

Barry Bergdoll, Slade Professor of Fine Art 2010-11

**Welcome by the Vice-Chancellor of the University,
Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz**

The Slade Lectures have run in Cambridge since 1869, when the first Professor was Sir Matthew Digby Wyatt, architect (with I.K. Brunel) of Paddington Station and, nearer to home here in Cambridge, of Addenbrooke's Hospital in its incarnation before it became the Judge Institute. Wyatt was also the author of a book on *The Industrial Arts of the Nineteenth Century*, published to coincide with the 1851 Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, a topic that we might well hear discussed again in this year's Slade Lectures on 'The Modernity of the Architecture Exhibition since 1750'.

The incoming Slade Professor, Barry Bergdoll, follows in a distinguished line of some of the world's greatest architectural historians who have held the position. They include: Sir Nikolaus Pevsner (in 1949); Jean Bony (1958); Sir John Summerson (1966); James Ackerman (1969); Rudolph Wittkower (1970); Howard Burns (1977); and Neil Levine (1994). Like Wittkower before him, Barry Bergdoll is a professor in the Department of Art and Archaeology at Columbia University in New York, a position he has held since 1985. He was Head of Department from 2004 to 2007, since when he has been seconded to the Museum of Modern Art in New York as the Philip Johnson Chief Curator of Architecture and Design. Among the exhibitions he has curated at MoMA are 'Bauhaus: Workshops for Modernity' in 2009, 'Home Delivery: Fabricating the Modern Dwelling' in 2008, and, in 2002, 'Mies in Berlin'. His books include the survey *European Architecture 1750 to 1890* in Oxford University

Press's History of Art series (2000), and major monographs, both published in 1994, on the great nineteenth-century architects Léon Vaudoyer from France and Karl Friedrich Schinkel from Prussia.

Although Barry Bergdoll studied at - and has spent his entire teaching career at - Columbia University, Cambridge is actually his second University, as he came to King's College from New York as an Affiliated Student in 1977 and took the BA degree in History of Art in 1979. In the audience this evening are: an Emeritus Professor of the History of Art Department who taught him; a curator at the Fitzwilliam Museum for whose first class Barry was present; and a second member of the History of Art Department, now a professor, who, as a student, sat beside Barry during their final examinations and was impressed (or perhaps oppressed!) by the reams of writing he seemed effortlessly to produce. Cambridge is thus delighted to welcome back one of its own distinguished alumni and to have him in residence throughout this Lent Term. In addition to the lectures Professor Bergdoll will be giving classes in the History of Art Department and will doubtless be willing to meet students to discuss issues arising from his Slade Lectures. In keeping with tradition, however, the lectures themselves are not followed by question and answer sessions.

Now please join me in welcoming the Cambridge Slade Professor of Fine Art for 2010-11, Barry Bergdoll.