



Sir John Soane's Museum in 2026

2026 at Sir John Soane's Museum will see a celebration of an English Baroque architect, adventurer, playwright and spy 300 years after his death, and an exploration of the enduring influence of ancient Egypt on British architecture and design, plus a showcase of contemporary architectural drawing practices.

Egypt: Influencing British Design 1775 – 2025

Until 18 January 2026

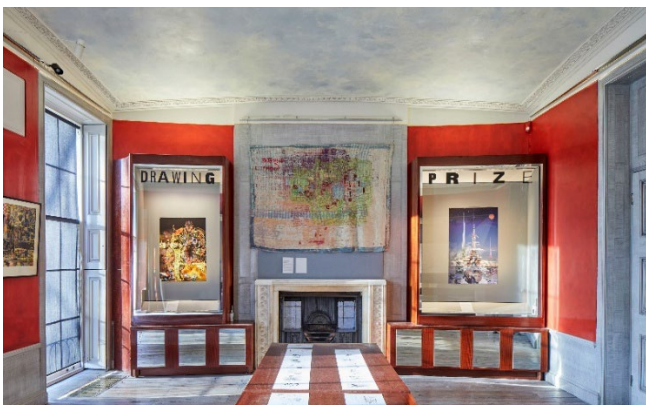
A major exhibition exploring the profound and enduring impact of ancient Egypt on British architecture and design continues into the new year for its final two weeks.

Showcasing drawings from the remarkable collection of Sir John Soane, this will be a last opportunity to explore ancient Egypt through the appreciation and understanding of some of Britain's foremost architectural practitioners.



Soane office, Royal Academy lecture drawing, perspective of the Pyramids at Giza, c.1806-1819, pen and wash on wove paper, SM 27/3/2

Over 250 years of Egyptian style and influence will be on display, from historic decorative items and influential architectural designs, to new objects created by Egyptian lifestyle brand ANŪT Cairo. The exhibition will be accompanied by new work by Cairo-born artist Sara Sallam, who explores the legacy of ancient Egypt in the west.



*Architecture Drawing Prize display at Sir John Soane's Museum.
Image: ©Make Architects*

The Architecture Drawing Prize

28 Jan – 15 Feb 2026

Winners of the 8th edition of The Architecture Drawing Prize – a partnership between Make Architects, World Architecture Festival and Sir John Soane's Museum – will be announced in October 2025, and in the new year a selection of shortlisted works will go on display at Sir John Soane's Museum.

Following the prize's 2-year hiatus, this exhibition will highlight the art and skill of contemporary architectural drawing across multiple modes of creation. From digital tools and rendering to the continuation of traditional

hand-drawing methods, the works on display will show all types and forms of architecture from conceptual to technical, whether through construction mapping, cut-aways or perspective views.

With contributions from architects, designers and students from around the world, the exhibition will serve as a fantastic entry point into the state of architecture in the present and the new voices of the future.

This exhibition follows the World Architecture Festival in Miami which will showcase the winners in November 2025.

There will be a Morning Press Preview & Photocall for this exhibition on 27 January 2026.

Vanbrugh: The Drama of Architecture

4 March – 28 June 2026

300 years after his death, a major new exhibition exploring one of the UK's greatest architects - Sir John Vanbrugh (1664–1726) – will open in the spring.

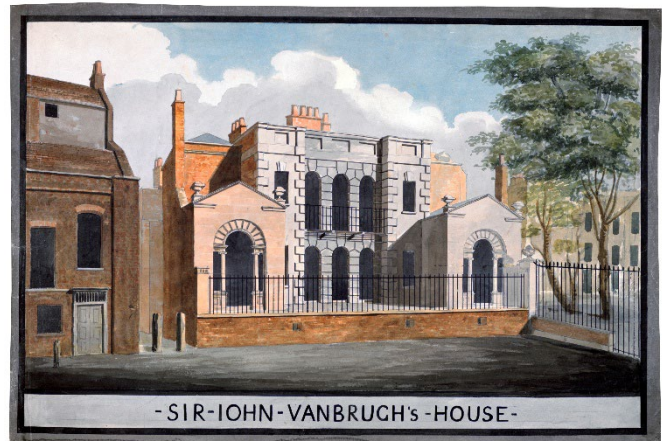
Some of the UK's most admired and loved country houses like Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard were the result of Vanbrugh's genius, becoming cornerstones of English Baroque. Soane cited him as one of his great influences, saying Vanbrugh had "*all the fire and power of Michelangelo and Bernini*".

Curated by Sir Charles Saumarez Smith CBE and architect Roz Barr, the exhibition will feature never-before-exhibited drawings from the collections of the V&A, the Royal Institute of British Architects, the National Portrait Gallery and Sir John Soane's Museum, including many in Vanbrugh's own hand.

Perhaps overshadowed by contemporaries Nicholas Hawksmoor and Sir Christopher Wren, the emotional impact and imagination of Vanbrugh has continued to be admired, particularly by architects, in the centuries since. The exhibition will highlight Vanbrugh's enduring architectural ideas and influence, including on two of the most influential architects of the 20th century, Robert Venturi (1925-2018) and Denise Scott Brown (b.1931). A new short film by filmmaker Jim Venturi, their son, will explore this connection and will be shown on loop in the Museum's Foyle Space.

Vanbrugh: The Drama of Architecture will introduce new audiences to the work of an architect, dramatist and radical, whose plays, drawings, and buildings continue to inspire, 300 years on.

There will be a Morning Press Preview & Photocall for this exhibition on 3 March 2026.



Soane office, Royal Academy Lecture Drawing of the work of Sir John Vanbrugh, 'Goose-Pie House', Whitehall, perspective, SM 75/4/4

Soane Medal Lecture

Autumn 2026

Continuing Sir John Soane's encouragement to better understand the central importance of architecture in people's lives, the Soane Medal has become an integral part in the art calendar.

Recognising architects, educators and critics, the recipient of next year's award, selected by a panel of distinguished judges, will receive a replica of the original gold medal presented to Sir John Soane by the 'Architects of England' in 1835, as well as deliver a lecture that is open to all.

More details will be announced in Autumn 2026.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About 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, sculptures, 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. The Museum is open Wednesdays to Sundays, 10am to 5pm. Entry is free. There is no need to pre-book – you can walk in on the day. Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3BP. More at www.soane.org | #SoaneMuseum | @soanemuseum

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO ARRANGE INTERVIEWS

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