Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the New Town Plan, this event will bring the city’s Georgian past to life. Follow the trail from St Andrew Square to Charlotte Square and see some of the New Town’s key architectural gems illuminated to reveal their classical grandeur. As the light begins to fade, see if you can catch the shadows of the original Georgian residents, as they return to inhabit their former homes for a moment or two.

St Andrew Square is the centrepiece of the event, where a lumière show on the Melville Monument will recount how the New Town was planned. It will bring historic maps to life and illustrate how the New Town looked when it was first built, with a stunning fly-through sequence.

Move on to enjoy a peek at the characters of the time and some of the highlights of the New Town’s finest buildings. Take a look at Dundas House at 36 St Andrew Square, spot the classical features of General Register House on Princes Street, and stroll along George Street towards St Andrew’s and St George’s Church, The Assembly Rooms, 39 North Castle Street and Charlotte Square, where you can see the palace-like frontage shared by Bute House and The Georgian House.

Edinburgh’s Georgian Shadows

Edinburgh’s Georgian Shadows is part of the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017 and is supported by City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Tourism Action Group, Essential Edinburgh, Edinburgh World Heritage and Marketing Edinburgh.

To find out more about Edinburgh’s Georgian Shadows, visit edinburgh.org/shadows

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Original Illustration by Laura Barrett
St Andrew Square
On 24-25 St Andrew Square look out for the shadows of the square's original residents, as they return to inhabit one of the Georgian houses. On the top floors residents are dressing and reading, while in the grand first floor rooms, fashionable entertainment is underway with dancing and luxurious dining.

On the south of the square, behind the façades of the modern buildings lie the ghosts of the original Georgian residents...

1. General Register House
Designed by the renowned Scottish architect Robert Adam, this building formed a crucial part of the New Town plan and features many intricate classical details. Look out for extracts from the original proposals published in 1752, which set the New Town project in motion, calling for a new purpose-built home for the nation's archives.

2. Dundas House
The fine classical detail of 36 St Andrew Square will also be illuminated. Built in 1774 it is perhaps the grandest house in the New Town, originally owned by wealthy businessman Sir Laurence Dundas.

3. St Andrew’s and St George’s West Church
This was the first church in the New Town, opening its doors in 1784. Here you can catch a glimpse of Georgian street life - the link boy with his flaming torch showing a fireman the way, sedan chairmen waiting for their next customer, a Newhaven fishwife selling her wares and some of the city's 'tron men' or chimney sweeps heading off to another New Town rooftop.

4. Assembly Rooms
Opened in 1787, the Assembly Rooms became the focus for the social life of the New Town. In the west lane, which originally formed one of the main entrances to the building, see the guests arriving in all their finery for the Caledonian Hunt ball. The event has attracted the great and the good of the New Town, with gentlemen, officers and ladies led by one of the city's torch-carrying link boys.

5. 39 North Castle Street
This was the home of one of the New Town's most famous residents, the celebrated novelist Sir Walter Scott. It was here that he wrote much of his most famous work. See if you can spot the great man at work with his faithful dog Spice by his side.

Charlotte Square
Planned by Robert Adam in 1791, Charlotte Square is regarded as a masterpiece of urban design, featuring a series of townhouses designed with palace-like frontages. Special lighting will focus on some of the architectural details of the centrepiece of Adam's design, Bute House (6), today the home of the First Minister of Scotland.

Next door at The Georgian House (7), spy though the windows as the butler and housemaid set the table for dinner with silverware, crystal and the best china.