

FAQ's

Why did 19th century not have any style of its own?

There was no one style in the 19th century. Buildings are often recognized by the function rather than their style. While some were designed in 1 single style, others were designed as a blend of styles. This became a symbol soon. Neo Gothic for churches, Neoclassical for civic buildings. Mass produced decorative details. In architecture before 1800, metals played an auxiliary role. They were used for bonding masonry (dowels and clamps), for tension members (chains strengthening domes, tie rods across arches to reinforce the vaults) and for roofing, doors, windows and ventilation. Wrought iron was invented, a low-carbon, malleable metal, by burning iron and charcoal to form bloom, a spongy mixture from which ash and impurities were removed by beating and folding. Iron was available in three forms. The least processed form, CAST IRON, brittle, high percentage of impurities, displayed impressive compressive strength, however. WROUGHT IRON, more refined form of iron, malleable, low tensile strength. STEEL had tensile and compressive strength greater than any material previously available, and its capabilities revolutionized architecture. The rail was the first unit of construction. Iron was avoided for dwelling houses. Used for arcades, exhibition halls and railway stations. This made 19th century to have a style of its own.

Explain the different types of early bridges and the need for the bridges.

Cast iron was used in bridge building as early as 1779. Wilkinson assisted Darby and his architect, T.F. Pritchard in designing and erecting the first cast iron bridge, a 30.5m span built over the Severn near Coalbrookdale in 1779. In 1796 Thomas Telford made his debut as a bridge builder in his 39.5m span bridge. William Strutt's six-storey cotton mill, built at Derby in 1792 and Charles Bage's flax spinning mill erected at Shrewsbury in 1796, employed cast iron columns.

Bridges helped in transportation between lands separated by the water. It helped in faster transportation.