

# Pitzhanger Manor House and Gallery

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## Background

Sir John Soane bought Pitzhanger Manor in 1800, with the intention of building his 'dream house'. Soane was an extremely influential architect born in 1753. Among other iconic buildings, he designed the Bank of England and Dulwich Picture Gallery.

He pioneered new ways of using light in galleries and public spaces. Soane was the son of a builder. His drawing skills were spotted at a young age.

As a young man he won a travel scholarship from the Royal Academy. This enabled him to go on a 'grand tour' of Europe, an experience which had an enormous influence on his unique interpretation of the Neoclassical style in architecture.

Soane and his family lived at Pitzhanger until 1810, the house has passed through various owners including the family of Spencer Perceval, the only British Prime Minister to have been assassinated.

In more recent times it belonged to Ealing Council and housed the library. In 2018, after 5 years of restoration funded by HLF, Pitzhanger will reopen to the public under the ownership of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust.

