

# **“A gilded sun with a skylight to illuminate”: restoration of the Temple of Apollo at Stourhead, England.**

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**Abstract** The Temple of Apollo was the last garden building to be completed in the eighteenth century landscape garden of Henry Hoare (1705 – 85) at Stourhead, Wiltshire, England, with the assistance of the architect Henry Flitcroft (1687 – 1769). Built of limestone ashlar with Corinthian columns, twelve niches for statues and bas reliefs, the key element was the sophisticated double-shell construction of the dome. Following the temple’s demise in the twentieth century and the subsequent gift of the garden by the Hoare family to the National Trust, the dome was replaced with a single shell of a more sharply curved structure and thus the luminary effect was lost. However, following thorough archival research using both texts and artistic impressions, the temple has now been restored using local materials to re-create the double-shell construction. This now gives the intended visual effect, both from within and set amongst the wider landscape.

**Keywords** Restoration, Garden history, Architectural history