Building Ideas!

Celebrating the Building Trades at the Telfair’s Owens-Thomas House
The Owens–Thomas House was built for Richard Richardson, a cotton merchant, and his wife, Francis Bolton. It was designed by a young English architect named William Jay. It took three years to build and the family moved into the house in 1819. Since then, the house has been a home, a boarding house, and now, a museum. If you were designing your dream house, what would it look like?

Did you know? This beautiful garden was once the place where the family’s horse-drawn carriages turned around! Try to picture how it might have looked back then. It sure has changed a lot!

The Garden is A-MAZE-ING

Oh no! The garden has turned into a maze! Start in the center and work your way out.
See a Pattern? Through out the Owens-Thomas House there are decorative patterns, like the one above. They are in the plaster moldings, the ironwork, and even in the stained glass windows. Look around and see how many patterns you can find. Draw your favorites here.

Building a House A house as elaborate as the Owens-Thomas House takes a lot of people with a lot of different skills to build! Take a walk around the house and look at all the different types of building materials and decorative details. Be sure to also look at the Urban Slave Quarters behind the house.
On the Half Shell

Tabby is a building material made of sand, lime, and oyster shells. Anyone who has been to a beach or marsh in Savannah knows we have plenty of oyster shells! When these 3 ingredients are mixed together, they form a strong concrete, so strong it was used in buildings all over Savannah! Look around the Owens-Thomas House and see how many places you can find Tabby.

Word Sleuth!  Now that you are becoming an expert on the Owens-Thomas House, let’s put some of your new words to use. Below is a list of words that have to do with the building arts and the Owens-Thomas House. See if you can find where they are hidden in the puzzle below!

amber
key
architect
oyster
column
portico
design
regency
facade
stucco
ionic
tabby
museum
lime

A T A B B Y T A E O
R R E T S Y O M O E
C N M P K E I B C D
H G J U O L E E C A
I I N I E R X R U C
T S Z O Y S T H T A
E E F N E G U I S F
C D Q I K Z G M C I
T M Y C N E G E R O
S T Y N M U L O C B