



Ascribing Value

The Production and Collection of Architectural Drawings

A Conference at the Victoria & Albert Museum on
Friday 3 and Saturday 4 February 2006,

The Paul Mellon Centre is supporting this international conference to celebrate the coming together of the architectural collections of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Victoria and Albert Museum at the V&A. Drawings lie at the core of the new joint collections, forming an unparalleled resource for the study, understanding and enjoyment of architecture.

Drawing has been central in the designing of architecture for centuries while today, the dominance of computer-aided design notwithstanding, drawing by hand still plays a vital part in the creative process. Like architecture itself, architectural drawings are both practical objects and objects of beauty. They have been collected since the sixteenth century, first by architects and connoisseurs and later by museums and archives. This conference brings together a broad range of speakers, including leading practitioners, curators and archivists, collectors and historians, to look at the values and meanings that architectural drawing has gathered over time and in different professional disciplines. Speakers will examine how makers of drawings (architects and artists) use them as notations and expressions of the processes of looking, thinking and designing. They will look at how academics (curators, historians and archivists) view drawings as repositories of historical information, and at how collectors (dealers and patrons) respond to the values proposed in the work of academics, as well as to the beauty of the drawings. Complementing the papers will be a series of lunchtime seminars in which drawings and other objects from the V&A/RIBA collections will be presented for handling and discussion by the institutions' curators and invited academics.

Tickets can be purchased from the V&A Booking Office (telephone 020 7942 2211) and reservations for the seminars (for which space is limited) should be made at the same time. With sandwich lunches and a reception included, tickets cost £51 for one day or £94 for both. Concessions: for V&A members and RIBA members for partnership events, for senior citizens and patrons, £43 per day; for disabled people, ES40 holders and students £16 per day



Aston Webb, Detail from an Elevation for the V&A, c.1901, V&A Images.

Ascribing Value: **The Production and Collection of Architectural Drawings** Conference Programme - Lecture Theatre, Victoria and Albert Museum

Friday 3 February 2006

Producing and Collecting Drawings

- 10.00 Registration**
- 10.30 Introduction**
Chair: Frank Salmon (Assistant Director for Academic Activities, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, Yale University)
- 10.40 Keynote Address**
David Chipperfield
- 11.10 Collecting Dutch Architectural Archives in a Changing World**
Mariet Willinge
(Nederlands Architectuurinstituut)
- 11.35 Coffee**
- 11.50 An Architect Collects: Albert Richardson**
Alan Powers (University of Greenwich)
- 12.20 Design and Collection: The New Fluid Dynamic between Design and Electronic Retrieval Systems**
Paul Brislin and Jo Ronaldson (Arup Associates)
- 12.50 Panel discussion and questions**
- 13.15 Lunch and seminars**
- 15.15 Afternoon Introduction**
Chair: Michael Snodin
(Senior Curator of Designs, V&A)
- 15.30 If the Architect is Dead can the Connoisseur be far Behind? Connoisseurship in the Digital Age**
Howard Shubert (Associate Curator, Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montréal)
- 16.00 Architecture for Drawing's Sake**
C.J. Lim (Director of International Development and Director of Bartlett Architecture Research Lab, Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London)
- 16.30 Panel discussion and questions**
- 17.15 Close and Reception**

Saturday 4 February 2006

Collections and their Markets

- 10.00 Registration**
- 10.30 Introduction**
Chair: Irena Murray (Sir Banister Fletcher Director, British Architectural Library, Royal Institute of British Architects)
- 10.40 Collecting in an International Field**
Aaron Betsky (Director, Nederlands Architectuurinstituut)
- 11.10 New Statutes for Architectural Drawing and Collecting**
Marie-Ange Brayer
(Director, FRAC Centre, France)
- 11.35 Coffee**
- 11.50 History of the Market: Public and Private Collecting**
John Harris (Curator Emeritus) and Charles Hind (Curator) (RIBA Drawings Collection)
- 12.20 Can there be a Market without a Marketplace?**
Niall Hobhouse
- 12.50 Panel discussion and questions**
- 13.15 Lunch and seminars**
- 15.15 Afternoon Introduction**
Chair: Wim de Wit (Head of Special Collections and Visual Resources, and Curator of Architectural Drawings, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles)
- 15.30 Archives in Formation: Defining Concepts and Models for a New Collection of Architectural Archives**
Tom Avermaete (Vlaams Architectuurinstituut, Antwerpen, België)
- 16.00 Drawing to a Close: Collecting in the Digital Age**
Gerald Beasley (Director, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University)
- 16.30 Panel discussion and questions**
- 17.00 Close**

The seminars will take place during the two-hour lunch session on each of the two days of the conference, beginning at 14:00 and lasting up to an hour.

Seminar 1 - Edwin Lutyens: Margaret Richardson and Eleanor Gawne

Seminar 2 - Alfred Waterhouse: Colin Cunningham and Michael Snodin

Seminar 3 - Philip Webb: Adrian Forty and Sally Watson

Seminar 4 - Andrea Palladio: Howard Burns and Charles Hind

Seminar 5 - Unusual Graphic Techniques: Eamonn Canniffe and Mary Guyatt

Seminar 6 - Erno Goldfinger: Robert Elwall and Gavin Stamp

Seminar 7 - Inigo Jones and John Webb: Gordon Higgott and Susan Pugh