

From the description you heard in class can you identify which of Renwick's Smithsonian buildings is which? How do they differ? Can you see any similarities?

A



B



Teacher's Guide



Smithsonian Institution Building or “Castle”



Renwick Gallery (originally the Corcoran Gallery)

Styles: Smithsonian Castle is adapted from the Romanesque style and the Renwick Gallery is adapted from the Empire Style with a typical mansard roof.

Differences: The Castle is not symmetrical in its elements, such as the towers and ends of the building. The Renwick Gallery is symmetrical with elements repeated on both sides of the building.

Similarities: Both are an eclectic approach, taking elements from a style but not copying it exactly. Both are much more complex and fanciful designs than the typical neo-classical designs of the day, such as the U.S. Capitol. Although you cannot see it in this drawing of the Castle, both buildings are made with a red stone which stood out in contrast to the white marble buildings found in the rest of the nation's capital.