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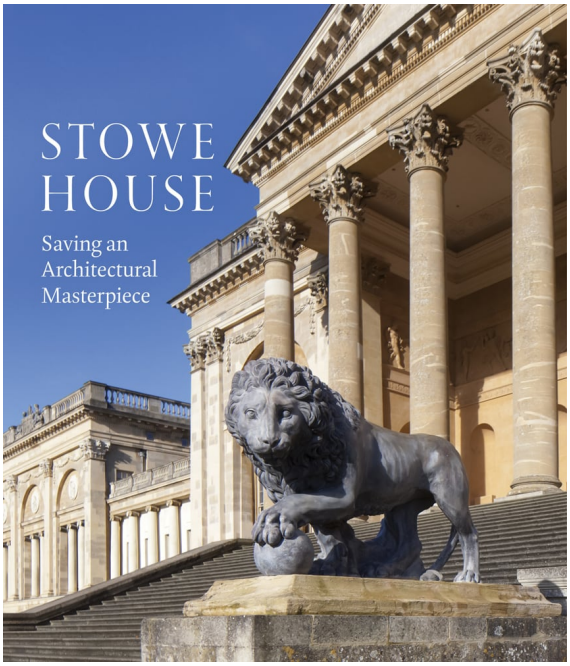


Stowe House

Saving an Architectural Masterpiece

Nick Morris

ISBN	9781785511110
Publisher	Scala Arts & Heritage Publishers
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World
Size	280 mm x 240 mm
Pages	160 Pages
Illustrations	185 color
Price	£20.00

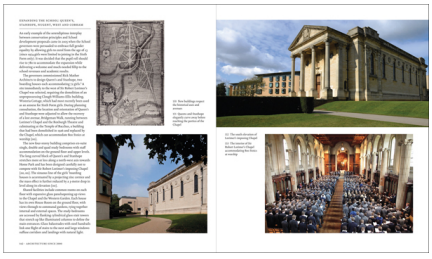
- The inside story of one of the greatest ever rescues of a country house, which transformed a family seat into a renowned school and National Trust site
- Published to mark the bicentenary of the elevation of the estate's founder, Lord Cobham, to the Viscountcy in 1818
- Lavishly illustrated, including images by architectural photographer Andy Marshall
- New assessment of the significance of Stowe House by renowned architectural historian Jeremy Musson
- Essays giving perspectives by architects and conservators closely involved in the restoration work

The restoration of Stowe House and development of the surrounding estate by Stowe School, allied to work in the landscape gardens by the National Trust, is one of the greatest rescues of a country house ever achieved. The ancestral home of the Temple-Grenvilles came close to demolition in 1920, when the entire site was put up for sale. The formation of Stowe School in 1923 secured a future use that maintained the traditions of the Enlightenment with its unrelenting quest for knowledge and understanding. The past 94 years have seen innovation in land management with the gifting of the gardens to the National Trust and a renovation programme of truly monumental proportions. This major new work details the architectural history of the site, tells the story of the restoration through the words of those most closely involved and demonstrates how the School has continued to build in a sympathetic and harmonious manner that preserves the identity and character of the estate as a whole.

Contents:

Foreword – Andrew Fane; Introduction – John Darlington
Chapter 1: 'A Work to wonder at – perhaps a Stow': the significance of the 'superb mansion' at Stowe – Jeremy Musson
Chapter 2: The Architectural Development of Stowe House – Michael Bevington
Chapter 3: Restoration – Restoring Magnificence – Nick Morris; The Architect's View – Jane Kennedy; Plaster and Statues – Trevor Proudfoot; Metalwork – Rupert Harris; Research Decorative Schemes – Patrick Baty; Textile Recreations for the Blue Room – Annabel Westman; Lighting – John Darlington; The Egyptian Hall – John Maddison; The Discovery of the Baroque Wall Paintings on the East Staircase – Rhiannon Clarricoates; The Temple-Grenvilles as Collectors – Anna McEvoy
Chapter 4: Stowe Architecture since 2000 – Anthony Wallersteiner
Notes

Stowe House's Chief Executive Officer **Nick Morris,** who has managed restoration work there for the past eight years, has drawn together contributions from leading experts to produce an authoritative work that looks behind the creation of the house, charts the continuing evolution of the site and demonstrates the care taken to ensure authenticity throughout the £40m restoration programme. As Stowe School's Operations Director from 2009 to 2017, he was closely involved in the School's building projects and management of the site and he now looks forward to completing the restoration and continuing to work closely with the School and the National Trust in that work and in presenting the House to the public.



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