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## DAILY AD

### SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM EXPLORES THE ARCHITECT-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

Text by Natalia Rachlin | Images courtesy Sir John Soane's Museum | February 17, 2015



An 1827 painting of Sir John Soane's vision for Downing Street by Joseph Michael Gandy.

The relationship between an architect and a client is a delicate one, at times informal, at others parental, often challenging, and continuously evolving. "Building a Dialogue: The Architect and the Client," an exhibition that opened today at Sir John Soane's Museum—a favorite destination for London residents who are architecturally inclined—delves into the nuances of this storied professional exchange, while exploring the evolution of the métier in England from Elizabethan to Victorian times.



An 1812 drawing by Soane of the east front of London's Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Showcasing the museum's extensive archive of models, sketches, public documents, and private correspondence, the exhibition examines the commissioning process, most prominently through the neoclassical works of Sir John Soane himself, revealing the details behind projects like London's Dulwich Picture Gallery and Holy Trinity Church.



Soane's circa-1812 drawing of the elevation of the façade of No. 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields in London.

"The exhibition showcases a unique body of work—drawings, private and public documents, correspondence, letters, and models—some of which has never been seen before," says Dominique Jenkins, the show's curator. "One of the highlights is a recently discovered drawing, an elevation of the façade of No. 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields. In other words, the façade of this very museum, which was once Soane's own residence. The image is from around 1812 and was found hidden behind another painting in the museum. It is one of the few drawings Soane produced of his home."

The work of other British architectural legends, including Sir Christopher Wren and William Chambers, is on display, while their clients—be they private or public—are profiled through a series of historical case studies that explore varied commissions.

Through May 9 at Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London; [soane.org](#)

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