Fig.1 Joseph Michael Gandy, Architecture: its Natural Model (exhibited 1838). Photo:

© Sir John Soane's Museum, London

Fig. 2 Joseph Michael Gandy, a note for item '1165: Architecture; its natural model', The Exhibition of the Royal Academy. MDCCCXXXVIII. The Seventieth (London: W. Clowes and Sons, 1838). Royal Academy of Arts. London.



ARCHITECTURE. 49

J. Bell

1158 Proposed front for a town-mansion
1159 Design for a poet's cross to the memory of twelve poets,—

J. Hogg, Mrs. Hemans, Cowper, Montgomery, Mrs. Barbauld, Young, H. K. White, Miss Mitford, Pope T. Glegg
The idea is, to place it in one of the parks.

1163 A design formerly approved for adding to St. James's Palace

Sir J. Wyatville, R.A.

1164 The Winchester Tower, Windsor Castle
Sir J. Wyatville, R.A.

1165 Architecture; its natural model—Vide Catalogue of Royal

Academy Exhibition, 1836, for a textile notice J. Gandy, A.

The natural models for building, most authors agree, are derived from stony caveros, alluvial soils for bricks, and forests for timber, with these men raised their huts, carved their lares, and formed their furniture; they first clothed themselves with the leaves of trees, and twisted the branches of shrubs into shady bowers, and by observing the instincts of other animals, they applied their hints for making tools, &c. Supposing there were antediluvian irons for marine fabrics like Noah's ark, and accidental caves or pre-adamite dwellings, we have exemplars remote as Chinese chronology. One writer says "the earth is a dwelling, the skies a canopy, the grass a carpet, the heavenly bodies constitute a pyethomen, and clouds are screens."

Detached masses of granite, the sketch endeavours to pourtray became objects of veneration, natural bridges over chasms and rivers. The Giant's Causeway, or basaltic formations in Ireland, Scotland, Hebrides, and Caserides mountain of Wales, also the Dresden caves, those of the Thoas and Mexico, natural Clier's or staircases to caverns, within and over caverns, and various entrances and passages extending many miles under limestone hills, the seven hundred semi-angular pillars over a water-fall in Thibet, many were models for good masonry in horizontal beds and articulations, or joints of pillars imitated by the earliest Nephalims, Titans and Cyclopians in their works, called the giant race and companion builders of antiquity, who afterwards studied spontaneous cements, mortars, and plaster for adoption.

The icebergs of the arctic circles, suggest the form of icicled palaces, the spires of the arctic circles, suggest the form of icicled palaces,

The icebergs of the arctic circles, suggest the form of icicled palaces, the spires of the glaciers exhibit scenic and ever various pictured models to an intuitive genius. The aiguille of the Dom river, the pyramidal and pinnacle-pointed Alpine mountains, piles sustained by subterranean vaults and piers, the ascents being left by subsiding waters, are now seen in steppes, prairies, and interminate terraces.

The Banian tree, a prototype of a beamed ceiling, the palm and oak, the vine and water-lily, creepers entwined in rich foliages, have all been copied by mankind, the musk-rat and beaver associated lumberers, raise dams in lakes to sustain their lodges, and the white ants build conical hust twelve feet high, arranged like camps and villages; also the cayenne fly, and the bees' hexagonal honey-combs economizing space, who gather in colonies and repair their citadelled labyrinth and rafter covered ways, with many other winged tribes that form nests, webs, and mechanism, the razor shell animal that bores holes in porphyry, the cochlea piercing chalky hills, and the shell-fish that penetrates our navies' planks, the serpent's jaws suggesting to Talus, nephew of Dædalus, the first idea of a saw, even the ouran-outan of Sierra Leone erects a dwelling to protect his female and young, commodious as the natives, help to form an ichnographic sienography, a protocol of architecture composed in the sketch before us.

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