

LECTURE:

13 May 2021

Presenter: Anthony Peers

The Richest of Legacies: the British Colonial Buildings of India



This lecture surveys British colonial architecture from the neo-classical buildings of Calcutta through the Gothic revival and Indo-Saracenic buildings of Bombay to Lutyens and New Delhi, also the need for restoration of many of these buildings, with which the speaker was involved.

Anthony Peers MA FSA is a UK based buildings historian who lectures, writes books and provides guidance to those planning changes to their historic buildings. Educated as an architectural historian and trained in building conservation, over the last thirty years Anthony has developed a particular interest in British colonial architecture.

In the mid-1990s Anthony set up and ran a UNESCO award winning conservation project in Mumbai, India, a scheme which combined a programme of training with the restoration of the city's magnificent, mid-Victorian, George Gilbert Scott designed University buildings. Anthony's ongoing passion for building conservation in south-east Asia has recently taken him to places such as Amritsar, Chandigarh and Yangon and in February 2020 he led a twelve day Martin Randal Travel tour to look at the British colonial buildings of Kolkata, Mumbai, and Delhi.

In addition to providing conservation guidance on buildings - ranging from the Workhouse, Southwell and the Royal Institution, London, to Winchester Cathedral and Kedleston Hall – Anthony is a respected author. His book about Birmingham and its town hall was published in 2012 to much critical acclaim,

being one of the seven British projects cited in the European Union's 2013 Europa Nostra Awards.

Anthony is Deputy Chairman of the Ancient Monuments Society and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He lectures at Cambridge University and throughout the UK on building conservation and architectural subjects, not least on British designed historic buildings in India.

