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SIR JOHN SOANE

The Royal Academy Lectures

Sir John Soane: The Royal Academy Lectures contains the full text of Soane's lectures, carefully edited by David Watkin from the manuscripts at Sir John Soane's Museum in London. It is a revised and abridged edition of his award-winning book *Sir John Soane: Enlightenment Thought and the Royal Academy Lectures*. In his introduction to this new volume, Watkin explains the significance of Soane's approach to architectural history and theory, as expressed in the lectures delivered from 1810 to 1820 as Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy. Providing a key that enables the modern observer to understand the work of an architect who is widely regarded as the most inventive of his day in Europe, the lectures enable us to enter Soane's private dialogue with an astonishing array of philosophers, architectural theorists, art historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists. They are accompanied by a selection of the beautiful watercolors that Soane prepared as illustrations.

David Watkin is Reader in the History of Architecture at the University of Cambridge. A Fellow of Peterhouse, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and Vice Chairman of The Georgian Group, he is author of numerous publications, including *Sir John Soane: Enlightenment Thought and the Royal Academy Lectures*, which received the Sir Banister Fletcher Award from the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Authors' Club as the most deserving book in the fields of architecture and the fine arts published in 1996.

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