



Compton Verney Director's Biographical summary

Dr Steven Parissien

Biographical summary

Born in London and raised in Chesham in Buckinghamshire, Steven obtained both his undergraduate and doctoral degrees from Oxford University. Steven worked for The Georgian Group and English Heritage before joining Yale University's Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art in London, as Assistant Director, in 1995. In 2003 he moved to become Professor of Architectural History and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Plymouth, and in 2006 joined The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment as Director of Education before arriving Compton Verney as Director in January 2009. He is also currently Visiting Fellow at Kellogg College, Oxford and at the University of Warwick.

Steven has written extensively on architectural and cultural history, and has frequently appeared on national radio and television. His ten books to date include *Regency Style*, *Adam Style* (*Apollo* magazine's *Book of the Year* for 1992 and The American Institute of Architects' *Book of the Year Choice* for 1993); *The Book of the Georgian House* (1995); *George IV: The Grand Entertainment* (2001); *Interiors: The Home Since 1700* (2008); and *The Life of the Automobile* (2013). He has curated a number of exhibitions for Compton Verney, including *Stanley Spencer and the English Garden* (2011) and *Turner and Constable: Sketching from Nature* (2013). His current projects include exhibitions on Canaletto in Britain and on Britain in the 1950s, and books on Oxford architecture and English railway stations.

Steven lives in Oxford and has one daughter.