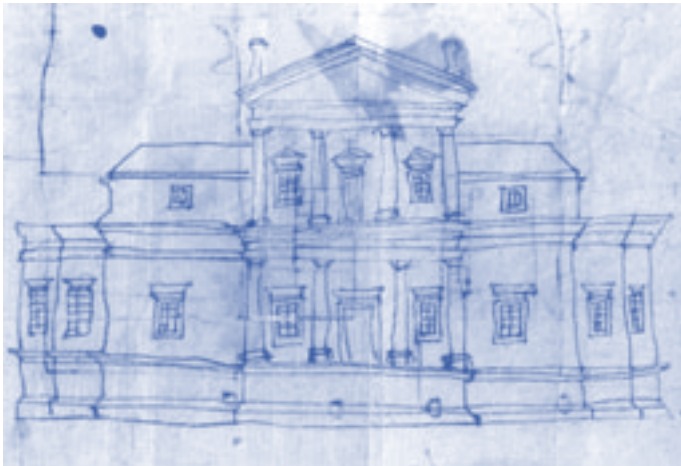




Winter Tour to Focus on Architecture

Thomas Jefferson once said, “Architecture is my delight, and putting up, and pulling down, one of my favorite amusements,”



Jefferson’s freehand sketch of the first Monticello.

according to a visitor to Monticello in 1809.

Jefferson did a lot of “putting up, and pulling down” during his lifetime, especially over the four decades of design, construction, and reconstruction of his signature architectural achievement, his mountaintop plantation house.














Monticello as the embodiment of Jefferson’s deep passion for

architecture and his formidable skills as a practitioner of the art will be the theme of the 2004-05 Winter Tour, *Monticello: Jefferson’s Essay in Architecture*. These extended tours of the house will be offered from Dec. 1 through Feb. 28.

Jefferson taught himself to be an architect, relying on observation and books, especially the Italian architect Andrea Palladio’s *Four Books of Architecture* (1570), which promoted a universal architectural vocabulary based on the buildings of ancient Rome.

The first Monticello, begun in 1769, was a two-story, eight-room structure. While its interior was not unlike that of a typical Virginia plantation house, the exterior revealed Jefferson’s reliance on Palladio’s rules of classical architecture. A French visitor wrote in 1782 that Jefferson was “the first American who

This Issue’s Other Stories

-  CAMPAIGN GOAL SURPASSED
-  DEPENDENCY WALL EXCAVATION
-  DEPENDENCIES PROJECT
-  ELECTION OF 1804
-  INTERNATIONAL CENTER RENAMED
-  JULY 4 CELEBRATION
-  MONTALTO PURCHASE
-  NEWS & NOTES
-  NEW TRUSTEE
-  PRESIDENT’S LETTER
-  RESEARCH FELLOWS
-  RETIREMENT YEARS CONFERENCE
-  VISITOR NUMBERS

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

© Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc., 2004

MONTICELLO



Winter Tour

CONTINUED, PAGE **TWO**

has consulted the Fine Arts to know how he should shelter himself from the weather.” The exterior was mostly finished by 1784, when Jefferson went to France to serve as American minister.

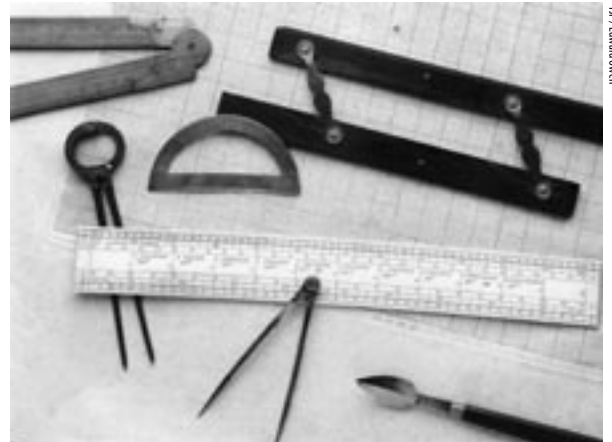
In 1796, inspired by modern neoclassical houses he had seen in Paris, Jefferson began transforming Monticello into a three-story, 21-room structure. “I am uncovering and repairing my house,” he wrote that year. “I make some alterations in it with a greater eye to convenience than I had when younger.”

Jefferson directed the removal of the upper story, extension of the east front, creation of a new second level for bedrooms within the height of the first floor, and construction of a dome over the west front and piazzas on the north and south ends of the building. Inside and out, Jefferson incorporated design elements from famous buildings of antiquity. But by 1809, when work on the second Monticello was essentially completed, he had also created an innovative, “modern” building, distinctive not only in design but in the way it was incorporated into the landscape.

On the Winter Tour, Monticello interpreters will offer visitors insight into such topics as Jefferson’s architectural influences; how his commitments to proportion and natural light were realized; how he addressed the challenge of matching form and function; how his other interests were incorporated into the design; and the truly singular nature of Monticello as an architectural statement.

Visitors also will be able to view a number of special objects, including copies of Jefferson’s architecture books, sheets of his drafting paper, and some of his drafting tools, plus a selection of his original architectural drawings from the University of Virginia Library’s Special Collections.

“Architecture is worth great attention,” Jefferson once said. The hope is that visitors to Monticello this winter will concur.



1f / Edward Owen

Some of Jefferson’s drafting implements will be on display during the Winter Tour.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org