Architecture and Interpretation

The uses of Gothic in Irish domestic architecture, 1785–1829

The genesis and development of Charleville castle

Why were Gothic styles adopted so enthusiastically in Ireland in the post-Union period?
To design in a revival style is to make a deliberate choice. Were specific meanings intended? What were they? Why were such meanings important to builders in post-Union Ireland?

Intention & Reception
What did patrons and architects understand of medieval architecture? What did they intend in their Gothic revival designs? How were the castles interpreted?

Assessment
The expressed meaning of these buildings have significance within the context of the post-Union period when the identity of the Ascendancy and their role within Ireland was challenged.