



# Sir John Soane The Architect As Collector

**Dr. Frances Sands**



## **Sir John Soane The Architect As Collector:**

Sir John Soane Peter Thornton, Helen Dorey, 1992 Sir John Soane 1753 1837 the son of a bricklayer rose to become one of England's greatest architects as well a remarkably astute collector of objects and works of art His house in Lincoln's Inn Fields in London was bequeathed to the British nation by a private Act of Parliament in 1833 for the benefit of Amateurs and Students of Painting Sculpture and Architecture and the building itself and the collections within now comprise a unique and extremely popular public museum Soane was at the very center of artistic activity in late Georgian England and his collections reveal the intellectual preoccupations of his day Amassed over his long lifetime during his travels and from his friends and professional contacts they include paintings by Hogarth and Turner Greek Roman and Egyptian antiquities Chinese ceramics and a vast number of drawings clocks models furniture gems jewelry manuscripts and other objects that reveal the breadth of Soane's tastes and interests This handsome book focuses on more than 120 works from Soane's collections ranging from paintings and sculpture to a watch given by Queen Anne to Sir Christopher Wren Peter Thornton Curator of Sir John Soane's Museum and his research assistant Helen Dorey have written lively commentaries to the 130 illustrations 99 in full color providing information about the objects themselves and their history and at the same time shedding light on Soane's life character and cultural pursuits Soane prepared his museum personally spending huge sums of money and gathering items for their intrinsic value their appearance or their associations His goal was to create a poetic setting using architecture to evoke the spirit of antiquity For this reason he arranged his collections not didactically by periods or cultures but rather mingled together offering a springboard for the imagination Sir John Soane The Architect as Collector is the first book to focus purely on the collections of this working architect who acquired his treasures as an anthology of antique architecture and decoration and whose hope was that future generations would find in them a source of reference and inspiration

**A Miscellany of Objects from Sir John Soane's Museum** Peter Thornton, Helen Dorey, Sir John Soane's Museum, 1992 For this book the curators have brought together 120 objects from Sir John Soane's Museum A commentary accompanies each picture relating the story behind the object's acquisition or arrangement *Crude Hints Towards an History of My House in Lincoln's Inn Fields* John Soane, 2015 In 1812 the architect Sir John Soane 1753 1837 wrote a strange and perplexing manuscript *Crude Hints towards an History of my House in Lincoln's Inn Fields* in which in the guise of an Antiquary he imagines his home as a future ruin inspected by visitors speculating on its origins and function Never published in his lifetime the manuscript has been meticulously transcribed and provided with an explanatory Introduction and footnotes by Helen Dorey Deputy Director and Inspector of Sir John Soane's Museum Originally published as part of an exhibition catalogue sixteen years ago this new edition has been extensively revised and updated The text is accompanied by nineteen illustrations seventeen of them in full colour

**Sir John Soane? Influence on Architecture from 1791** Oliver Bradbury, 2017-07-05 Sir John Soane's Influence on Architecture from 1791 A Continuing Legacy is the

first in depth study of this eighteenth century British architect's impact on the work of others extending globally and still indeed the case over 200 years later Author Oliver Bradbury presents a compelling argument that the influence of Soane 1753-1837 has persevered through the centuries rather than waning around the time of his death Through examinations of internationally renowned architects from Benjamin Henry Latrobe to Philip Johnson as well as a number of not so well known Soanean disciples Bradbury posits that Soane is perhaps second only to Palladio in terms of the longevity of his influence on architecture through the course of more than two centuries from the early 1790s to today concluding with the recent return to pure revivalism Previous investigations have been limited to focusing on Soane's late Georgian and then post modern influence this is the first in depth study of his impact over the course of two centuries Through this survey Bradbury demonstrates that Soane's influence has been truly international in the pre modern era reaching throughout the British Isles and beyond to North America and even colonial Australia Through his inclusion of select detailed case studies Bradbury contends that Soane's is a continuing not negated legacy in architecture

**Women and the Art and Science of Collecting in Eighteenth-Century Europe** Arlene Leis, Kacie L. Wills, 2020-08-31 Through both longer essays and shorter case studies this book examines the relationship of European women from various countries and backgrounds to collecting in order to explore the social practices and material and visual cultures of collecting in eighteenth century Europe It recovers their lives and examines their interests their methodologies and their collections and objects some of which have rarely been studied before The book also considers women's role as producers that is creators of objects that were collected Detailed examination of the artefacts both visually and in relation to their historical contexts exposes new ways of thinking about collecting in relation to the arts and sciences in eighteenth century Europe The book is interdisciplinary in its makeup and brings together scholars from a wide range of fields It will be of interest to those working in art history material and visual culture history of collecting history of science literary studies women's studies gender studies and art conservation

*The Collectors Museum* Logan Rodriguez, AI, 2025-02-24 The Collectors Museum explores the captivating world of private art collections that have evolved into public museums highlighting the unique interplay of personal passion architecture and community enrichment These institutions born from a collector's vision often challenge conventional museum norms impacting art accessibility and cultural landscapes The book delves into the motivations behind this transition revealing how collectors' desires for legacy and philanthropy shape these spaces The book examines architectural considerations from converting private residences to designing new museum structures and the socio cultural effects of sharing previously private collections with the public It emphasizes the democratization of art a shift from exclusive access for the wealthy elite to broader community engagement Unique to these museums is the deeply personal vision that drives their creation influencing everything from museum design to the visitor experience The book progresses from introducing the concept of the collector's museum to exploring the psychological and philanthropic drivers behind their creation It analyzes

architectural adaptations through case studies and examines the socio cultural impact on communities ultimately asserting the lasting legacy of these museums in shaping the future of art accessibility This holistic approach offers a fresh perspective on the evolving landscape of art museums      **John Soane's Cabinet of Curiosities** Bruce Boucher,2024-06-11 An in depth study that sheds a fascinating new light on Sir John Soane 1753 1837 and his world renowned collection Sir John Soane s architecture has enjoyed a revival of interest over the last seventy years yet Soane as a collector the strategy behind and motivation for Soane s bequest to the nation has remained largely unexplored While Soane referred to the display of objects in his house and museum as studies for my own mind he never explained what he meant by this and the ambiguity surrounding his motivation remains perennially fascinating This book sheds light on a side of Soane s personality unfamiliar to most students of his life and work by examining key strands in his collection and what they reveal about Soane and the psychology of collecting Topics include the display of antiquities his fascination with ruins both literal and figurative his singular response to Gothic architecture and his investment in modern British painting and sculpture These aspects are bookended by an introductory biographical chapter that highlights the ways in which his family and career informed his collecting habits as well as an epilogue that analyses the challenges of turning a private house and collection into a public museum      Housing the New Romans Katharine T. von Stackelberg,Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis,2017-06-01 This volume of scholarly essays investigates how the reception of Classical Greece and Rome and ancient Egypt redeployed Classicizing and Egyptianizing tropes in the 19th and 20th Centuries to create a new cultural hybrid the Neo Antique dwelling

**Architectural Drawings** Dr. Frances Sands,2021-08-05 A visual large format compilation of some the finest architectural drawings from Sir John Soane s extensive collection Architectural Drawings casts light on the magnificent architectural drawings of neo classical architect teacher and collector Sir John Soane that are otherwise concealed in archives This book featuring artworks handpicked from what was probably the first comprehensive collection of architectural drawings in the world numbering 30 000 at the time of his death in 1837 celebrates a life spent procuring curiosities The collection encompasses the hands of Montano Thorpe Wren Talman Hawksmoor Vanbrugh Gibbs Kent Chambers Adam Cl risseau P cheux Wyatt Playfair Nash and of course Soane himself The quality of Soane s collection of drawings is scarcely paralleled elsewhere and on account of their fragility these items are infrequently seen by the public This innovative book draws together the most exquisite and important works from the collection for the first time showing the extraordinary connoisseurship of Sir John Soane while also exploring what drove Soane to amass such a collection and the provenance of his various significant acquisitions This book illustrates the story of Soane as a collector of architectural drawings but a story which is not normally available to the public and will provide a sumptuous opportunity to peruse some of the finest architectural drawings in existence      *Sir John Soane's Museum* Susan Feinberg Millenson,1987      **Knight's Penny Magazine** ,1837      **The Turner Gallery; with a Catalogue of the Vernon Collection ... Now on View at Marlborough**

**House** Turner Gallery (LONDON),1857     The Penny Magazine of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge,1837     the penny magazine of the society for the duffusion of useful knowledge ,1837

**The Penny Magazine of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge** ,1836     **Curiosities of London** John Timbs,1867     **Royal Institute of British Architects, Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects** Royal Institute of British Architects,1911     **Drawing on Architecture** Jordan Kauffman,2019-03-19 How architectural drawings emerged as aesthetic objects promoted by a network of galleries collectors and institutions and how this changed the understanding of architecture Prior to the 1970s buildings were commonly understood to be the goal of architectural practice architectural drawings were seen simply as a means to an end But just as the boundaries of architecture itself were shifting at the end of the twentieth century the perception of architectural drawings was also shifting they began to be seen as autonomous objects outside the process of building In *Drawing on Architecture* Jordan Kauffman offers an account of how architectural drawings promoted by a network of galleries and collectors exhibitions and events emerged as aesthetic objects and ultimately attained status as important cultural and historical artifacts and how this was both emblematic of changes in architecture and a catalyst for these changes Kauffman traces moments of critical importance to the evolution of the perception of architectural drawings beginning with exhibitions that featured architectural drawings displayed in ways that did not elucidate buildings but treated them as meaningful objects in their own right When architectural drawings were seen as having intrinsic value they became collectible and Kauffman chronicles early collectors galleries and sales He discusses three key exhibitions at the Leo Castelli Gallery in New York other galleries around the world that specialized in architectural drawings the founding of architecture museums that understood and collected drawings as important cultural and historical artifacts and the effect of the new significance of architectural drawings on architecture and architectural history *Drawing on* interviews with more than forty people directly involved with the events described and on extensive archival research Kauffman shows how architectural drawings became the driving force in architectural debate in an era of change

*Cultures of Collecting* Roger Cardinal,2004-09-02 This book traces the psychology history and theory of the compulsion to collect focusing not just on the normative collections of the Western canon but also on collections that reflect a fascination with the Other and the marginal the ephemeral exotic or just plain curious There are essays on the Neoclassical architect Sir John Soane Sigmund Freud and Kurt Schwitters one of the masters of collage Others examine imperialist encounters with remote cultures the conquistadors in America in the sixteenth century and the British in the Pacific in the eighteenth and the more recent collectors of popular culture be they of Swatch watches Elvis Presley memorabilia or of packaging and advertising With essays by Jean Baudrillard Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann Nicholas Thomas Mieke Bal John Forrester John Windsor Naomi Schor Susan Stewart Anthony Alan Shelton John Elsner Roger Cardinal and an interview with Robert Opie

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### **Sir John Soane The Architect As Collector Introduction**

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