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Christopher Wren

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During the time of danger in civil war and revolution of many things , one of the greatest men in England had shined his talents out to the world. His name is Christopher Wren. He is considered to be the greatest English architect. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, England was in the lack of the visual artist so Christopher Wren's work had changed the aspect of England's art. If you visit the churches all over England, you will see that Wren's name is frequently mentioned. Wren's fame will always live with all his buildings. He was an expert in many disciplines; however, not many people really know about him. Practically, he was a half-forgotten man. The vagueness of his name in many books enables the modern day's people to easily become oblivious of his competences. If his life was not related to architecture, his name might disappear with the flowing of the time because the greatness in other disciplines are just the factors that help him adapt and use them in architecture. The designing of London, including rebuilding Saint Paul's Cathedral after the great fire by using his own self-taught knowledge in architecture, is the most interesting thing about Christopher Wren.

Since when Christopher Wren was young, he was advanced in learning beyond the range of other children. A wonder boy and a young miracle is a prodigy that

could tell his wonder.[1] His knowledge started with the teaching from his father. After he entered Westminster school, he became the Latin proficiency and interested in science and mathematics.[2] This was the starting point of his success. Since he was a child, he dearly loved to draw. As he grew up, he continued to develop his drawing skill. Being in the Oxford University, the knowledge in science and mathematics had fascinated him, leading him to conducting many experiments and inventing great experiments which are very beneficial to people in nowadays. The example of his works are the sign of x as the symbol multiplication,[3] the new technique of printing, blood transfusion from one animal to another and etc.[4] Reading "Architecture" by Vitruvius and studying "the Theatre of Marcellus" helped to pave the first career path for Christopher Wren, leading him to a path of memorable architects.[5]

After the great fire in London, the greatest opportunity in architecture for Christopher Wren was come. It is uncommonly rare for a person who learned to be an architect by himself to get a chance to do a huge project: redesigning city of London and rebuilding 51 churches.[6] Because his idea was too sophisticated and revolutionary, Wren's design only lived on the paper. If there was no rejection, London would have a gorgeous view and became even more symmetrical than Paris. Later, he was appointed as the Saint Paul's Cathedral Surveyor so he had a chance

[1] Arthur H. Booth. Sir Christopher Wren. 1967, p.10.
[2] Arthur H. Booth. Sir Christopher Wren. 1967, p.15-17.
[3] Arthur H. Booth. Sir Christopher Wren. 1967, p.18.
[4] Heywood Gould. Sir Christopher Wren, Renaissance Architect, Philosopher, and Scientist. 1970, p.59-60
[5] J J O'Connor, E F Robertson. "Sir Christopher Wren." The Mac Tutor History of Mathematics archive. 29 January 2013. < http://www-history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/Biographies/Wren.html>
[6] Wikipedia cintributors. "Christopher Wren." Wikipedia, The free Encyclopedia. 28 January 2013. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Wren>

to become one of the old cathedral's repairing members.[7] Before Saint Paul's Cathedral is in its present state, Wren had to struggle through many obstacles: the danger of demolishing a large structure and the rejection of the model plan for 2 times. For the first design, London City Council rejected it because of the difficulty of demolishing the old burned-down structure, the weak wood-structure and inadequate grand. The reason of the second rejection was based mostly on Greek architecture which is not suitable for a Christian church. Finally, his third design was approved. It is a classic model combined a Greek cross with a dome instead of tower. The interior satisfied the style of Christian church but there were criticism against the smaller and less ambitious cathedral; however, the construction started based on the third design and this version of Saint Paul's Cathedral remains until the present time. Because of Wren's patience and effort, he completed the construction of Saint Paul's Cathedral before his death which took about thirty six years.[8]

Now, many works and inventions of Christopher Wren has very become useful to the present time society. For example, Saint Paul's Cathedral becomes a place of British's spiritual life which influences religion, arts and learning. The sketch of the Cathedral shows how brilliant he can apply his mathematical knowledge to architecture. Some of his sketches use the concept of parabola on x-y graph as the dome of building is plotted.[9] The actual building is designed base on mathematics and science concept. Wren is the one who invented this new style that brought about the change to the

[7] J J O'Connor, E F Robertson. "Sir Christopher Wren." The Mac Tutor History of Mathematics archive. 29 January 2013. < http://www-history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/Biographies/Wren.html>
[8] Heywood Gould. Sir Christopher Wren, Renaissance Architect, Philosopher, and Scientist. 1970, p.143-159.
[9] Stephen Adams. "St Paul's Cathedral sketches show how Sir Christopher Wren changed architecture." The Telegraph. 1 February 2013. < http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/5672783/St-Pauls-Cathedral-sketches-show-how-Sir-Christopher-Wren-changed-architecture.html>

monotony of the old-fashioned sketch. He left an indelible mark on architecture in England and was a major figure of the English Renaissance. For medical stream, his experiment and theory had provided many advances in brain surgery.[10] Who would know that the one who wrote the theory of the rings of Saturn and found out the answer of the problem of determining longitude at sea is Christopher Wren.[11]

In conclusion, Christopher Wren remained as an outstanding architect with a diversified competence of all time . Wren's interest in Science and Mathematics, it enabled him to use and apply his knowledge in designing the building more than other people. When enabled from a child who started learning from his father at home to a person who was changing the architecture's world. It was not easy. It had been a long journey for him. If he only had talent, he would be just a smart and expertise architect. However, he was like a glass with immeasurable depth; he researched for new knowledge all the time and conducted many new experiments to find out the truth of the hypothesis. With these characteristics, it made Christopher Wren was different and more special than other people.

[10] John H. Lienhard. "Christopher Wren, The Physician." University of Houston, 1 February 2013. <http://www.uh.edu/engines/epi1567.htm>
[11] Arthur H. Booth. Sir Christopher Wren. 1967, p.27.