



ABOVE: Sir John Soane's legacy has influenced generations of architectural students. **TOP:** As shown, his Library is punctuated by Gothic arches and painted Pompeian red. The collection boasts over 30,000 original drawings, including the largest collection of studies by Robert Adam.

Soane in Watercolors

A LEGEND in the field of neo-classical architecture is Sir John Soane [1753–1837], who was a professor at the Royal Academy in London. Soane's principles of space, design, and display have been taught to generations of students. Beginning in 1792, Soane demolished, and then rebuilt as one, three neighboring row houses in Lincoln's Inn Fields in London. Soane arranged architectural casts and models, books and artwork in his home so that his

students could view them, opening his house after each of his lectures. In 1833, Soane negotiated an Act of Parliament to preserve his house and collection for the benefit of "amateurs and students" in architecture, painting, and sculpture. The house, a very special museum, has remained little changed since his death in 1837. [Visit the website: soane.org] ■ The 19th-century watercolors shown depict Soane's house and are in the museum's archives. BY BRIAN COLEMAN



LEFT: Sir John Soane's home was his laboratory, incorporating fragments such as this pillar, the "Tivoli Cap," and medieval stonework in this interior courtyard. **BELOW:** (left) The Drawing Room is painted in strong yellows and displays family portraits. (right) The ingeniously designed Picture Gallery has folding panels that allow three times as many paintings to hang.

Professor Soane also ran a lucrative practice, designing such buildings as The Bank of England, the dining rooms for nos. 10 and 11 Downing Street for the Prime Minister and Chancellor of Britain, and the Dulwich Picture Gallery, the model for most modern art galleries.





LEFT: The Monk's Room (looking toward the Picture Gallery) is filled with medieval stonework fragments from the Palace of Westminster.

BELOW: As depicted in the watercolor, light streams into the house. Soane incorporated many skylights and stained-glass windows.

soanefoundation.com *in New York*

Americans interested in Sir John Soane and architectural classicism need not travel to London to meet like minds. The Sir John Soane Museum Foundation makes its home in New York City. The organization sponsors lectures as well as tours regarding architecture and the decorative arts, and provides financial support for the London museum. N.Y. telephone: (212) 223-2012

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