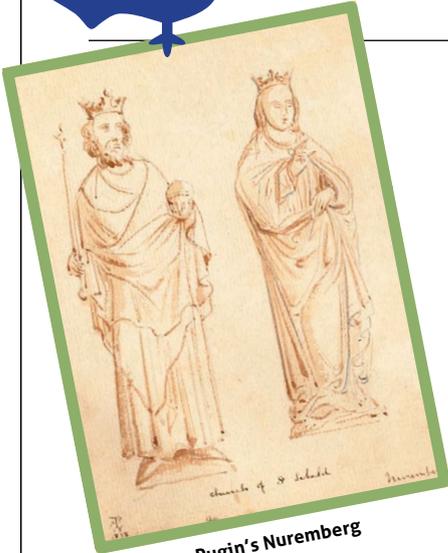


OPERATION  
**PUGIN**  
CREATIVE  
WORKSHOPS FOR  
SCHOOLS

Things you didn't know about

**PUGIN'S  
Adventures**



Page from Pugin's Nuremberg sketchbook, 1838.  
Image: Courtesy, Irish Architectural Archive.

Pugin kept a diary which reports on his many explorations around Britain and also to Europe, France, Belgium and Germany - looking for inspiration from mediaeval, gothic, buildings. He did many lively watercolour paintings of places and objects he saw. He was very proud of these drawings and had them bound into books for safekeeping.

Pugin wrote and illustrated books to help put across his points about design. These are adventures too, in a way - we can call them adventures of the mind. One of his most attractive publications was called *Floriated Ornament*. It is full of exquisite and complex flower patterns which Pugin thought people could use in their churches and houses.



The first page of Pugin's most famous book of 1841, *The True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture*, all about his architectural beliefs. You can see how he imagined himself, in a gothic study, working away.



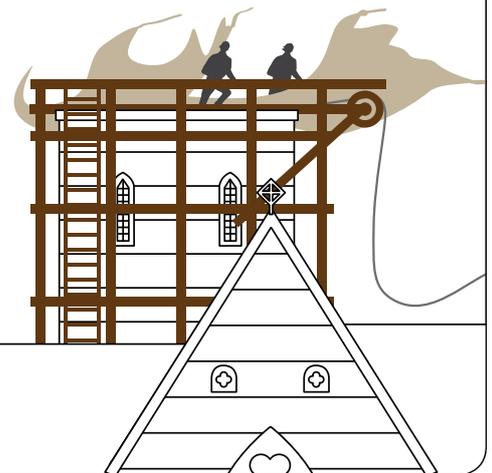
Detail from Pugin's book, *Floriated Ornament*.

In another book, he illustrated, with rich printed colour, patterns and objects based on mediaeval ones, that he thought were suitable to use in churches.

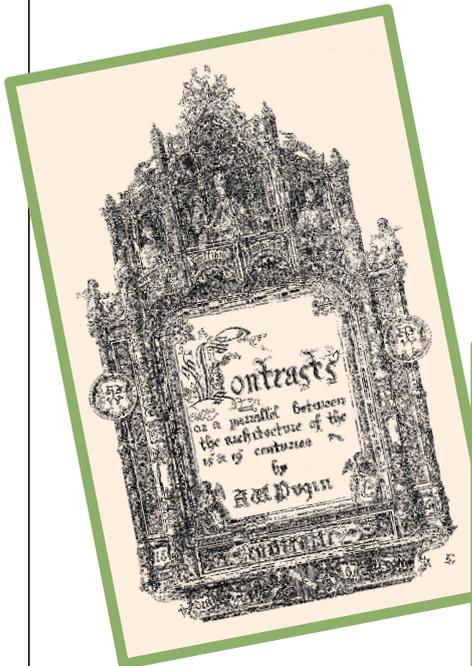


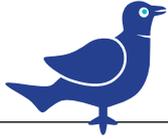
Pugin's dream of a gothic world.

When Pugin was living in Ramsgate at The Grange a severe storm came up. Pugin, the crew of his boat Caroline and members of his family all struggled to weigh down the scaffolding on the top of the tower of St Augustine with heavy boulders before it all blew away.

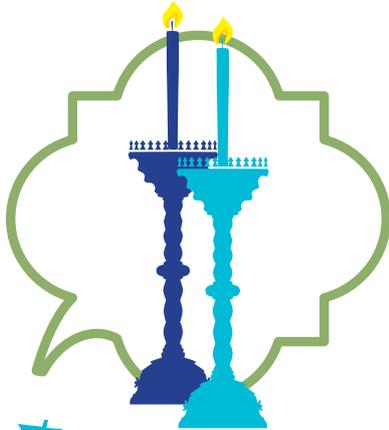


This is the title page from Pugin's book *Contrasts* that he wrote and illustrated. He showed old buildings and new ones and compared them to each other, making fun of the modern ones that he did not like.





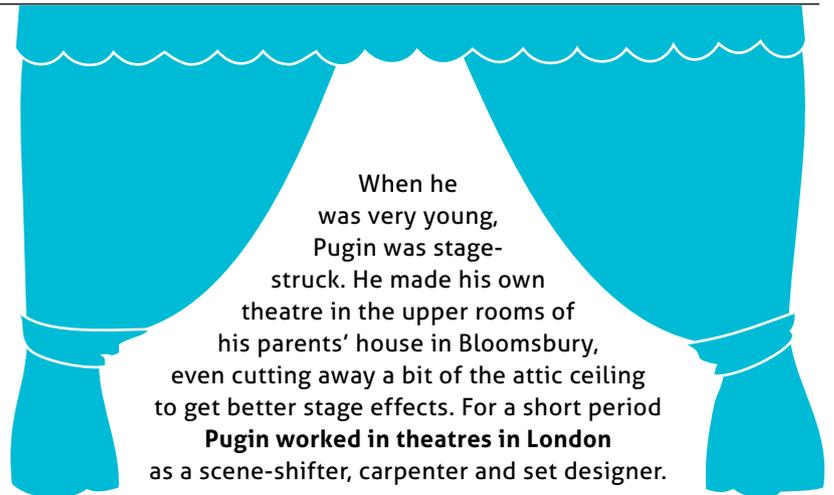
## PUGIN'S ADVENTURES *Continued*



Pugin at one time designed a pair of candlesticks for a church as a thank-offering for having been saved from a storm when on board ship. He engraved the candlesticks with an inscription of thanks to God, in Latin, and streaks of lightning. As a very young man he was shipwrecked near Edinburgh.

Pugin made one trip to Italy in 1847 - a big adventure. St Peter's in Rome was very different from his ideas about how

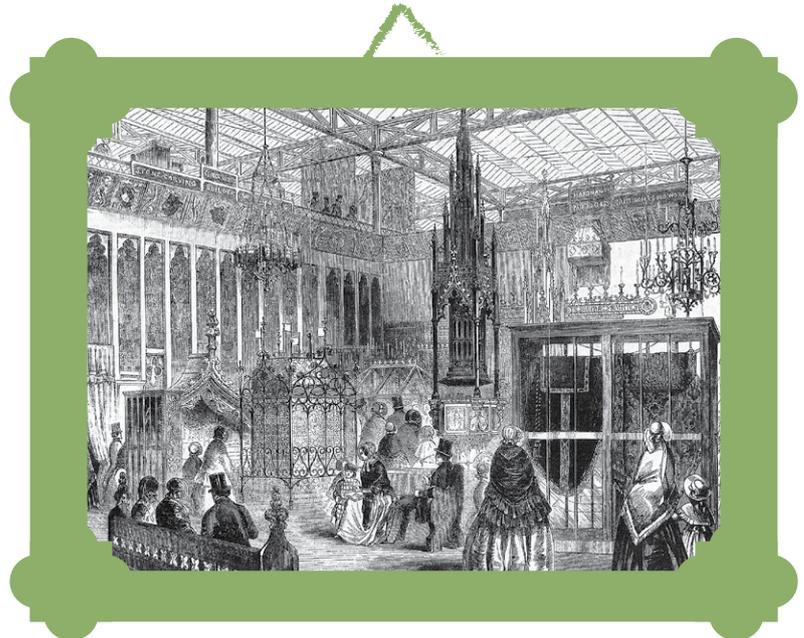
a church should be designed. Westminster Abbey was much more how he thought a church should look - GOTHIC.



When he was very young, Pugin was stage-struck. He made his own theatre in the upper rooms of his parents' house in Bloomsbury, even cutting away a bit of the attic ceiling to get better stage effects. For a short period **Pugin worked in theatres in London** as a scene-shifter, carpenter and set designer.

**The Great Exhibition of 1851**, in the huge glass building, called the Crystal Palace, in London was an important adventure for Pugin because here he was able to display his fabulous designs for the world to see - all sorts of items, carvings, furniture, ceramic plant pots, candlesticks. This was a huge and exciting exhibition and helped to make Pugin even more famous.

Below is an engraving of the Mediaeval Court at the Exhibition, where Pugin displayed all his designs of different sorts.



See Activity 07 included in this pack and 08 available online at [thepuginsociety.co.uk/operation-pugin](http://thepuginsociety.co.uk/operation-pugin)



THE PUGIN SOCIETY

All information sheets and activities can be downloaded in PDF format from [thepuginsociety.co.uk/operation-pugin](http://thepuginsociety.co.uk/operation-pugin)



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

