

AVV Solutions Ltd

Case Study

Project: Pitzhanger Manor

Principal contractor: [Quinn London](#)

Architect: [Julian Harrap Architects](#) / [Jestico & Whiles](#)

Value: £750,000.00

Works Carried Out: Conservation works to the Grade I listed Manor involved us supplying and fitting of the Colonnade, this consisted of Portland Stone Pilasters, Doric Columns and Capitals. Stone carving, repairs and/or replace, Roundels fitted with Brick Bull's Eye Arches as the surround, Brickwork Repairs, Re-pointing, and Internal Traditional Lime Plastering.

History of the building

In 1800, the architect John Soane purchased Pitzhanger Manor House, along with 28 acres of surrounding land which now forms Walpole Park. At this stage in his illustrious career, as architect and surveyor to the Bank of England and with public buildings and private houses to his credit, Soane intended to build his 'dream' house - his own country villa, to be used subsequently as a 'suitable' residence for his sons. Soane demolished most of the existing manor apart from an extension designed in 1768 by his first employer, George Dance. He then set about building his own home, which he saw as 'a sort of portrait' - an advertisement for his own idiosyncratic architectural style with its stripped classical detail, radical colour schemes and inventive use of space and light.

Following its completion in 1804, the Soanes used Pitzhanger Manor House as a weekend retreat and a place of entertainment. It also accommodated a growing collection of paintings, books, architectural drawings and fragments, later to form the collection which you can now see at Sir John Soane's Museum at 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields.

In 1810 Soane sold the House. With remarkably little alteration, it passed through a succession of owners until 1843 when it became home to the daughters of Britain's only assassinated Prime Minister, Spencer Perceval. In 1901, the building was sold to Ealing District Council and extended to become Ealing's public library. The 1939 lending library building, on the site of Soane's mock Roman ruins, is now the gallery. Soane's ornamental gardens and parkland, including his bridge, entrance arch and lodge, became Walpole Park.

In 1985, when the library moved to the Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre, some of the interiors of the House underwent restoration to reveal their original design. Extensive documentation at Sir John Soane's Museum, including bills, correspondence with contractors, diaries and drawings, allowed us to build up an authentic picture of the House in Soane's time. In some rooms, original colour schemes were painstakingly recreated by analysing paint samples. During the forthcoming conservation and restoration project, these rooms will be revisited and further rooms restored, with important heritage features reinstated.

