

Sir John Soane

THE MUSEUM HE CREATED



Soane was born in 1753, the son of a bricklayer, and died after a long and distinguished career, in 1837. Perhaps the greatest English Neoclassical architect during the last quarter of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Soane worked within the parameters of the classical idiom to create unique commercial and residential structures, including the Dulwich Picture Gallery, the Bank of England, No. 10 Downing Street, and a host of country houses. His London home, located at Numbers 12 and 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, has become the Sir John Soane's Museum and is the best remaining example of his genius. No. 14, which was also designed by Soane but never lived in by him or his family, houses the research library, the Robert Adam Study Center, and the Education Workshop and Classrooms, as well as administrative offices for the museum.

Soane was a visionary who used his home not only as his personal dwelling space, but also as a laboratory for his ideas, and as the repository for his varied collections of some 54,000 objects, including some 30,000 drawings, old master paintings including Canalettos, Hogarths and Turners, architectural models, Greek and Roman sculpture and Egyptian Antiquities, and 8,000 rare books, including first editions of Milton and Shakespeare.

No discussion of Soane's work would be complete without mentioning his use of light. The Museum is filled with mirrors, domes, fantastic ceilings and skylights with colored glass, used not only to light the rooms but also to create dramatic effects and to highlight the numerous plaster casts and marble fragments that are artistically arranged in every available space throughout the house. With his foresight in leaving his home to the public by Act of Parliament in 1833, Soane's house and its contents survive today, giving visitors a rare glimpse into the house of a great architect, collector and man of the enlightenment. Visit to explore London's original hidden treasure in the heart of this vibrant city.

In America, **Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation** was created in 1991 to further Soane's goal of educating the general and professional publics in architecture and the fine and decorative arts, and to support Sir John Soane's Museum. Our programs have so far attracted more than five thousand students, educators, curators, architects, decorators and collectors. Each year, the Foundation awards graduate level traveling fellowships in architecture and history for the purpose of conducting research at the Museum and in London.

In London, **Sir John Soane's Museum** embarked on a multi-phase program of restoration and reinstatement of lost historic features with *Opening Up The Soane*. Phase 1 was completed in 2012 and Phases 2 / 3 are scheduled for completion by 2015. The Foundation, for its part, focused efforts on the creation of a new conservation centre, which was dedicated in September 2012 as the John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn Conservation Centre at the Soane Museum. The Foundation's support also assists with other conservation efforts and staffing. Henceforth, conservation funding will allow for other specialized projects to proceed, along with the day-to-day conservation care needed for the building and its extraordinary collections. The campaign in America, also helps put the Soane Foundation on a solid financial footing for the years to come. Join us in supporting Soane's legacy and the best house museum in the world.

Join Us! Become a Member of Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation or Renew your Membership today!

Supporter's Circle* \$100 Friends of Conservation \$150 UK/USA Conservation Circle \$300
Admirers, Architects & Designers Circle \$500 Patron's Circle \$1,500 Collector's Circle \$10,000

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