d) Are their
- 7) Jefferson, \_\_\_\_\_ architectural style was distinctly American, had a profound faith in Roman Law.
- a) who b) whose c) that d) which
- 8) At the moment I \_\_\_\_\_ a book by Calvino but I don't like it very much.
- a) am reading b) read c) is reading d) reading
- 9) When Jefferson left for France in 1784, he \_\_\_\_\_ his first version of Monticello.
- a) has already finished b) is already finished c) already finished d) had already finished
10. He hasn't got \_\_\_\_\_ free time as you have.
- a) as much b) as c) as many d) so
- 11) The Champs Elysée is \_\_\_\_\_ the Via dei Fori Imperiali.
- a) more wide than b) wider than c) wider as d) as much wide as
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ your project on Schinkel yet?
- a) Did.....finish b) Have.....finish c) Have.....finished d) Do.....finish
- 13) They asked \_\_\_\_\_ to design the Virginia State Capitol for Richmond.
- a) him b) his c) he d) himself
- 14) My parents will be very happy if I \_\_\_\_\_ the exam.
- a) will pass b) am passing c) will passing d) pass
- 15) The student \_\_\_\_\_ research for his thesis \_\_\_\_\_ six months.
- a) has been done ..... for b) has been doing.....for c) has been doing .....since

d) was being doing

16) Passengers \_\_\_\_\_ unfasten their seatbelts until the aeroplane has come to a complete stop.

- a) mustn't to b) don't have c) have not to d) mustn't

17) All these letters \_\_\_\_\_ today, otherwise they will not arrive in time.

- a) must send b) must be sent c) must to be sent d) must sending

18) My bedroom \_\_\_\_\_ so I am sleeping in the living-room at the moment.

- a) is being decorated b) is decorated c) was being decorated d) had been decorated

19) He \_\_\_\_\_ the ceiling when he fell off the ladder.

- a) was painted b) was painting c) is painting d) painted

20) \_\_\_\_\_ home at the weekends?

- a) You always go b) Go you always c) Do you always go d) Do always you go

21) Have you ever met \_\_\_\_\_ famous?

- a) anybody b) somebody c) nobody d) no one

22) She \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of sports but now she can't because she hasn't got time.

- a) used to playing b) used to played c) used to play d) was used to play

23) Please, \_\_\_\_\_ talking. I'm trying to study.

- a) may you stop b) could you stop c) should you stop d) ought you to stop

24) \_\_\_\_\_ for Paris on Monday. I have already booked the tickets.

- a) We are leaving b) Are we leaving c) We will leaving d) We is leaving

25) He cut \_\_\_\_\_ while he was cooking.

- a) his b) hisself c) himself d) herself