Supersites 2

Some telephone boxes in these designs are being listed. So far an extant example of the KS design has not been spotted. Do you know of one?

Supersites 2 is a competition for schools based on over 400,000 buildings listed for their special architectural or historical interest. It is jointly sponsored by English Heritage and the Department of the Environment and follows the first Supersites competition held in the London region last year and covered extensively in the last edition of Remnants.

With so many listed buildings in the country it is unlikely that your school will be very far from several of them. It may even be that your own school or your local telephone box is listed.

INSIDE

DETAILS OF OUR ANNUAL COURSE FOR TEACHERS ‘Learning from the Past’

THE SCHOOL TRIP – A MUM’S VIEW

plus articles, book reviews, informations for teachers and much more besides!
Footnotes

1988, year of the Yorkshire abbey
Nine hundred years ago Norman Benedictine monks founded St Mary's Abbey in York, now better known as the seat for the famous mystery plays held every three years. To celebrate, the
Yorkshire Museum next door is opening a new gallery on St
Mary's on the actual site of its chapter house, and above it will be
an exhibition on monasteries in Yorkshire, mounted jointly by the
museum and English Heritage. That is appropriate since it was on
that very spot that a breakaway group began one of the reform
movements that led to founding great Cistercian abbeys like
Fountains.

"What have abbots to do with curriculum development?" cries a shrill voice from Curzon Street. In a secular age looking for
technology and skills, the cloister seems remote, even an escape
from reality. But escape can be into daring enterprise as well as
out of accepted life-styles: like volunteering for a space shuttle.
The equivalent of building a monastery in the twentieth century
today would be to raise Centre Point in a fishing village. These
monuments were not created by contemplating naves but by
moving rivers, levelling hillsides without JCB's, quarrying,
geometry, engineering, lead mining, medicine, writing, in an
illiterate society and making money. It sounds rather like plans for
a core curriculum and is pragmatic enough to satisfy some current
yearnings.

Mount Grace

Medieval technology will be the theme of the new education
room at Rievaulx opening next Easter. This autumn we shall be
issuing a video on Rievaulx which shows how children can make
roof vaults with their own bodies and feel within their muscles the
stresses that an arch does constantly. It also shows how to balance
a headmaster on the thinnest of dike cans to prove how a pillar
can support tons of stone.

The exhibition opens at Easter in the Yorkshire Museum in
York and will have an activity pack as well as an education centre
based in the original guest house of St Mary's Abbey. There you
will find habits for everyone, an experience of a chapter meeting
and a service, and a series of crafts such as sculpture and laying
mosaic tile pavements. The exhibition and the abbey ruins are
just across the grass.

To get the best out of an abbey, however, you need to go to the
sites themselves: Rievaulx set like a pale jewel in a wooded valley,
Byland pointing its stone finger into the sky, Whitby like a broken
crown perched on the cliff above the sea, Mount Grace a secret in
a hillside forest. The landscape setting is as important as the
buildings themselves, especially for Cistercian abbeys, and the
opportunities for children exploring the countryside around the
monastery for clues to the way of life are brought out in the
forthcoming teachers' pack on Byland Abbey. This is the result of
Steve Gibson's year at the site as a seconded teacher and will be
available for the spring opening of the exhibition. It also opens up
the possibilities for creative and artistic approaches to the abbeys:
poetry writing, painting, pottery and, let's be brave, sitting and

thinking. Monks were indeed into technology but they were also
idealist and thinkers; that aspect cannot be neglected even if
some teachers are worried by God in the curriculum.

A Festival of Abbeys will be running throughout the summer of
1988 in Yorkshire when music, services, drama and other events
will be happening at the abbeys. The project is not confined to
English Heritage sites and includes Fountains (managed by the
National Trust and supported by English Heritage to the tune of a
quarter of a million pounds a year), Jervaulx with its wild flowers,
and Kirkstall bang in the middle of Leeds. Perhaps the real treat is
Mount Grace on the A19. It is the best surviving ruin of a
Catharsian monastery where the monks did not live quite so
communally as others. Each had his own cell, very like a detached
on Brookside with a privy at the bottom of its own garden. The
guest-house there is being refurbished with a new exhibition and
an education room. One of the cells is completely restored and it is
easy to perceive something of the ambience of a recluse's bolt-hole
from a wicked world from which he could still watch the traffic
from Teesside.

Jim Lang

Hampton Court Teachers' Pack

A teachers' pack on Tudor Hampton Court written by Angela Cox
is due for publication in the autumn. It consists of a handbook for
teachers with ideas for classroom activities, eleven information
sheets for children to use and a set of six worksheets to be used at
the Palace. If you would like details sent, when available, please
contact Bill Addison, Room C11/07, Department of the
Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

The Tudor Palace of Hampton Court is a 16 minute video prepared
by the Department of the Environment to help teachers planning a
visit or studying the Tudors. Using both modern photographs
and historical material it explains why and how the palace was
built and what the different rooms were used for. The video is
densely packed with images and information and could provide
material for several lessons. It is accompanied by notes for
teachers and is available in VHS and Beta formats. The video costs
£10.50, inclusive of postage and is available from the Bookshop,
Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9A.U.

The Norman Conquest

This day-course for teachers at the Tower of London on 3
December, is linked to the repeat showing of the BBC TV Zig
Zag series on the Normans, in the Spring Term 1988. The course
introduces the resources available at the Tower and at other sites,
with an experience of the classroom, to support work on the Normans at
junior and younger secondary level. Topics to be specially
featured include the Bayeux Tapestry, the Battle of Hastings, and
Norman castles. Books, audio-visual materials, and computer
programmes will be presented, along with ideas for project work.
Speakers include Brian K. Davison, Inspector of Ancient
Monuments at English Heritage.

Details from the Education Centre, HM Tower of London,
London WC2N 4AB (01-480 6348 ext 335).

REMNANTS will be published twice each academic year and will
be distributed to schools through the LEAs. You should also be able to
find one on display in your local Teacher's Centre. If you would like
copies of REMNANTS sent personally to you, you may take
out a year's subscription of £2.00. Contact

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