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The Soane Foundation Celebrates Transformers — Columbia University's Avery Library, MoMA, and Norman Foster — at Spring Gala on Park Avenue

New York – This last Tuesday evening, some 250 architects, historians, and lovers of architecture from both sides of the Atlantic streamed into the Delano & Aldrich-designed 583 Park Avenue. The occasion was the annual dinner of Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation, during which the Foundation bestowed the Soane Foundation Honors on Norman Foster, Lord Foster of Thames Bank OM, for more than forty years of design excellence, and the Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library at Columbia University and the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) for its innovative and transformative Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives Partnership.

By honoring these present-day innovators in the fields of architecture and museology, the Foundation also raised approximately \$285,000, which will directly support conservation activities at Sir John Soane's Museum in London including the planned reinstallation of Soane's famous architectural model room. Furthermore, by recognizing Carole Ann Fabian, the director of the Avery Library, and Barry Bergdoll, The Philip Johnson Chief Curator in MoMA's department of architecture and design, for their role in conceiving and realizing the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives Partnership, the Soane Foundation hopes to raise awareness of the Partnership as a unique model for conserving and opening up historic archives to the public.

As well as Lord Foster, Ms. Fabian, and Mr. Bergdoll, other honored guests for the evening were Sir Peter Westmacott, British Ambassador to the United States, and Lady Westmacott; New York City Commissioner of Cultural Affairs Kate Levin; architectural critic Paul Goldberger; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, director Malcolm Rogers; architect, professor, and Frank Lloyd Wright great-granddaughter, Catherine Ingraham; Guy Elliott, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Sir John Soane's Museum in London; and gala co-chairs Wendy Evans Joseph, David W. Levinson, Anthony W. Marx, Robert A.M. Stern, Newell Turner and Angela Westwater.

This month Sir John Soane's Museum was named the fourth best museum in the world by *The Times* of London in a roster of 50 museums— being surpassed only by the Smithsonian, the Acropolis and the British Museum. "The 2013 Foundation Gala is celebratory proof that the London Museum continues to inspire all those who know it—as well as those who don't yet. The honorees enthusiastic remarks brought an excitement second only to actually standing in the museum. I am proud that so many of our friends were able to enjoy this wonderful evening dedicated to the vision and spirit of Sir John Soane," says Tom Kligerman, President, Board of Trustees, Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation.

The Soane Foundation, a 501 (c) 3, New York City based-organization, serves in part to assist the Sir John Soane's Museum in London. As an English regency architect of significant influence, John Soane worked within classic parameters to create unique commercial, institutional and residential structures. Due to his foresight in leaving his home to the public by an Act of Parliament in 1833, Soane's house and its contents survive today, giving visitors a rare glimpse into a ground-breaking home from the period.

Soane Foundation information: www.SoaneFoundattion.com | Soane Museum information: www.Soane.org

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