

**THE RICHARD ENGLAND COLLECTION OF DRAWINGS**

**Foreword**

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**IAN RITCHIE**

The Richard England Collection of Drawings would enrich any architectural library in the world, but its natural home is here at the University of Malta, his alma mater, where he was both a student and the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture.

This gift of hundreds of his drawings is a reflection of a very generous man. What he cannot know is who, when and how often students and others will study them. Outstanding is the harmony of perspective form, sometimes surreal, that he achieves from his mind to hand to paper through ink.

When they do study them, they will see that shadow is the gift of light and to witness the transfer of energy. This is akin to the essence of Richard's gift, the transfer of a lifetime's energy pursuing *kalon* through his poetic and sacred architecture.

There is an eternal quality within these drawings because they are composed only of light and shade - of those two richest of colours, white and black, in which lay the entire spectrum of colour. It is clear that Richard knows this, and that 'in black ink my love may still shine bright.'<sup>1</sup>

His drawings are both art and a *documenta* of his journey through life. Endlessly seeking, then pausing to draw, first looking then seeing. To see requires knowledge, as The Little Prince said, "*It is only in the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.*" And seeing from the heart allows the Little Prince to understand that the drawing the aviator shows him is not a hat, but an elephant that has been swallowed by a boa constrictor. It is the essential, the clarity that is evident throughout Richard's folio of drawings and his architecture, a clarity of heart and vision.

To look is to direct one's eyes towards something or someone. To see requires knowledge, perhaps a silent soul, and therein also lies the potential for wisdom.

Without doubt, Richard, born under the Mediterranean light, honed his skill as draughtsman, leaves to all of us a fabulous collection. He has bequeathed not only this vast wealth of drawings but vital memories of his beloved islands, and the potential for anyone to feel that the essential, the inner self and the spiritual are accessible. These attributes are the foundation of expressing creativity and to helping us to see and appreciate beauty.

Richard, Thank you.

Ian Ritchie, London 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023

<sup>1</sup> Sonnet 65 Shakespeare, last line.