

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM FOUNDATION

NEWS - FALL 2006

NO. 14: New Opportunities with a Revised Vision Plan as Work Gets Underway!

The restoration of No.14 Lincoln's Inn Fields, the "House Next Door" to Sir John Soane's Museum, began in earnest in May of this year. Longtime supporters will recall, No.14 was acquired in 1996. It came on to the market quite unexpectedly. The Museum was tipped off early about its sale and was able to offer the asking price almost immediately. This came via an emergency grant from the newly set up Heritage Lottery Fund and a number of private benefactors who responded generously and quickly. Thus the whole thing happened very quickly and probably explains some of the reasons why the Museum wasn't really ready to proceed with refurbishment right away.

Now, the roof has been replaced, steel beams are inserted to strengthen floors and ceilings, and Victorian lead plumbing and early electrical wiring have been carefully removed and replaced. Whilst this work has been going on, craftsmen have been busy stripping down the original mahogany doors, windows, and window shutters that, miraculously, have remained in situ since the house was built by Soane in 1824.

A tremendous amount of work remains to be done over the next nine months or so to bring No.14 up to the standard of its famous neighbor. And whilst the structural repairs and service renewals have all been paid for, Museum Director, Tim Knox, is currently consulting experts as to what the final décor should be. The Museum is presently seeking support for the interior décor, which must do justice to the finest House Museum in the world. *Please contact the Foundation or Museum for opportunities for support!*



The three Soane houses: No.12, No.13, and under scaffolding, No.14

SOANE SEMINAR: Restoration

Restoration, Rehabilitation & Reuse: Architecture & Interiors of the New Old Building - Series launches October 19th



Appellate Division Courthouse of the New York Supreme Court (c.1900-02)

This fall the Soane Seminar examines the historic restoration of buildings and interiors, considering the challenges inherent in preserving the past while bringing systems up to code, providing energy efficient operations, and insuring universal access. Leading architects and experts in the field discuss these themes from the perspective of a recent projects with sessions being held on-site to fully explore the issues.

Speakers for the six sessions are: Hugh Hardy, Paul Byard, Richard Southwick, Page Cowley, and interiors expert Thomas Marshall. Plus a Hudson Valley Day Trip with lectures by Samuel G. White and Richard Pieper. (For details and dates, see Seminars at www.soanefoundation.com.)

MORE NEWS...MORE OFTEN!

Please join our email roster to receive timely Soanian updates. Just E-MAIL your name as it appears on the mailing label of this newsletter, along with corrections, to info@soanefoundation.org. We look forward to keeping in touch!

A Letter From An Artful Traveller, by Frances Schultz

If you like new potatoes, then May is definitely a good time to go to Sweden. Bathed in butter and accompanied by salmon, salmon, or salmon, the diminutive springtime spuds are served with every meal. Waistlines suffered not, however, as 25 tireless and intrepid Soane-sters hurtled in customary frenetic fashion from Calatrava's newly completed startling Turning Torso in Malmö; to the extravagantly whimsical Chinese Pavilion of Drottningholm Palace; to the small red wooden house of the 18th century scientist Carl Linnaeus, who came up with the whole genus-phylum classification thing, which is huge.

Guided by our, and *A Private View of Europe's*, very own Stefano Aluffi-Pentini and his able and equally charming(!) associate Clemente di Napoli Rampolla, we began our serious castle-hopping in Lund and the bucolic, windmill-dotted countryside of Skåne. The highlight for me was a place called Tosterup, which housed a collection of naughty 18th century drawings—I mean right there on the wall when you walked in the front door—by a randy (but terribly distinguished) ancestor of the current owners.

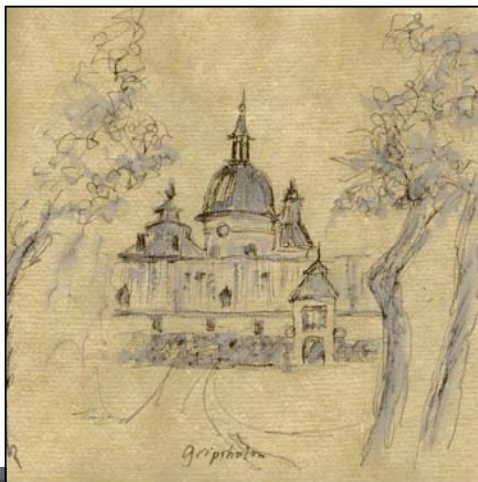
And while most of the places we visited had their foundations as far back as the 12th century and were built by people named Knud or Henrik,

we were pleased also to visit the famously neo-classical Gunnebo, 18th century summer house of wealthy merchant John Hall.

From there it was on to Stockholm and surrounds, with its royal palaces, pavilions, and low-key if not gilt-free Gustavian glamour. Pale painted finishes, bare planked floors; great tile stoves, and linen slipcovers all bespeak the pared-down, spare elegance of "Swedish style" whose lightness contrives to reflect upon itself in those long, Scandinavian winter nights.

As summer approached, however, the sun set but briefly on us Soane travelers, our way illuminated further by esteemed Swedish scholar Johan

Cederlund, architect Stuart Wrede and by author and historian Lars Sjöberg, who never stopped talking long enough even to eat a potato.



TOP: A page from Frances' sketchbook: Gripsholm Castle near Stockholm. BOTTOM: (from left) Mercedes Mestre, Nat Day, Susie Magee, and Lucy Day at The Absolut Ice Bar in Stockholm, where, despite appearances, they did not frolic, but, rather, parsed the ontological significance of the phrase "on the rocks."

*SOANE, ETC., IN THE NEWS**

Travel & Leisure, September 2006: Sir John Soane's Museum cited as one of only 12 sites around the globe that "will change the way you see the world." Thank you, Raul Barreneche. We agree.

Icon, Spring 2006: The magazine of the World Monuments Fund reports on efforts to restore several important Soane buildings.

Art & Antiques, May 2006: Cover story by Chippy Irvine.

The New York Sun, July 18: "Rare is the speaker who can cover 10 centuries of material in a single lecture, but British-born author Chippy Irvine did just that last week," reported The Knickerbocker column. (!)

*Most stories are available on our website under IN THE PRESS.

As a dyed-in-the-wool Soaniac...

... it is likely that you already support the Sir John Soane's Museum by writing checks or giving cash to Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation in New York. But did you know that you can give by way of a credit card, too? Or by stock transfer or bequest? These alternatives support the important work of the Museum in caring for Soane's house and expanding understanding of its meaning. Please contact Chas Miller at (212) 223-2012 or Chas@SoaneFoundation.com to arrange a gift or ask a question.

GOING MODERN!

The New York Times broke the news, ending months of speculation...Barry Bergdoll is the incoming Philip C. Johnson Chief curator of Architecture and Design at MoMA - the Museum of Modern Art. Described as "one of the world's most distinguished architectural scholars," by director Glenn Lowry, Barry will assume the post in January. In the meanwhile, we at the Foundation are entirely in his debt for his long-standing commitment to the Soane Seminar.

GOING BACK!

Inigo Jones (1573-1652)

English visionary Jacobean architect and great influence for Sir John, is the topic of *Soane Seminar*: Spring 2007

Inigo Jones, portrait by Sir Anthony Van Dyck

**SOANE TRAVELS**

Day Trip: Restoration of Great Houses & Building in the Hudson Valley

Saturday, October 21st, to explore some unique sites up in the Hudson Valley in Columbia and Dutchess Counties. Visits will include Olana State Historic Site, the estate of Frederic Edwin Church, the estate of John Jacob Astor IV known as Astor Courts and Edgewater, a 1825 classic Greek revival mansion rarely open to the public. For more information on this trip E-MAIL Chas@SoaneFoundation.com.

Check out all the exciting trips on our SOANE TRAVELS page of the website: Derbyshire, Sea Cloud II to Spain and Portugal, Sicily, St. Petersburg, Dublin and Irish Manor Houses, South Africa, India and Lincolnshire.

SAM ROCHE: Our 2006 Fellow Writes...

Sam Roche of Yale University at work at Sir John Soane's Museum

These last five weeks at Sir John Soane's Museum have made a deep impression on me. I can't think how one might be more fully immersed in the work of an architect, or how one might be more helpfully introduced to it.

Not only does the library contain the records of the most documented architectural career I know of; but this singular resource is preserved in the environment in which it was created. If I want to see a drawing in three dimensions, I climb the stairs to the Model Room. To study how Soane expands small spaces, I descend the stairs to the Breakfast Room. And to observe, on the other hand, how he compresses exterior forms into heavy, self-contained masses—well, I simply walk outside.

This freedom to move between different aspects of Soane's work has been facilitated by a special group of people here, whose enthusiasm and open attitude toward Soane's work stimulates the kind of creative research that I imagine he planned for his museum.

A closer look at Soane's work has changed my ideas about it. I originally imagined Soane as something of an interior architect, working outward from his dynamic spaces and only toward the end of his career realizing some of the same layered complexity in his exteriors. But I have come to see that for Soane interior space and exterior form were two complementary parts of a total architectural experience. He heightened the tension between a dense and heavy exterior and a layered, expansive interior rather than applying any one quality to an entire building.

The deadline for 2007 applications is March 1st.

All details are on our website.

GOOGLED! Soane from Space

Google Earth satellite image of Sir John Soane's Museum

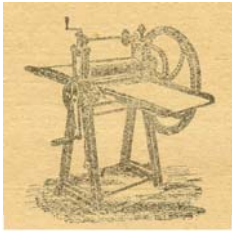
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BOOKS



MORE...



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Please mark your calendar...

... Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation's Spring 2007 Gala will take place on **Wednesday, April 25**, at The Rainbow Room. Mrs. Deborah Brice, a supporter of the Museum from both sides of the Atlantic, has kindly agreed to serve as one of our Honorary International Chairs, and Elizabeth H. Scott and Kathleen E. Springhorn, two esteemed members of the Foundation's Board of Directors, as Co-Chairs.

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM FOUNDATION

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and the surrounding area
may be found at
VISITING THE MUSEUM
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