

A Civic Utopia

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- ***Cet ouvrage, coécrit par [Basile Baudez](#), membre du Centre André Chastel, et Nicholas Olsberg, est en lien avec une exposition ayant lieu à [The Courtauld Gallery of Art](#), du 8 octobre 2016 au 8 janvier 2017.***

This publication expands upon an exhibition initiated by The Courtauld Gallery of Art to mark its contribution to the celebration at Somerset House of the 500th anniversary of Thomas More's *Utopia*. Taking its cues from an exploration of the collections of Drawing Matter Trust, *A Civic Utopia* brings together a small selection of architectural drawings related to public building and public space in Enlightenment-era France, which served as models for the expression of an ordered and open civic life, as the foundation of an ideal polity. One among a series of fruitful collaborations between the Courtauld and Drawing Matter, the project is particularly concerned to relate the art of drawing and designing architecture to wider aspirations, and the social and mental life that they express, seeing such works as central documents in the evolution of ideas about the nature and functioning of society.

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