of corner loggiae. We would be left with a freestanding, entirely symmetrical house, united and firmly grounded at its base by an almost continuous classical colonnade; something so revolutionary that it is perhaps not surprising that it was never entirely realised. Perhaps, one day, the National Trust would like to consider adding these never-completed elements – in some temporary or computer-generated form – to allow us to see Hardwick Hall as its architect intended.

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For further information on visiting Hardwick Hall, go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardwick.

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1. Neither of Robert Smythson’s earlier houses, Longleat and Wollaton Hall, have porches, though at Wollaton there is an internal corridor between the front door and the service passage and the Hallfield Plans of Longleat show that at one time a porch was planned. Mark Girouard, Robert Smythson & The Elizabethan Country House, New Haven & London, 1983, plate 19.

2. The Building Accounts refer to the walled areas to the east and west as courts and the larger walled damus to the north and south as orchards. A payment to Smythson’s joiner dated 12 November states ‘for half a Roode in the ytte that goeth beyne the north eache ande the garden’ since the west court was the entrance court, this suggests that the east court contained the original garden. David N Durand & Philip Ridout (eds.), The Building of Hardwick Hall, Part 2: The New Hall, 1597–98, Derbyshire Record Society, 1984, p. 219.

3. Moreover, as the stonework shows, they were originally planned to run right around the house between the towers making its plan at ground level a simple rectangle. Girouard (1983), op. cit., p. 152; Mark Girouard, Hardwick Hall, London, 1989, p. 20.

4. This unfinished stonework was often hidden by toy or climbing plants in later years. I am grateful to David Askew for bringing this to my attention.

5. My reconstruction has used the same spacing for the columns on the corner loggiae as occurs on the existing main loggias.

6. I am grateful to Nicholas Cooper for bringing this to my attention.


8. Ibid., p. 261.

9. Ibid., p. 262.


11. Ibid., p. 362.

12. Ibid., p. 183–84.

13. Ibid., p. 542.


15. Ibid., p. 235.


17. Ibid., p. 155.


22. Illustrated In Le Septième Livre de l’architecture de Philibert de l’Orme, chapter XIII, p. 218; Anthony Blunt, Philibert de l’Orme, Paris, 1908, fig. 88, p. 100. I am grateful to Sally Jeffery for bringing this unthemed example to my attention.


25. Ibid., p. 182.

26. The 88 balusters referred to in the accounts were specifically carved for the roof terraces. For example, ‘6th March... paid to Nef and Malory for having 12 balusters for the tapis of the new building’, Ibid., p. 183.

27. Ibid., p. 156.

28. Ibid., p. 183.

29. Though it is interesting that the two doorways weren’t blocked until late 1595.

30. These rooms are identified through David Durand’s interpretation of the inventory of 1601, as shown in figure 1 of Durand & Ridout, op. cit., p. 196. Mark Girouard’s slightly different interpretation of this inventory has the northwest loggia accessed from ‘Tobias Chamber’, the southeast loggia from (Jacob) Chamber’, the southwest loggia from ‘Lady Shrewsbury’s Bedchamber’ and the southeast loggia from a closet next to the ‘Prodigal Chamber’, Girouard (1989), op. cit., pp. 48–49.

31. These rooms are identified through David Durand’s interpretation of the inventory of 1601, as shown in figure 1 of Durand & Ridout, op. cit., p. 196. Mark Girouard’s slightly different interpretation of this inventory would have the northwest, southwest and southeast loggias obscure the Kitchen, the Nunnery and Mr Cavendish’s Chamber (?) respectively. Girouard (1989), op. cit., pp. 48–49.


34. Durand & Ridout, op. cit., pp. 244–45.

35. ‘The evidence that [Robert Smythson] provided designs for the new house at Hardwick is not absolutely conclusive, but it is extremely strong’, Girouard (1989), op. cit., p. 15.

36. Most surviving design drawings from the 16th and 17th centuries are likely to be rejected designs, as those which were accepted would almost certainly have been taken on site, used by the execution craftsmen, and consequently damaged and destroyed.

37. 27 April 1597: ‘Mr Smythson surveyed paid 36’; Devonshire Ms, Chaworth, Hardwick Ms 7., c. 179, Durand & Ridout, op. cit., p. 196.

38. The east and west courts and the north and south orchards would have formed a completely symmetrical arrangement, if it had not been for the north drive which runs along the cliff edge and compel the west boundary wall to the north orchard to be set at an angle.