

# SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM FOUNDATION



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### **The Robert Adam Study Centre**

#### **BACKGROUND & CURRENT SITUATION:**

Towards the end of 2007, Sir John Soane's Museum in London will complete a \$3 million restoration programme and open its new Education Centre in No. 14 Lincoln's Inn Fields – a house designed by Soane but never forming part of the original bequest of Numbers 12 and 13. The additional spaces thus available to the Museum will allow, for the first time ever, the creation of a Robert Adam Study Centre.

The Robert Adam Study Centre will house the unique collection of some 9,000 architectural drawings by Robert Adam, acquired by Soane in 1833. This collection, which is of inestimable value, contains examples of the full range of the Adam brothers' work; from initial sketches of ideas through to magnificent full colour designs for clients to admire. As a collection of Adam's work and the 'Adam Style' that proved so popular in Europe and in the US, it is without parallel and of considerable international importance to scholars, researchers, students, collectors and enthusiasts.

The drawings are currently kept in stable but rather cramped conditions inside an old Soane wardrobe within the existing library of the Museum. Only four reader spaces are currently available for scholars and researchers to use, which is often insufficient to meet demand. The drawings themselves need to be conserved and re-housed in an appropriate manner and the Museum wishes to create a study centre that is worthy of the treasures it will contain and provide much needed additional reader space that will allow easier access to the collection.

#### **FURNITURE AND CABINETWORK:**

The Museum has commissioned two of England's finest young cabinet makers – Senior and Carmichael – to create the furniture and fittings for the Robert Adam Study Centre. Senior and Carmichael, who learned their craft alongside the renowned furniture maker Lord David Linley, have produced some exquisite designs for the cabinets and furniture required.

The prime timber is to be solid American Black Walnut, which is non-acidic and ideal for the storage of organic materials such as paper. The Black Walnut is sourced directly from an established lumber yard in Virginia. This family firm, now in its fourth generation, have been exporting timber to England for over 250 years from trees grown in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, on land which was once part of the estate of Thomas Jefferson. The furniture will be given a traditional French polish and cabinet doors would be fitted with toughened UV filtered glass to prevent damage from the harmful rays of the sun. The cabinets will be naturally ventilated and exposed to the natural atmosphere within the Study Centre, which will be operated as a dirt and dust-free environment.

The quality of materials and craftsmanship will be of the highest order and worthy of Sir John Soane's own designs for the cabinets he had built to contain his own drawings collection and which continue to be used today, almost 200 years later.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES TO SPONSOR ITEMS WITHIN THE ROBERT ADAM STUDY CENTRE:**

The overall cost of fitting out the Robert Adam Study Centre is \$242,500. Sir John Soane's Museum is offering individuals the opportunity to sponsor items within the Robert Adam Study Centre. The name of each donor will be prominently recorded on a special plaque designed by Senior & Carmichael that will be fixed permanently within the Robert Adam Study Centre.

A roster of opportunities, images and further detailed information about the Robert Adam Study Centre and its furniture or Sir John Soane's Museum are available by request.

Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization  
and gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by US law

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