



Tchoban Foundation
Museum for
Architectural Drawing

Press Release

Berlin, 16.1.2018

Visions of World Architecture: Illustrations from the Royal Academy Lectures of Sir John Soane

Tchoban Foundation. Museum for Architectural Drawing
Christinenstraße 18a, 10119 Berlin

Exhibition opening on the 2nd March, 2018 at 19:00
Press conference on the 2nd March, 2018 at 18:00

Exhibition dates: 3rd March, 2018 – 17th June, 2018

Opening times: Mon.-Fri. 14:00 - 19:00, Sat.-Sun. 13:00 - 17:00;
Tickets: 5 Euros, concessions, 3 Euros

This new temporary loan exhibition is the third collaborative project between the Museum for Architectural Drawing, Berlin and Sir John Soane's Museum, London. The exhibition showcases a series of remarkable drawings produced by Sir John Soane to illustrate his lectures at the Royal Academy of Arts, London between 1809 and 1820. Beautifully rendered by Soane's pupils from his own office and spanning subjects ranging from pre-history to the latest buildings of Regency London, these coloured illustrations offer a fascinating insight into Soane's architectural mind and his role as an educator.



On 28th March 1806, John Soane (1753–1837) was elected Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy, succeeding his old master, George Dance. As Professor of Architecture, Soane was required to deliver six lectures annually to the students of the Royal Academy. Key sources for Soane's lectures were the books by Julien-David Le Roy and Jacques-François Blondel who were both Professors at the French Royal Academy of Architecture. Soane was also influenced by the course of six lectures he attended as a student at the Royal Academy in the 1770s, given by Thomas Sandby, first Professor of Architecture, which were accompanied by 128 novel water colour illustrations. For many students in the audience, the large coloured drawings illustrating the masterpieces of world architecture were an integral part of their experience of the lectures, offering them views of great works of architecture from across the world.

The lecture drawings, which number over 1,000, were produced by Soane's pupils in his office working up to 12 hours a day. Some drawings took as long as several weeks to complete. This time-consuming and costly exercise reflected Soane's commitment to the education of aspiring architects. This commitment was also one of the driving forces behind Soane's creation of his extraordinary house-museum in London, which he conceived to act as 'academy of architecture' for the benefit of '*amateurs* and students' alike.

Despite the fact that the lecture drawings were not signed, it has been possible to identify the names of many of the pupils who made these drawings from Soane's surviving daybooks. The drawings were in three main groups: those based on engravings from architectural folios on Soane's shelves, notably Piranesi; those drawn by pupils on many site visits in London; and a large number that were based on Soane's designs and on drawings by earlier architects in his collection.



The exhibition shows 27 of Soane's most beautiful and important lecture illustrations. It was first shown at the Sir John Soane's Museum in 2007 and is now coming to Berlin in a revised form.

The original exhibition at Sir John Soane's Museum was curated by Professor David Watkin, author of *Sir John Soane: Enlightenment Thought and the Royal Academy Lectures* (1996).

Contact

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We kindly request a copy in the case of publishing.

Notes to editors

About the Museum for Architectural Drawing, Berlin

The Tchoban Foundation's Museum for Architectural Drawing (Museum für Architekturzeichnung der Tchoban Foundation) has been located on the grounds of the former Pfefferberg brewery since June 2013. Architect Sergei Tchoban created the foundation in 2009 with the mission to promote the art of architectural drawing. The Tchoban Foundation displays three exhibitions per year, from the collection as well as others stemming from cooperation agreements with international partners, including the Sir John Soane's Museum, London, Albertina in Vienna, École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris, DAM in Frankfurt/Main and others.



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About Sir John Soane's Museum

Sir John Soane's house, museum and library at No. 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields has been a public museum since the early nineteenth century. On his appointment as Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy in 1806, Soane (1753-1837) began to arrange his books, classical antiquities, casts and models so that students of architecture might benefit from access to them. In 1833 he negotiated an Act of Parliament to preserve the house and collection after his death for the benefit of 'amateurs and students' in architecture, painting and sculpture. Today, Sir John Soane's Museum is one of the country's most unusual and significant museums with a continuing and developing commitment to education and creative inspiration.

This exhibition was kindly supported by:

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SPEECH



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Images



Charles Malton
Temple of Solomon
Jerusalem
Capital
June & October 1808



Soane office
Composite view of buildings at Kew Gardens
(no date)



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Charles Papendiek
Buckingham House
Section showing lower hall, staircase and saloon
January 1819



Henry Seward
Arch of Augustus
Aosta
January 1807



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Charles Tyrell
Comparative drawing of St Peter's and the Pantheon, Rome,
the Radcliffe Library, Oxford, and Soane's Rotunda at the Bank of England
London
October 1814