

## Architects as Artists

15 November 2014 – 15 March 2015

Night Section, A House for Essex  
FAT Architecture and Grayson Perry  
Image courtesy of Ordinary Architecture



From the Renaissance to the current day, architects have made drawings for study and pleasure, to represent their projects, document their travels and supplement their income. *Architects as Artists* will examine the relationship between architecture and art. From work by Raphael to a project by contemporary Brazilian architect Isay

Weinfeld, it will present examples of the many ways in which architects use and create art.

Drawing on the collections of the V&A and RIBA, this display of about 50 works will include a pair of striking digital renderings for 'A House for Essex', a project between FAT Architecture and the artist Grayson Perry. These images will sit alongside designs for an artist's house by E.W. Godwin, a drawing by Raphael of the Pantheon in Rome, a lithograph by Cyril Power depicting the staircase of Russell Square tube station, a watercolour sketch by Hugh Casson, a drawing by Italian Futurist Virgilio Marchi and a volume of architecture fantasies by the Russian architect Iakov Chernikhov. Recent works including Tom Noonan's depiction of the re-forestation of the Thames Estuary and drawings by William Burges, Augustus Pugin, Alfred Waterhouse and William Walcot will also feature.

*Architects as Artists* will consider how the ability to represent a building in two dimensions and communicate space has been fundamental to architects' work since the Renaissance, when architecture first developed as an independent profession. It will look at the importance of experiencing historic architecture and how architects make drawings of buildings and landscapes to record their travel and improve their designs. The display will also explore how architects create drawings for different audiences and how pictorial conventions are often adopted when communicating with a wider audience such as for clients or publications.

*Architects as Artists* will mark the 10th anniversary of the V&A + RIBA partnership. Established in 2004, the partnership brings together RIBA's drawings and archives collections and the V&A's collections of architectural drawings and photographs in one location, at the V&A. The programme has seen a wide range of displays during this period, from a study of Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres, designed by some of the world's most

high profile architects, an examination of Le Corbusier's unrealised designs for an Olympic athletics stadium in Baghdad, the influence of European architecture in Britain during the Baroque period and a display to examine Albertopolis, the architectural development of South Kensington and Exhibition Road.

#### **Notes to Editors**

- The V&A + RIBA Architecture Gallery Room is located in room 128a at the V&A
- The V&A is open Monday to Sunday 10am – 5.45pm and until 22.00 every Friday evening.
- Admission to the display is free, as is admission to the V&A. For further information go to [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk); [www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com)
- For more information about the V&A + RIBA partnership visit <http://www.vam.ac.uk/architecture>
- *Architects as Artists* has been curated by Roisin Inglesby, Assistant Curator of Designs at the V&A
- There will be a lunchtime lecture on 10 December 2014 about the partnership and collections, led by Charles Hind, Chief Curator and H.J. Heinz Curator of Drawings, RIBA British Architectural Library and Olivia Horsfall Turner, Curator, Designs and V&A + RIBA Partnership Lead Curator (admission free). There will also be a lunchtime lecture by Roisin Inglesby on 11 March 2015 (admission free)

**For PRESS information about this display contact the V&A Press Office on 020 7942 2500 / [press.office@vam.ac.uk](mailto:press.office@vam.ac.uk) or Beatrice Cooke in the RIBA Press Office on 020 7307 3813 / [beatrice.cooke@riba.org](mailto:beatrice.cooke@riba.org)**

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