

## Contrasts

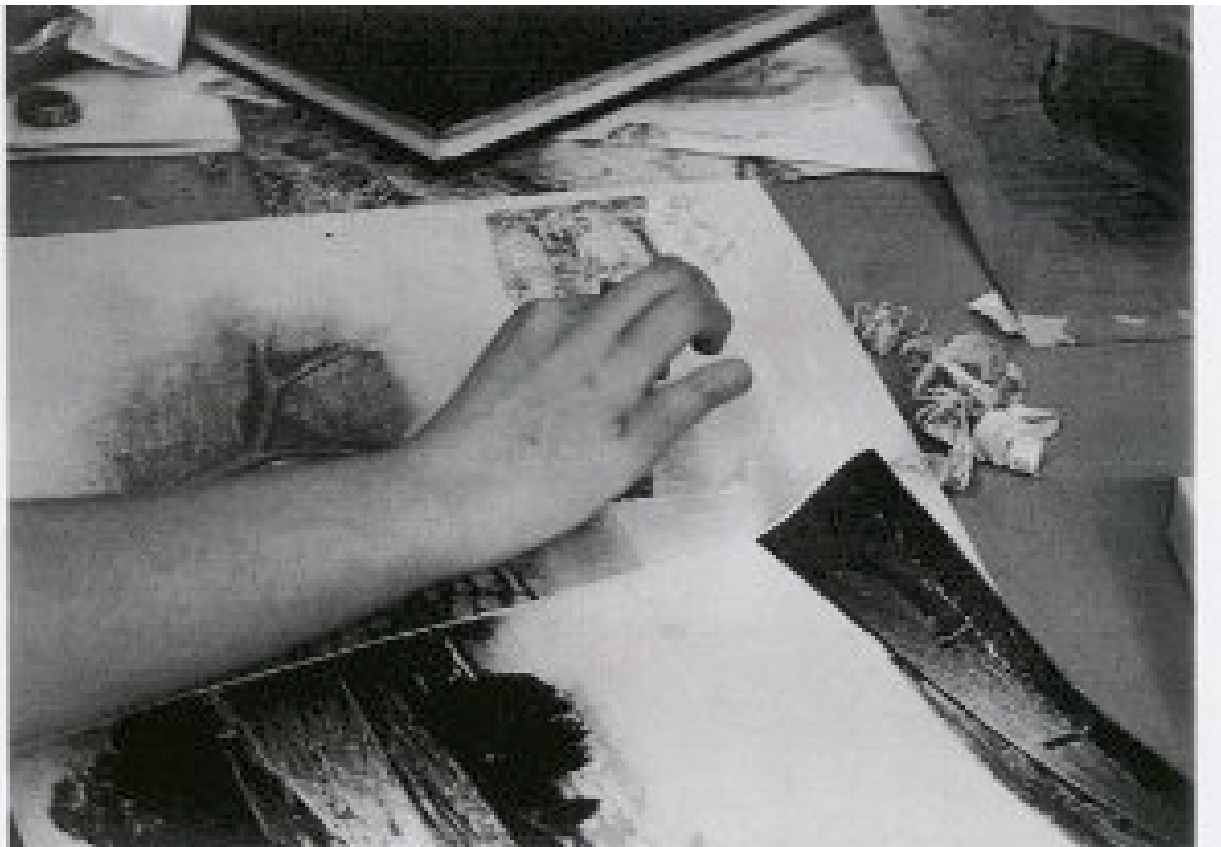
- Raby
- Woodchurch
- Rock Park
- A Wirral Mosaic
- Bromborough

One of the aims of this resource pack is to bring together a range of material relating to the built environment of Wirral with its variety of industry, agriculture, landscape and recreation. As has been seen examples of architecture with and without architects ranges from the Prehistoric through to the Medieval period to Tudor, Victorian, Edwardian, Art Deco and Contemporary High Tech.

Classical Greek, Roman, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles have effected the design, proportions and ornamentation of many buildings. Islamic, Far Eastern and Mayan themes, for example, may have influenced the buildings character.

Architects play a major role in shaping our daily lives; pupils and students can play a greater role in determining the future of our built environment.

The following pages display some school projects relating to the contrasting Wirral environment with accompanying references to artists, designers and craftpersons.



**Raby** is the Norse term for a boundary village and it may have formed a boundary between Saxon and Norse territory. The main building in Raby of historic and architectural interest is the Wheatsheaf Inn with half timbering and low beams. It dates back to 1611, a datestone is said to have been discovered in the gable during alterations.

This example of thatched roof architecture has been chosen to represent the rural landscape of Wirral.

The textures and tones of rural landscape can be seen in the work of West Kirby High School students. Experiments with resist techniques, paint, inks, threads and photocopying on emulsion allow a variety of compositional interpretations with textile, fine art and print.

- Key note artist. Alice Kettle.





**Woodchurch** probably extended over 5,000 acres of land and included nine townships. There is no mention of Woodchurch in the Domesday Book, rather Landican, the original manor and settlement from which Woodchurch developed. A block of flats in Woodchurch formed the basis of an art project at St Benedict's High School.

The Viennese artist Hundertwasser was referred to when Year 8 pupils explored the elements of colour and pattern in their work. Adolf Loos (1870-1933) a pioneering architect also from Vienna coined the slogan 'Ornament is Crime' and along with Walter Gropius, who founded the Bauhaus school, Mies Van der Rohe, the pioneer of the glass and steel skyscraper, and Le Corbusier, who called the house 'a machine for living', wanted to develop architecture that lived up to the idea of what was then defined as 'the machine age'. The high rise flat, as seen in Woodchurch, grew from this philosophy.

The high rise flat decorated with colour and pattern may be a pupil's idea to bring decoration to urban uniformity.

- Key note artist. Hundertwasser.



**Rock Park** on the banks of the Mersey, with its diversity of architectural styles symbolises the richness of its early history as an estate for the wealthy, and later on an elegant Victorian resort.

Ravages of time, neglect, lack of investment and the splitting of the estate by a major highway (A41) have contributed to its decline.

A £1 million environmental facelift is being presently carried out as part of Wirral Council's regeneration initiative. Dell Primary, a local school, has been asked to contribute ideas for the subway mural, to this end a group of Year 6 pupils, with the support of Groundworks and local residents, spent an afternoon sketching, photographing architectural details, plants, trees and the banks of the river Mersey to develop paintings for the appointed artist to work with.

Key note artist. Joan Miró.





**A Wirral Mosaic** has been completed by a group of pupils from Year 8 at Pensby High School for Girls working with a mosaicist. The mosaic depicts the communities of Wirral, buildings and landscape wedged between the estuaries of the Dee and Mersey. The pupils have drawn their inspiration from the early Christian mosaics of Ravenna, Byzantine Constantinople (Istanbul) and of the architect Gaudi in Barcelona.

This wall hanging will be displayed in the entrance hall as part of the Millennium celebratory developments both inside and outside the school.

- Key note artist. Antoni Gaudi.





