

Ireland and the Caribbean; Comparative Perspectives



Fig. 14 Kelly's Pen Sugar Works

The Caribbean was the crucible of Atlantic slavery and the plantation system that sustained it. British, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Danish and Dutch plantations can be found on all the Caribbean islands, together with their great houses, sugar works, service buildings, slave huts, circulation routes, designed views and prospects. The trans-imperial design of such exploitative, yet highly considered environments, is the project's primary concern. These complex designs, both productive and defensive, utilitarian and aesthetic, will be comparatively analysed. How were such designs made, drawn, transmitted, built and revised across and between the Caribbean islands and the homelands of Europe?

The project will also examine in detail the design of Irish-Caribbean plantation landscapes, whose origins may lie partly in the plantations of seventeenth-century Ireland. It will consider the reverse impact of the Caribbean on Irish mentalities, networks, towns, houses and landscapes. It is concerned with Ireland's role in slavery's transatlantic web of commerce, improvement and monoculture agriculture and its ongoing complex legacy today.

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