Norfolk area in Britain, SOANE TRAVELS India, Brazil, China, Russia - June 2008 Sicily - May 2008

Thoroughly Modern Soane invites four of the most innovative architects working today to discuss their debt to Sir John Soane, who broke with tradition in his use of simple masses, clean lines and forms, and the dramatic manipulation of light and reflective surfaces.

**Ted Williams and Billie Tsien**

**“Clutter”** Monday, March 3, 2008 at 6pm

Acclaimed for his work with Tod Williams and Billie Tsien was recently selected to design the new home of the Barnes Collection on Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia.

**David Chipperfield**

Mr. Chipperfield’s oeuvre, most recently includes the restoration and renovation of the 19th-century Neues Museum in Berlin, is to be the subject of an exhibition at Sir John Soane’s Museum in London in 2008 (June to September). - go to www.soane.org for exact dates and details.

**David Libeskind**

Mr. Libeskind will discuss, among other projects, his Denver Art Museum (2006), which makes use of space and light within abstractly massive forms in ways that recall Soane’s own earlier architectural contributions.

**Daniel Libeskind**

Please download response form from our website or call 212-223-2012 for tickets. We accept American Express, Visa, MasterCard or checks made payable to: Sir John Soane’s Museum Foundation, and sent to 1040 First Avenue, No. 311, New York NY 10022

**Robert A. M. Stern**

Robert A. M. Stern, founder and senior partner of Robert A. M. Stern Architects and Dean of the Yale School of Architecture, is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architecture; a recipient of the Board of Directors’ Honor from the Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America; and a recipient of the Athena Award from the Congress for the New Urbanism. Mr. Stern hosted the landmark television series “Pride of Place: Building the American Dream” in the 1980s and has co-authored a unique series of books documenting the development of architecture and urbanism in New York City from the end of the Civil War through the millennium.

**The Monacelli Press**

Established by Gianfranco Monacelli in order to originate books of the highest graphic and literary quality. Since 1994, The Press has received international recognition and numerous awards for more than 300 books. Gianfranco Monacelli, born in Italy, first visited New York in 1963 to study music at Mannes College and Columbia University. A position at the legendary Rizzoli bookstore on Fifth Avenue lured him into the field of publishing, where he subsequently established Rizzoli International Publications. Through his publishing and personal initiatives, Monacelli is responsible for bringing to the world’s attention the work of over 300 authors and architects from around the globe.

**Proceeds from these events**

The Foundation’s third Gala Dinner Dance will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at The Rainbow Room, high above Rockefeller Center. If you would like more information, please visit our website or call 212-223-2012.
Cyndy Spurde writes:

While brass bands were not in evidence on the eve -
ning of December 1, 2007, praise and congratulations
flowed from all those gathered to celebrate the
completion of the third house in Sir John Soane’s
grand architectural ensemble.

This original Soane building was bought by the Mu-
nuseum in 1996 with help from the UK Lottery. The
Heritage Lottery Fund originated about that time to
offer grants to worthy arts institutions, most of which
were seriously suffering from lack of funding from pri-
cate sources. Fortunately a winning grant did not pre-
clude returning to that source for additional money, so
the place of honor on this Monday night was occupied
by Dame Liz Forgan, Chair of the Heritage Lottery
Fund. In her amusing introduction, Dame Liz pre-
dicted she’d be hearing from the museum again soon!

By this special Monday evening, after years of nego-
tiations, research, and construction, the particularly
lovely and original miniature mansion taking all the way up to
the sixth floor was gleaming, the skylight was painted
and sparkling and entry trees had been created on at
least two floors to join up with No.13, the Museum
building next door.

The Drawing Room is a new glorious shade of pink
with white trim, and its pink Crace ceiling has white
gold leaf picked out to define the various panels. As in
all recreated rooms in the Museum, the colors have been
carefully researched and the paint mixed to match the
originals. The original window shutters and doors in
the room have been restored and even without the yet-
to-be-sculpted chimneypieces they are glowing.

The particular part of the restoration that is of inter-
est to the Foundation is the space for the Research Li-
brary that will house the multitudinous (9,000) Adam
drawings and folios which Soane himself purchased.
The Foundation contributed the handsome storage
containers for these pivots treasures and one was on
view alongside its maker, Rupert Senior and Char-
lie Carmichael. This cabinet had “ADAM” beautifully
burnished into the lintel. In addition, there will be
one more cabinet, a set-to-on three views, one triple
cabinet and a Paris chest with drawers to house the
very large drawings. They are made of “conservation-
friendly” American Black Walnut and are remarkably
handsome.

Tim Knows gave a wonderful opening speech about the
many contributions and the many contributors both in
and out of the Museum, and the incredibly loyal,
patient staff; this was followed by an overview of spacer
utilization in No.14 and how he plans to integrate it
with the rest of the Museum. There is still work to be
done of course, but it is worth it at this point from
members of the Foundation to “check it out.” You will
be pleased.

Our last observation: There was a stately printed chart
on the wall at the entrance with the names of donors
regarding this project. The hardworking, generous Sir
John Soane’s Museum Foundation figured very promi-
nantly in large letters near the top.

The Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 organization – Tax ID Number:
13-3624437

Story, Costumes, and Production by Chippy Irvine, President of Sir John Soane’s Museum Foundation

THE APOTHEOSIS OF THE ARCHITECT

Celebrating last year’s gala with the theme Mood Inigo, a homage to
Inigo Jones, England’s first major architect, we drew upon his parallel
career as a designer of masques. These were Jacobean court entertain-
ments mingling music, poetry, dancing, rich costumes and astonishing
sets known as “machines” that moved and opened to reveal inner scenes,
and could be ingeniously raised or lowered to carry players on clouds.
There was a way, too, that we could do anything we so elaborate at the
Rainbow Room: these masques almost deserted the royal courts.
Instead, we were intent on raising money for Sir John Soane’s Museum in
London, all our costumes were made from expendable materials and our
“sets” from display board.

For weeks before the event, I collected the lids of cans to use as large se-
bubbles, wrap detail (dress – far right), black garden mulch fabric,
burlap, paper doilies, and colored electrical tape. Hats were made from plant pots
Blue plastic New York Times delivery bags (lower images) were cut into strips
and knitted into a flowing rail. Wigs were made from fringed plastic bags, packing
pebbles, paper from the shredder, and copper pan scrapped. All the designs were based
on the traditions of the James I and Charles I who themselves were performers (but they always played the good guys defeating the Lady
Influences).

The text, in rhythmical couplets, told the story of the English architect who
lived some 200 years later, Sir John Soane himself. The masque lasted
only five action-packed minutes, accompanied by music from an opening
and climaxing in a masque portrays the apotheosis of the English Archi-
tect. I am pleased to be able to help in any way I can.