

This two-day conference explores the extraordinary life and work of the Cambridge academic Robert Willis (1800-1875). Willis was a famous Cambridge polymath. A Fellow of Gonville and Caius, he was Jacksonian Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy and taught engineering in the early years of that subject.

His research and teaching was spread over a wide range of interests. He was in particular a pioneer of the study of Medieval vaulting and did extensive research on Gothic Cathedrals and Medieval architectural nomenclature.

In Cambridge, he is best known as the originator and author of *The Architectural History of the University and Colleges of Cambridge* which was put together from his papers and additional material by his nephew John Willis Clark.

This conference, set in the beautiful surroundings of Willis's own college, will look at the whole range of his interests, with lectures on the first day and tours of the buildings he discussed on the second.

SYMPOSIUM

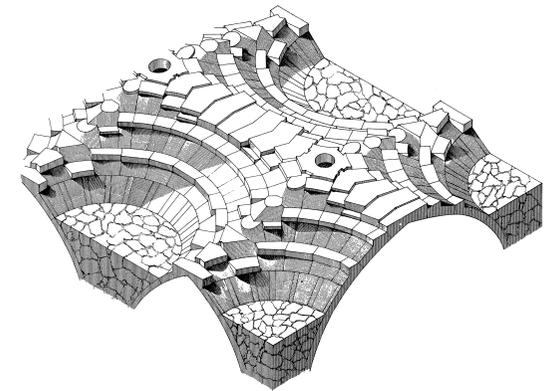
1800-1875

Robert Willis

Science, Technology and Architecture in the 19th Century

Cambridge, Caius College

September the 16-17th 2016



From the local to the global

James Campbell

Willis and Cambridge architecture

Alex Buchanan

Willis and his networks of knowledge

Willis and science

Jacques Heymann

The teaching of engineering in
Cambridge

Ben Marsden

Willis and science

Robin Maconie

Willis, speech, sound and music

Willis and archaeology

Chris Elliott

Willis and Egyptian architecture

Martin Biddle

Willis and the Holy Sepulchre
Church in Jerusalem

Toby Huitson

Circular stairs, Norman galleries and
polychrome stonemasonry: Willis's
work on Worcester Cathedral

Tim Tatton Brown

Willis and Chichester Cathedral

Willis, vaults and drawing

Santiago Huerta

Willis and gothic vault studies before
1850

Antonio Becchi

Drawing proofs: The tangible worlds of
Robert Willis

Javier Girón

Willis and the constructive drawing in
architecture

Nick Webb

Digital re-presentation of Willis's work
on medieval vaults

Willis's influence

David Wendland

Robert Willis and Germany: Gothic
Revival and research on mediaeval
architecture

Simone Talenti

Willis's influence in 19th-century Italy

Martin Bressani

Willis and Viollet-le-Duc

Adrian Forty

Willis and the Modernists

The programme will conclude with a
celebratory dinner at Caius College.
Day 2 will comprise a **walking tour** of
sites with Willis interest in Cambridge
and a **coach trip** to Ely.

www.robertwillis2016.org

robertwillis.symp.2016@gmail.com