

ARTFUL PRACTICE:

TENNANT ROOM

Architectural Drawings by Richard Norman Shaw RA (1831-1912)

23 February – 25 May 2008

No single architect had more influence on the domestic architecture of late Victorian and Edwardian England than Richard Norman Shaw. This exhibition in the Tennant Room at the Royal Academy of Arts, the first devoted to his work in over thirty years, will offer a chance to rediscover why.

The bulk of Shaw's surviving office drawings were bequeathed to the Royal Academy following the death of his son in 1959. To capture the distinctive flavour of Shaw's work through his drawings, this exhibition will focus on the early and middle years of his career, acknowledging in particular the role that the Academy played in his rise to fame. After a brilliant studentship in the RA Architecture School (where he won a Gold Medal in 1853 and the Travelling Scholarship in 1854) Shaw gained invaluable experience in the office of George Edmund Street RA, the leading Gothic Revival architect of his generation.

Following his election as an Associate of the Academy in 1872, Shaw was the natural choice of architect for any successful artist seeking to build a well-appointed studio in which to impress clients. Shaw was a regular exhibitor of spectacular perspectives at the RA in the 1870s and early 1880s, becoming a household name in the art world, revered by fellow architects and artists alike and an undisputed leader of his profession. The show will in addition feature a number of youthful fantasy projects that provide an insight into the sources of Shaw's more mature style, together with examples of large scale working drawings that often have a formal beauty that is independent of their original purpose.

Notes to Editors:

DATES

Open to public: 23 February – 25 May 2008

Opening hours:

Tennant Room Tuesday to Friday, 1 – 4.30 pm

Saturday and Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm

Closed Monday

ADMISSION

Admission to **Artful Practice: Architectural Drawings by Richard Norman Shaw RA (1831-1912)** in the Tennant Room is free.

GUIDE TO THE DISPLAY

A guide to the display will be available free of charge, containing an essay by Andrew Saint, general editor of the Survey of London and author of the most comprehensive book on Shaw.

THE ARCHITECTS WHO MADE LONDON

Shaw's contribution to London architecture is explored on Monday 25 February in a lecture which forms part of the series **The Architects Who Made London** with Maxwell Hutchinson. Andrew Saint will discuss Shaw's originality and vision as an architect.

For information or to book call 020 7300 5839

Geological Society Lecture Theatre, Piccadilly, W1; 6.30-8.00pm; £10/£5 concessions (includes a drink)

The series is supplemented by a new display on **The Architects Who Made London**, also examining Shaw's work.

The Architecture Space, 15 February - 4 June, 10 am - 6 pm daily (until 10 pm Friday), free.

IMAGES

Publicity images for **Artful Practice: Architectural Drawings by Richard Norman Shaw RA (1831-1912)** can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at www.picselect.com and once registered go to the Royal Academy of Arts folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

For further press information please contact Johanna Bennett on tel: 020 7300 5615, fax: 020 7300 8032 or press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

For public information please print tel: 020 7300 8000 or www.royalacademy.org.uk

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