



**Tchoban Foundation**  
Museum für  
Architekturzeichnung

## Press Release

Berlin, 26.08.22

# The Classical Orders: Myth, Meaning and Beauty in the Drawings of Sir John Soane

**Tchoban Foundation. Museum for Architectural Drawing**  
Christinenstraße 18a, 10119 Berlin

**Exhibition opening on the 21st September, 2022 at 7 pm**

**Press conference on the 21st September, 2022 at 6 pm**

**Exhibition dates: 22 September 2022 – 15 January 2023**

**Opening times: Mon.-Fri. 2 to 7 pm, Sat.-Sun. 1 to 5 pm;**

**Tickets: 6 Euros, concessions: 4 Euros**

This new temporary loan exhibition at the Museum for Architectural Drawing is the fourth cooperation project with Sir John Soane Museum in London and is dedicated to a series of remarkable drawings produced by John Soane (1753 – 1837) and his Office. Soane was the leading neo-classical architect in late Georgian Britain, and many of the drawings included were produced for his lectures given as Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy of Arts between 1809 and 1820 to illustrate classical architectural orders. The orders are a series of architectural styles developed in the ancient Greece and adopted by the Romans. For Soane, a proper understanding of the three primary ancient orders – Doric, Ionic and Corinthian - was central to the practice of architecture. This exhibition uses the extensive architectural drawings collection from Sir John Soane's Museum in London to introduce the classical orders, explore the legends behind their origins and examine their use in Soane's work.

The classical orders derive from ancient temple architecture, in particular its use of columns and entablature to support the roof. The different orders are distinguished by the ways in which the columns, with their bases, shafts and capitals, and entablature are decorated. Although the only classical treatise on architecture to survive from antiquity – the Roman architect Vitruvius' *De Architectura* (On Architecture), c.25 BC – lists just four orders, most writers on architecture list five: The Tuscan order, the Doric order, the Ionic order, the Corinthian order and the Composite order.

The exhibition consists of 30 loans from Sir John Soane Museum.

The curators of the exhibition at the Museum for Architectural Drawing are Louise Stewart (Sir John Soane's Museum) and Nadejda Bartels (Museum for Architectural Drawing).

### **Sir John Soane's Museum**

Sir John Soane's house and collection at No. 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields has been a national museum since the early nineteenth century. Designed by renowned architect Sir John Soane and filled with his world-class collection of paintings, sculpture, artefacts and models, the Museum retains the same fabric and design as at the time of Soane's death in 1837. Today, the Museum encourages access to Soane's legacy in its broadest sense: architecture and design, creative originality, a commitment to learning and enquiry, and the connections between past and present that the Museum and its collections reveal.

### **Tchoban Foundation. Museum for Architectural Drawing, Berlin**

The Tchoban Foundation's Museum for Architectural Drawing (Museum für Architekturzeichnung der Tchoban Foundation) has been located on the grounds of the former Pfefferberg brewery since June 2013. Architect Sergei Tchoban created the foundation in 2009 with the mission to promote the art of architectural drawing. The Tchoban Foundation displays three exhibitions per year, from the collection as well as others stemming from cooperation agreements with international partners, including the Sir John Soane's Museum, London, Albertina in Vienna, École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris, DAM in Frankfurt/Main and others.

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## Images



Sir John Soane's Office  
Royal Academy lecture drawing  
The Primitive Hut  
Pencil, pen and coloured wash on laid paper



Joseph Michael Gandy  
Presentation drawing  
Sir John Soane's design for a triumphal bridge in the Doric style  
Pencil, pen and watercolour on laid paper  
1799



Sir John Soane's Office  
Royal Academy Drawing  
The Ionic Order according to the Romans  
Pencil, pen and coloured wash on laid paper  
1809



Sir John Soane's Office  
Royal Academy Lecture drawing  
Bank of England, the North-West angle (Tivoli Corner)  
Pencil, pen and coloured wash on laid paper  
1817



Sir John Soane's Office  
Royal Academy lecture drawing  
The Arch of Titus, Rome  
Pencil, pen and coloured wash on laid paper



Sir John Soane's Office  
Royal Academy lecture drawing  
An Egyptian order, with two temples in the background  
Pencil, pen and coloured wash on laid paper



Sir John Soane's office  
Royal Academy lecture drawing  
Comparative examples of the Doric order  
Pencil, pen and coloured wash on laid paper

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