



Thomas Sandby (1721–1798)

A view of St Paul's Cathedral from an idealised bridge, c.1780

Pencil, pen and ink, watercolour

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This work, and its companion pieces, were intended to illustrate the magnificence and sublime effects of architecture. The idealised bridge comprised nine arches supporting a colonnade and three classical pavilions.

This work, and others showing the idealised bridge, were not intended to be executed. Rather they were made to illustrate how the natural magnificence of the Thames River could be enhanced by the symmetry, composition, and grandeur of such a precisely considered form.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Born in Nottingham, Sandby was an architect and topographical draughtsman. His legacy lies in the impact he had on the development of professional architecture in England. He was a founding member of the Royal Academy in 1768, and the first professor of Architecture at the Academy. In this role Sandby gave six lectures annually from 1770 until his death in 1798.

The content of these lectures evolved over the years to cover things such as the classical order and rules of composition, exotic architecture, rural buildings, and key concepts such as taste, symmetry, character, and magnificence – the overwhelming and sublime effects of architecture.

STUDENT FOCUS QUESTIONS

- Describe the classical influence in Sandby's bridge design.
- How has the use of colour wash enhanced Sandby's ability to depict light?
- What methods has the artist used to create perspective?

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/sandby_thomas.html

<http://www.npg.org.uk/live/search/person.asp?LinkID=mp03963>