

## Orientalism, Chinoiserie, and India

This is a topic that encompasses architecture, gardens and most of all the decorative arts, including furniture and textiles. In earlier centuries the term ‘The Orient’ could mean anything from Turkey eastwards, and would be used to describe artefacts and commodities from India, China, and Japan.

The great trading companies were instrumental in introducing western eyes, appetites and minds to the exotic riches of the east. The trade between Europe and the east was not simply one of goods, but of ideas as well. Country houses are filled with items from the Orient or inspired by fashions for things oriental.

With the rise in studies in empire and post-colonialism, fresh understandings of these influences on country houses have emerged, in particular the East India Company at Home Project based at University College London: [www.ucl.ac.uk/eicah](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/eicah)

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