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Sir John Soane mansion to be restored with £4.4m Heritage Lottery grant

Work on Grade I-listed Pitzhanger Manor in west London, which was once frequented by JMW Turner, will restore it to its former glory by 2018 – and add a cafe in the walled garden

Maev Kennedy

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Pitzhanger Manor ... regular visitors included JMW Turner. Photograph: Arcaid Images/Alamy

The country mansion of the architect of the Bank of England, [Sir John Soane](#), which he built among green fields but which now stands in deepest London suburbia in Ealing, is to be completely restored with a £4.42m Heritage Lottery grant.

The project will open up parts of the Grade I-listed Pitzhanger Manor now used as offices, remove some unsympathetic later additions, and restore lost Soane features, including a glasshouse. The magnificent glass-domed gallery, added in 1939 as the borough's public library, will also be restored and a new cafe created in the walled garden.

Soane bought the dilapidated Georgian house in 1800, and almost entirely demolished it to build his own dream home, a weekend retreat and display space for some of the collections that are now found in his townhouse, the Sir John Soane's museum, in Lincoln's Inn Fields in central London. Friends who became regular visitors included the artist [JMW Turner](#), whose own rural retreat was only a few miles away in Twickenham.

Although he sold the house in 1810, it remained remarkably unaltered through a succession of later owners, including the daughters of Britain's only assassinated prime minister, Spencer Perceval.

The house, which is owned by the local authority and managed by a trust, will close next January for work expected to take almost three years, reopening in 2018.

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