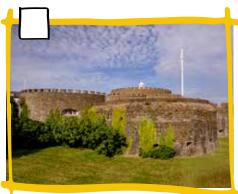




HENRY VIII'S COAT OF ARMS
Henry VIII wanted to show off his
power by building these gun forts. His coat of
arms, carved in stone, was displayed over the
main entrance at many of them – so there was
no doubt who built them. Pendennis and
St Mawes have the best examples.



CIRCULAR SHAPE
The first device forts were built in a circular or part-circular shape so guns could be placed in them to fight an attack from any direction. Looking at them today, the design of each fort is slightly different, but the circular form is clear.



SURROUNDING BASTIONS
The most common design had a circular tower surrounded by between 3 and 6 bastions (low platforms for powerful guns).
Deal, Walmer, Camber, Calshot, Hurst, St Mawes and Pendennis Castles all have these.

**CENTRAL TOWER, WITH** 







ROUNDED PARAPETS
Each fort was built to withstand
enemy gunfire, with thick stone walls. The
parapets (low protective walls) were also
strongly made to protect the gunners behind
them, with rounded tops to deflect incoming
cannon shot over the gunners' heads. Hurst

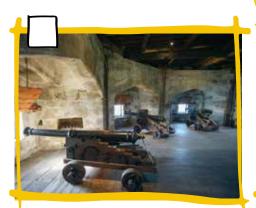
Castle is a good example.



5 SMALL, STRONG ENTRANCES
The entrance to any castle or fort
is a weak point. The device forts had small,
well-defended entrances. These usually had a
single archway with many defensive barriers:
strong wooden doors, portcullises and
murder holes. The portcullis at Pendennis
Castle is the original Tudor one.



6 LOOKOUT TURRETS
The main purpose of the device forts
was to defend the coast from enemy ships.
The tops of many forts – St Mawes Castle,
for example – had a little turret containing a
tiny room where a soldier on the lookout for
approaching ships could take shelter during
bad weather.



GUN POSITIONS
The central towers and some bastions had gun positions inside them. These were built in the thickness of the walls and had vents above them – like chimneys – going up through the walls to take gun smoke away from the gunners, so they didn't choke.



FIREPLACES
In areas away from the guns, the forts
contain living quarters for the gunners. The
forts were very cold in winter and most had
large fireplaces with wide Tudor arches so the
men could keep warm. There is also usually a
kitchen with a big fireplace for cooking.





