

SYMPOSIUM

ROBERT ADAM

AND

HIS BROTHERS



THE
GEORGIAN
GROUP

23–24 SEPTEMBER 2015

BURLINGTON HOUSE, PICCADILLY, LONDON W1

The Adam style revolution transformed British architecture in the latter half of the eighteenth century. The brothers' unique and inventive approach to design, based on a modern reinterpretation of the art of antiquity, found widespread popularity and was to have a lasting impact on European and American architecture. The movement and surface variety inherent in their buildings, combined with the lightness and informality of their interiors, set new standards of elegance and were widely imitated.

This two-day Georgian Group symposium, led by the architectural historians Colin Thom of UCL and *Georgian Group Journal* editor Dr Geoffrey Tyack, will highlight new research and findings on Robert Adam and his brothers across all aspects of their life and work, including architecture, interior decoration, the use of colour, the influence of classical sources, drawing office procedure, the art market, town-planning and building speculation. The symposium will offer interpretations by a mix of established scholars and a younger generation of historians and doctoral students, one of the main objectives being to stimulate further study on the Adams. Speakers and subjects confirmed so far include:

- Alistair Rowan on the Scottish architecture of John Adam
- Eileen Harris on the Adam Revival in America
- David King on Robert Adam's genius for planning
- Adriano Aymonino on Kedleston Hall and the birth of the 'true style of antique decoration'
- Conor Lucey on the recent controversial restorations at Headfort House, Ireland
- Jonny Yarker on Robert & James Adam and the Roman art market
- David Pullins on Robert Adam's Neoclassical Chinoiserie
- Colin Thom on Portland Place
- Emeritus Professor John Wilton-Ely on Piranesi and Robert Adam's Etruscan style

See page 2 of this pdf for a full draft programme. The Symposium papers will form the basis of a monograph to be published by Historic England in association with The Georgian Group.

£100 per person for both days, or £60 for a single day.
Buffet lunch included on both days.

Book online at www.georgiangroup.org.uk or print and return this form, with full payment, to: **The Georgian Group, 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 5DX** For further information telephone: 020 7529 8920

Please make cheques payable to The Georgian Group



Adam staircase compartment of the 1770s, Mansfield Street, London
Chris Redgrave, © English Heritage

ROBERT ADAM — GEORGIAN GROUP SYMPOSIUM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Daytime tel: _____

☐ ticket(s) for both days @ £100pp ☐

☐ ticket(s) for Day 1 (23 Sept) @ £60pp ☐

☐ ticket(s) for Day 2 (24 Sept) @ £60pp ☐

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The Georgian Group for

Robert Adam & His Brothers New light on Britain's leading architectural family

GEORGIAN GROUP SYMPOSIUM, 23–24 SEPTEMBER 2015

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2015

9.30–9.50: Registration and coffee

9.50–10.00: Opening address and welcome
Dr Geoffrey Tyack & Colin Thom

SESSION 1: SCOTLAND

Chair: to be confirmed

10.00–10.30: Professor Alistair Rowan (University College, Cork)

Johnnie, the eldest Adam brother

10.30–11.15: Simon Green (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland)

John, Robert and James Adam build a house in Ayrshire

Dr Anthony Lewis (Curator of Scottish History, Glasgow Museums)

The Adam brothers and their building tradesmen in Scotland

11.15–11.30: Discussion

11.30–12.00: Tea and Coffee

SESSION 2: ITALY

Chair: to be confirmed

12.00–12.45: Dr Jonathan Yarker (Lowell Libson Ltd, Art Dealers)
'Antique mad': the Adam brothers, their collection of antiquities and the Roman art market in the eighteenth century

Dr Maria Celeste Cola (Department of Art History, Sapienza Università di Roma)
Travelling to Naples: drawings and views by Robert Adam

12.45–1.00: Discussion

1.00–2.00: Lunch

SESSION 3: INTERIOR DESIGN AND THE ADAM STYLE – ANTIQUE AND ETRUSCAN

Chair: to be confirmed

2.00–3.00: Dr Adriano Aymonino (Lecture in Art History, University of Buckingham)

Robert Adam and the birth of the 'true style of antique decoration': the interiors at Kedleston Hall and their antiquarian sources

Professor John Wilton-Ely (Emeritus Professor in the History of Art, University of Hull)

Piranesi and the Etruscan Style of Robert Adam: a Stylistic Revolution

3.00–3.15: Discussion

3.15–3.45: Tea and Coffee

SESSION 4: INTERIOR DESIGN AND THE ADAM STYLE – ADAM'S PAINTERS AND CHINOISERIE

Chair: to be confirmed

3.45–4.45: Flaminia Conti (MA in History of Art, Sapienza Università di Roma)

Reinvoking the Antique in interior design: the work of Giovanni Battista Cipriani in the houses of Robert Adam

Katherine McHale (PhD candidate, School of Art History, University of St Andrews)
Adam and the Academicians: The Contributions of Leading Italian Artists

David Pullins (PhD candidate, Harvard University)
Robert Adam's Neoclassical Chinoiserie

4.45–5.00: Discussion

DAY 2: THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2015

From 9.30: Tea and Coffee

SESSION 5: INTERIOR DESIGN AND THE ADAM STYLE – LIGHT, COLOUR AND THEATRE

Chair: to be confirmed

10.00–11.00: Richard Ireland (Conservator, historic paint and plaster)

The Adam brothers at Kenwood: reconsidering

Dr Conor Lucey (Irish Research Council Elevate Postdoctoral Fellow, Trinity College Dublin)

From developed surfaces to misapprehended plans: Robert Adam's interiors for Headfort House

Miranda Hausberg (PhD candidate, University of Pennsylvania)

Robert Adam's Scenographic Interior

11.00–11.15: Discussion

11.15–11.45: Tea and Coffee

SESSION 6: LATER ADAM – METROPOLITAN SPECULATION, VILLAS, CASTLE STYLE & PICTURESQUE

Chair: to be confirmed

11.45–12.45: Colin Thom (Senior Historian, Survey of London, UCL Bartlett School of Architecture)

Portland Place: a Reassessment

Dr Sue Berry (Sussex Archaeological Society, former Associate Lecturer, Sussex University)

Robert Adam's seaside villa in Brighton

Marrikka Trotter (PhD Candidate, Harvard University)

Temporal Sublime: Robert Adam's Castle Style and Picturesque Landscapes

12.45–1pm: Discussion

1.00–2.00: Lunch

SESSION 7: ADAM DRAWINGS AND PLANS

Chair: to be confirmed

2.00–2.45: Stephen Astley (Curator of Drawings, Sir John Soane's Museum)

The Adam office and Adam drawings

Professor David King (Emeritus Professor, Economics, University of Stirling)

The ingenious Mr Adam

2.45–3.00: Discussion

SESSION 8: THE ADAM LEGACY

3.00–3.30: Eileen Harris (historian and author)
The Parent Style or the Original Sin? The Adam Revival in America

3.30–3.45: Final Discussion and Concluding Remarks