

**AHST 3322-001 (29089)**  
**History of Modern Architecture**  
**Dr. Charissa N. Terranova**  
**University of Texas at Dallas**  
**Spring 2022**  
**M-W 1:00-2:15**

01/26/22

**The Crystal Palace and Great Exhibition of 1851**



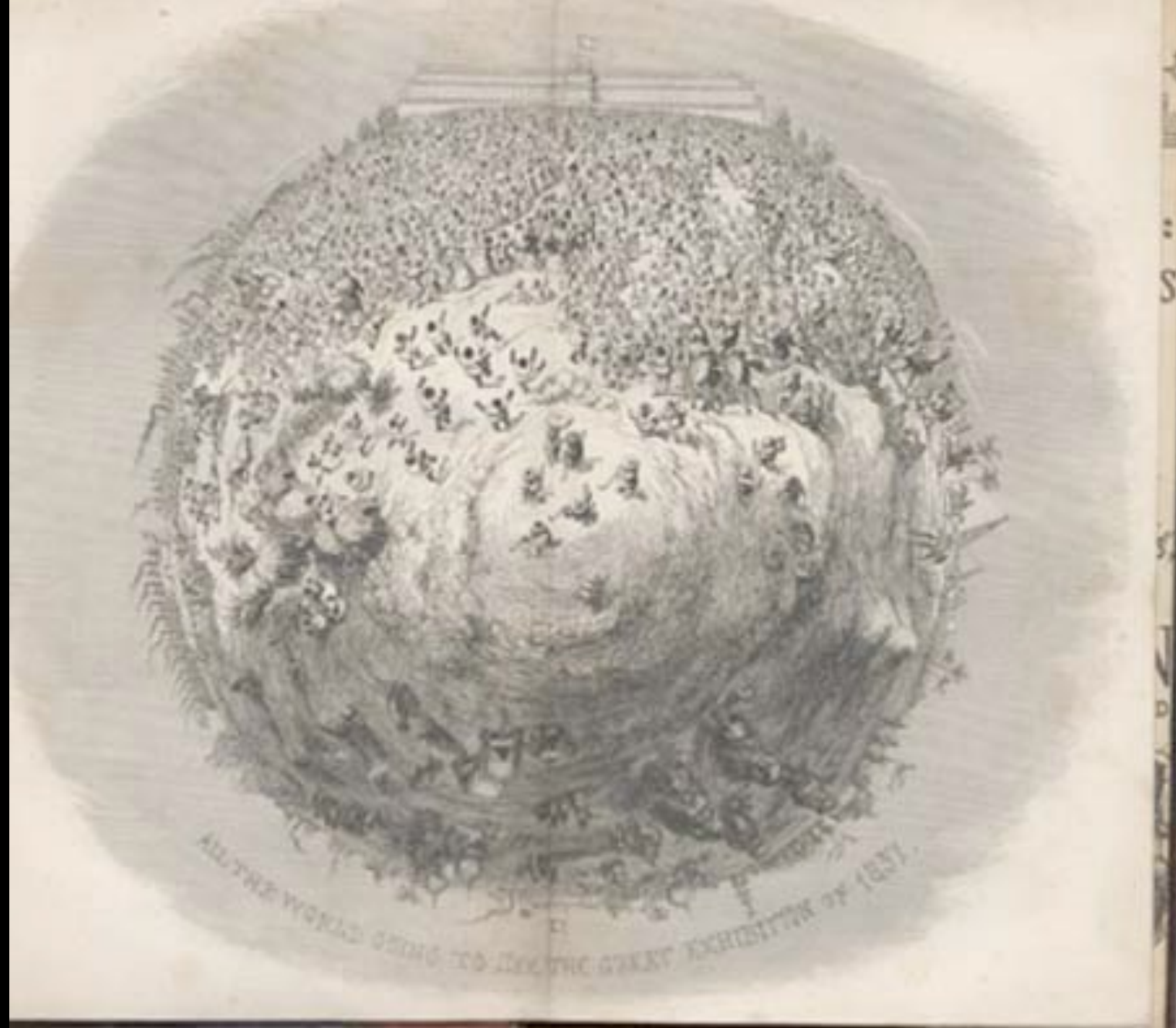
Queen Victoria with Prince Albert, 1854



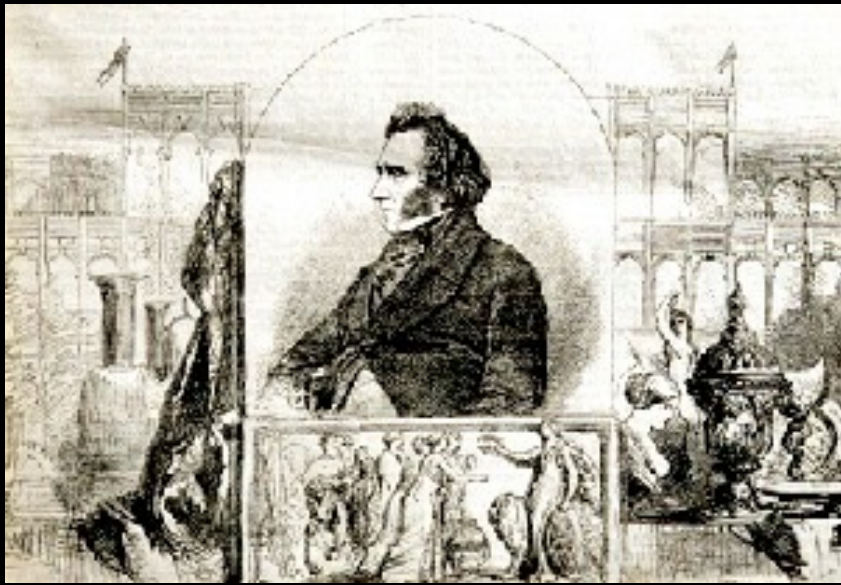
Sir Henry Cole (1809-1882)



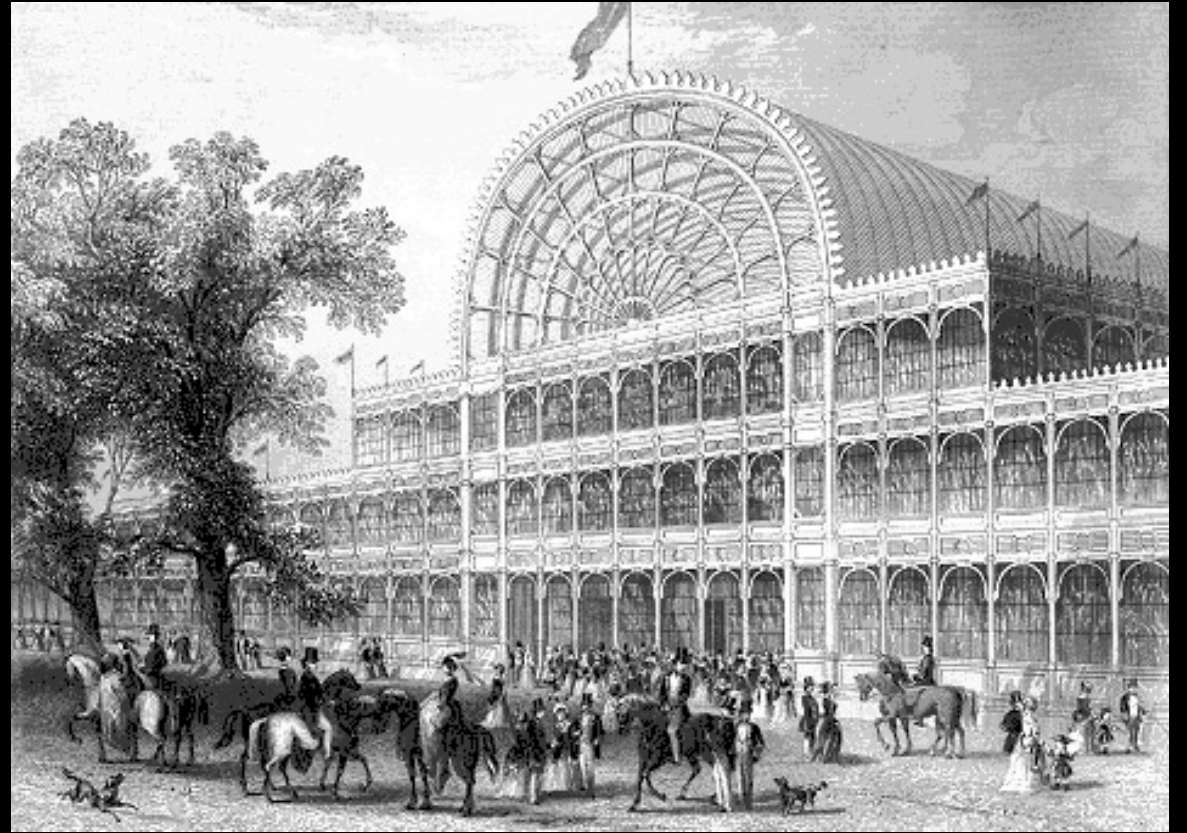
Sir Joseph Paxton (1803-1865)



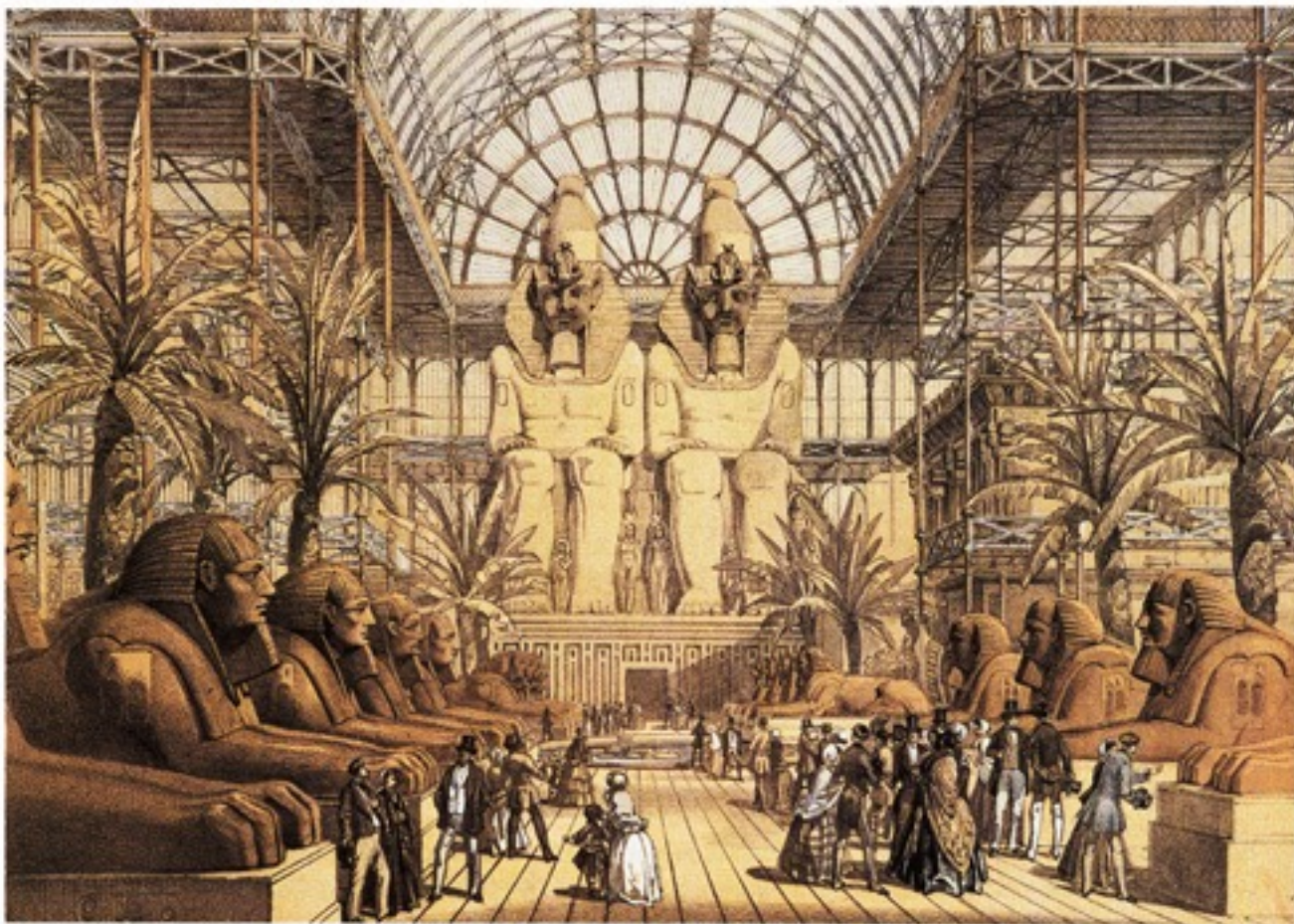
**Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations or The Great Exhibition, London, 1851**



Joseph Paxton (1803-1865)

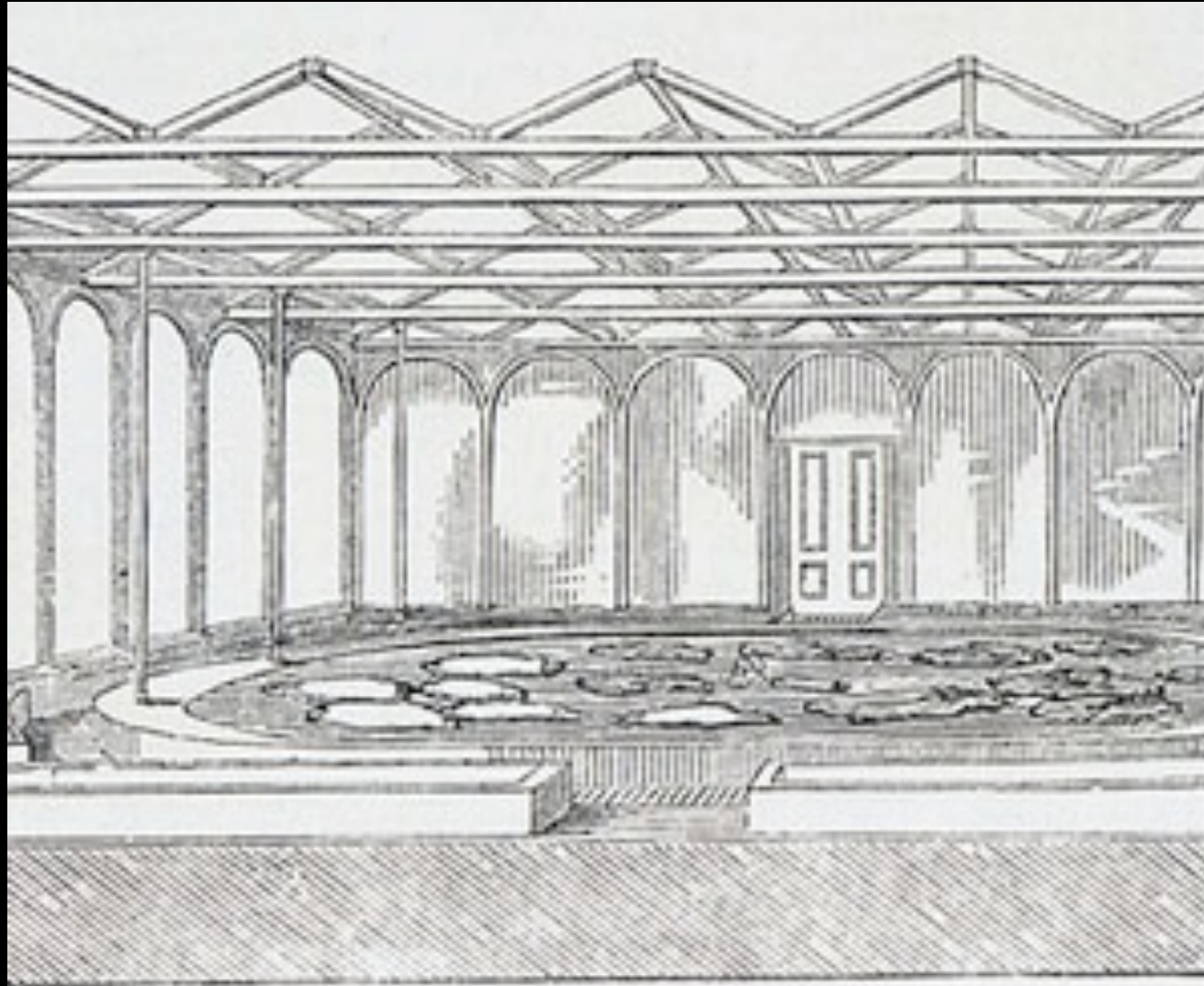


# British Empire



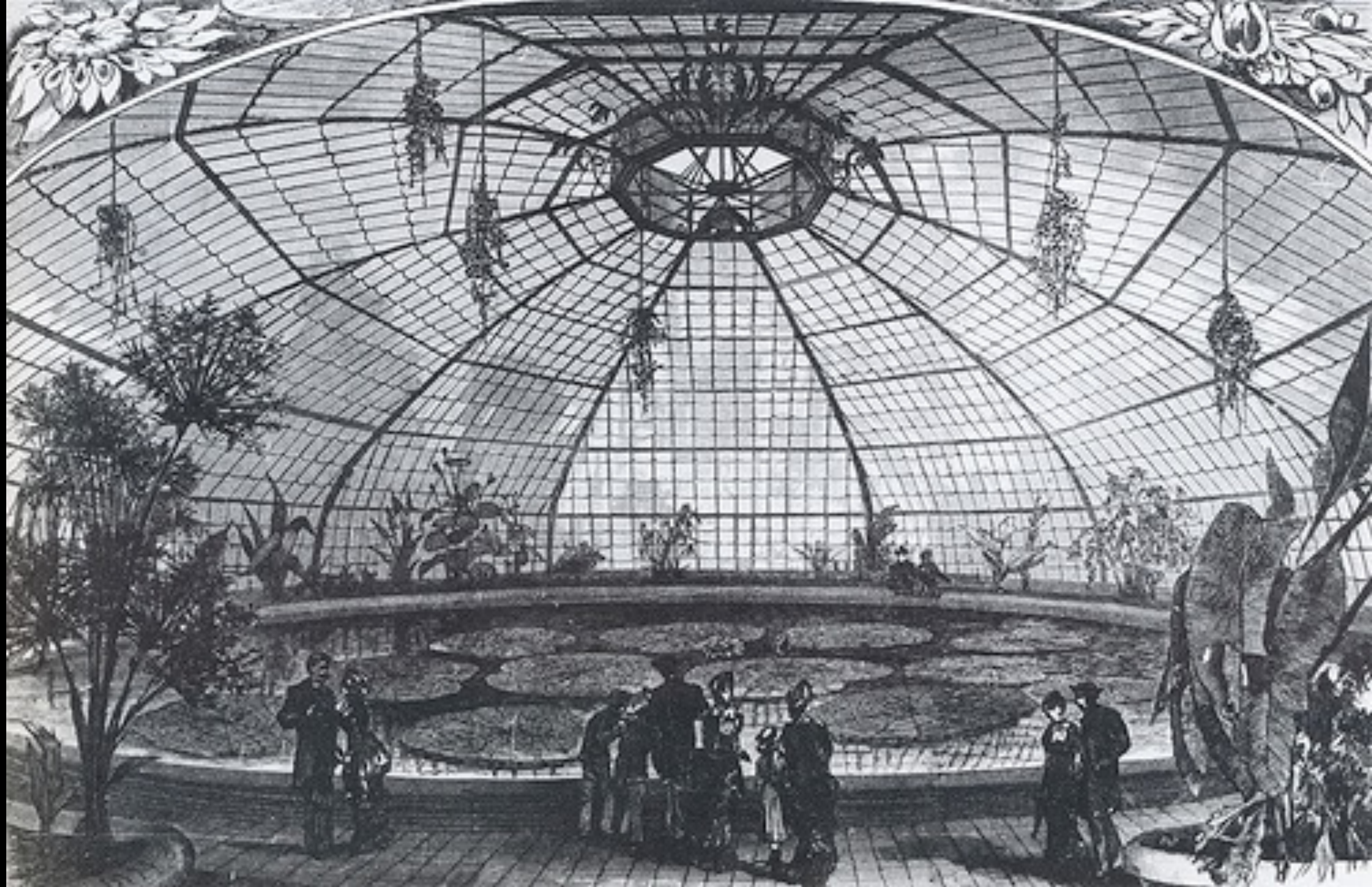
'Egyptian Court' North Transept of the Crystal Palace', from Matthew Digby Wyatt's 'Views of the Crystal Palace and Park'

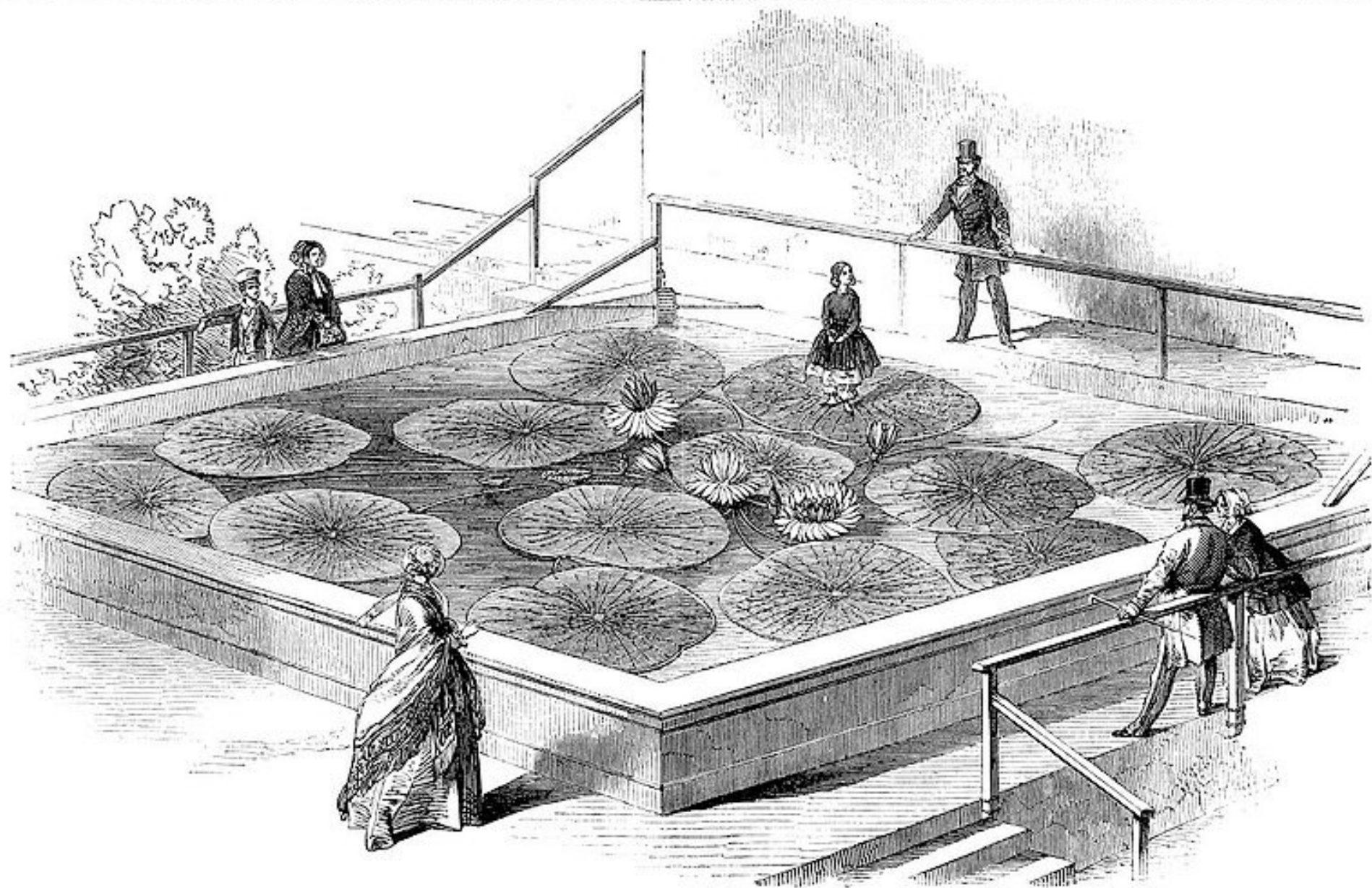
Joseph Paxton, Regia House, Chatsworth, 1836



THE NEW VICTORIA REGIA HOUSE.—INTERIOR.



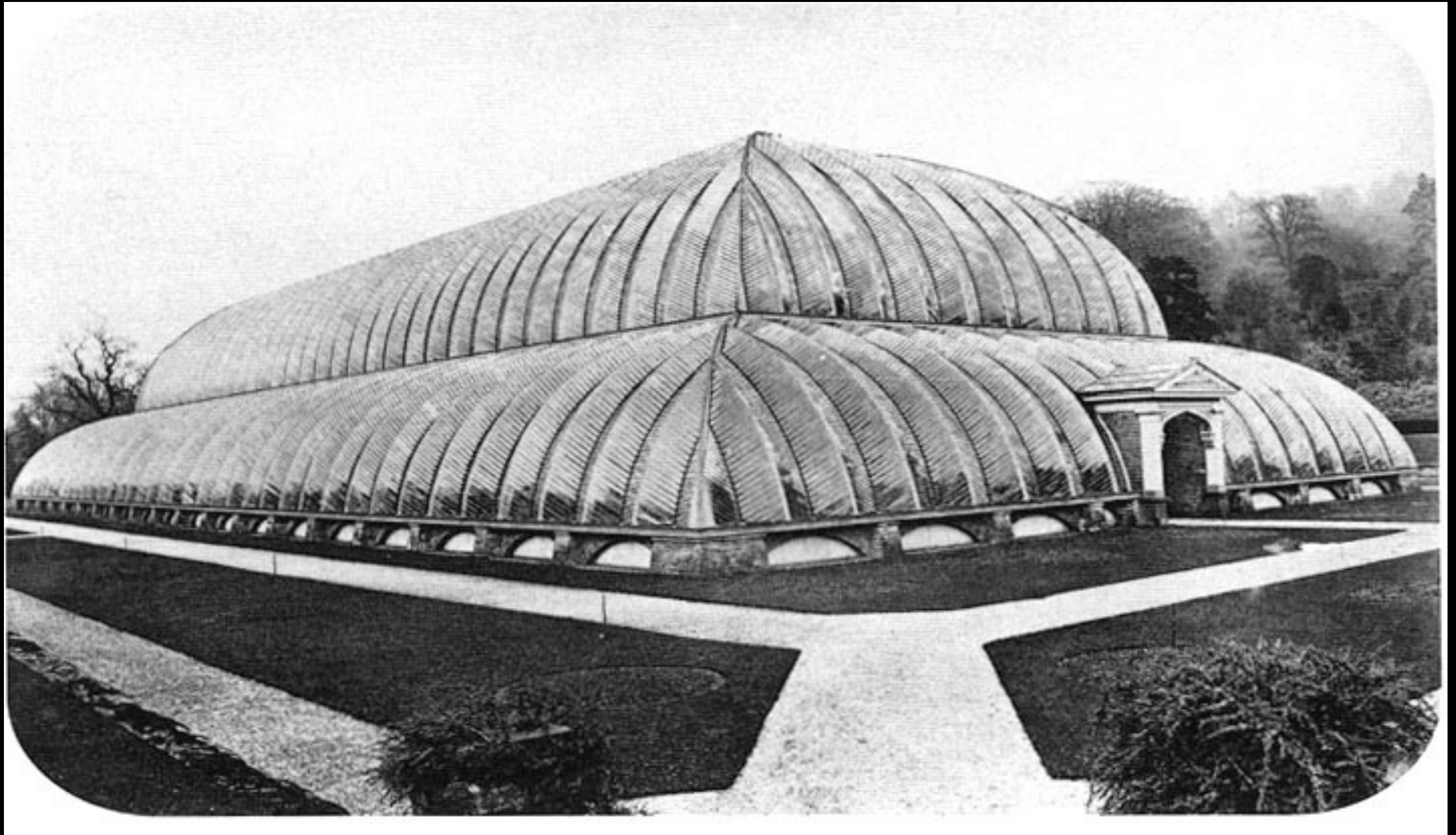




THE GIGANTIC WATER-LILY (VICTORIA REGIA), IN FLOWER AT CHATSWORTH.



Joseph Paxton, The Great Stove, Chatsworth, 1836-40

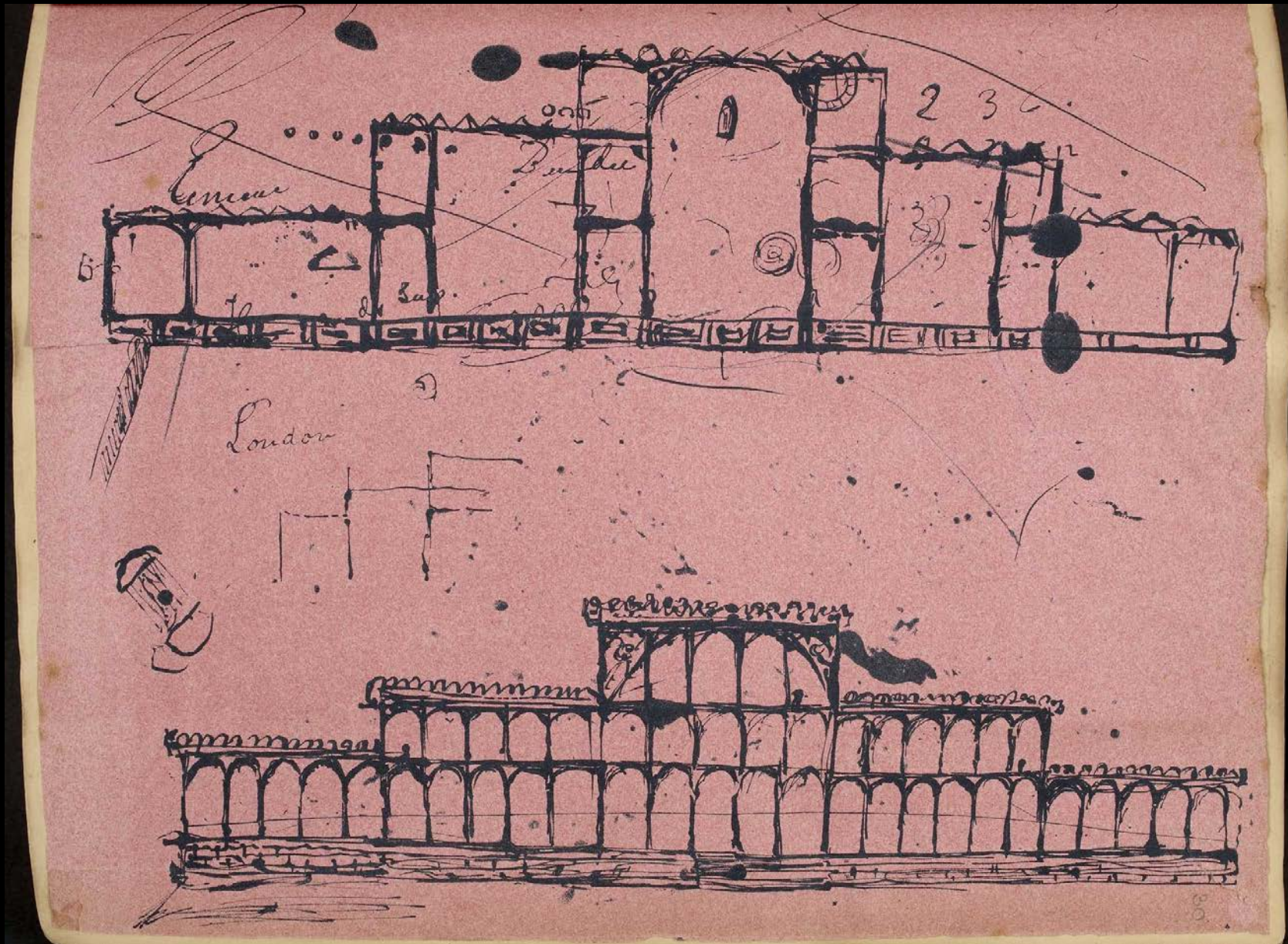




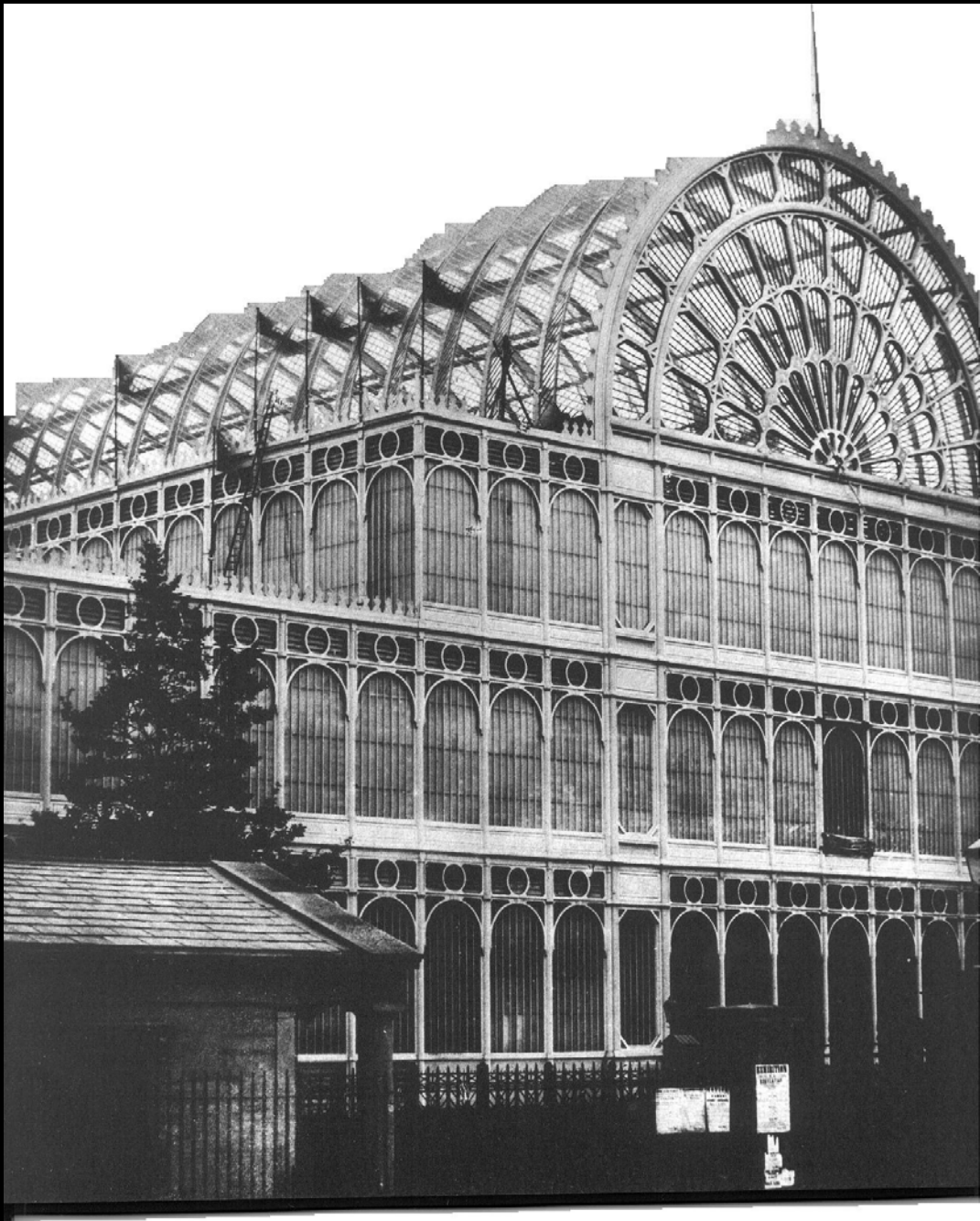


Joseph Paxton, Crystal Palace,  
London, 1851/1853-54

Conceived by Prince Albert, the  
Great Exhibition was intended to  
showcase the “Works of the  
Industry of all Nations.”



Joseph Paxton's first sketch for the Great Exhibition Building, about 1850, pen and ink on blotting paper

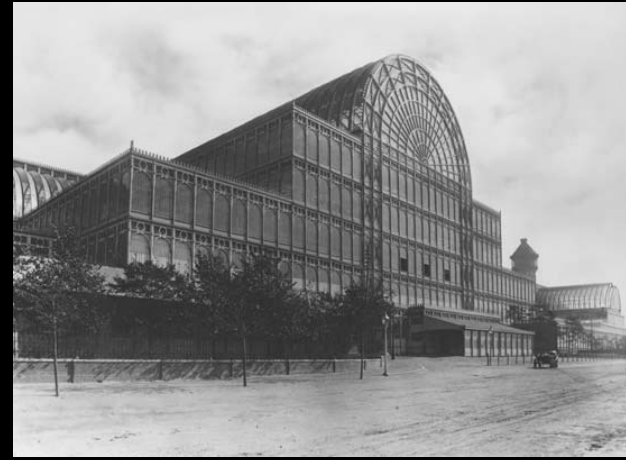


Early calotype of the Hyde Park Crystal Palace Entrance by Richard Lucae (19th-century German architectural critic):

“As in a Crystal there is no longer any true interior or exterior. The barrier erected between us and the landscape is almost ethereal. If we imagine that air can be poured like a liquid, then it has, here, achieved a solid form, after the removal of the mould into which it was poured. We find ourselves within a cut-out segment of atmosphere. It is, in my opinion, extraordinarily difficult to arrive at a clear perception of the effect of form and scale in this incorporeal space.”



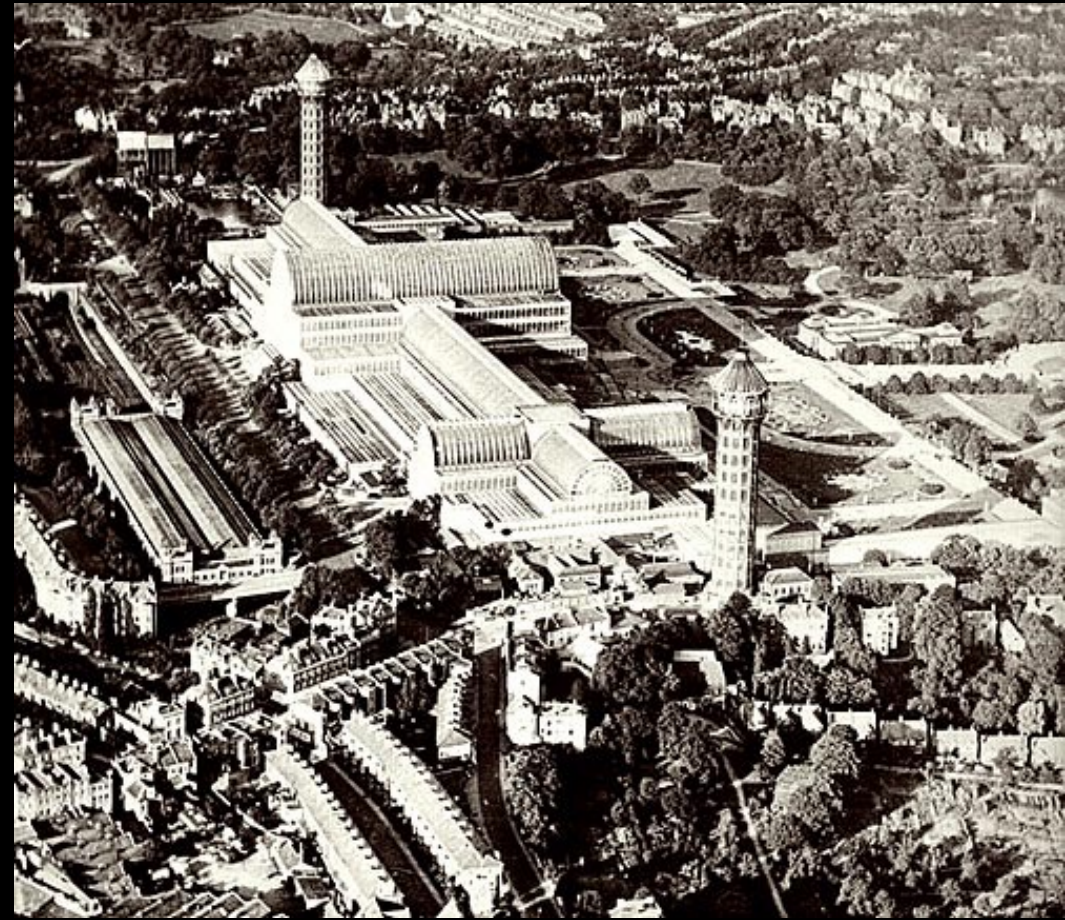
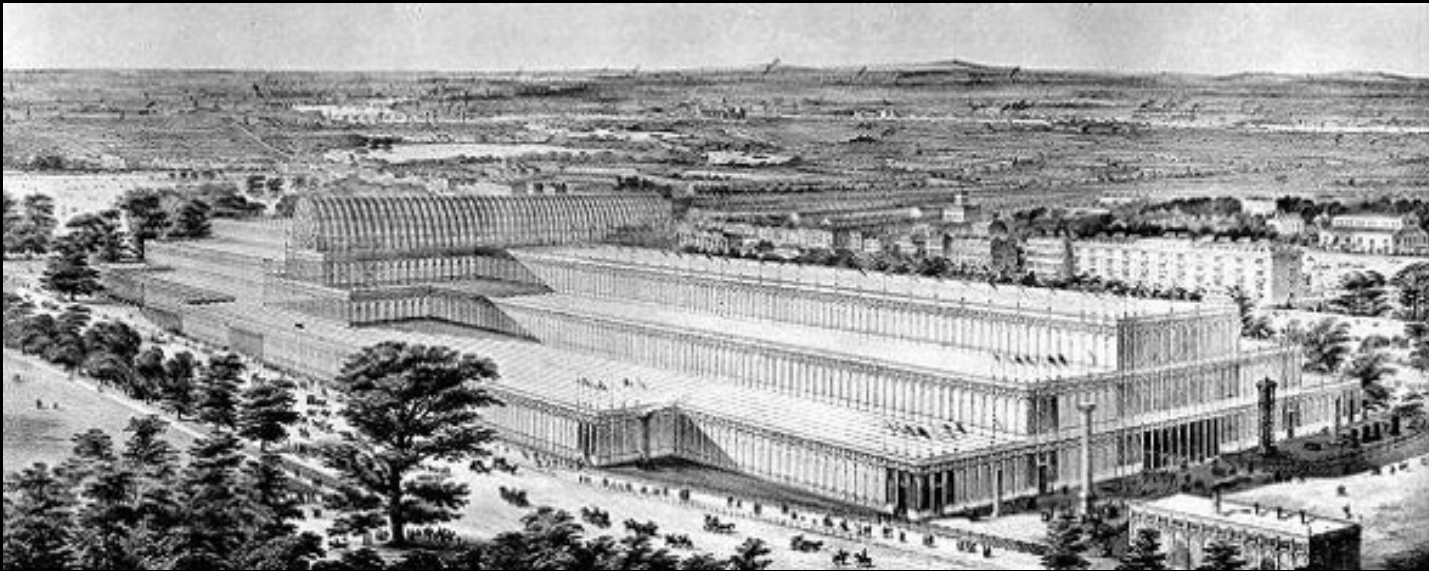
The Crystal Palace, Hyde Park, London, in 1851



Crystal Palace being  
reconstructed at  
Sydenham in 1853

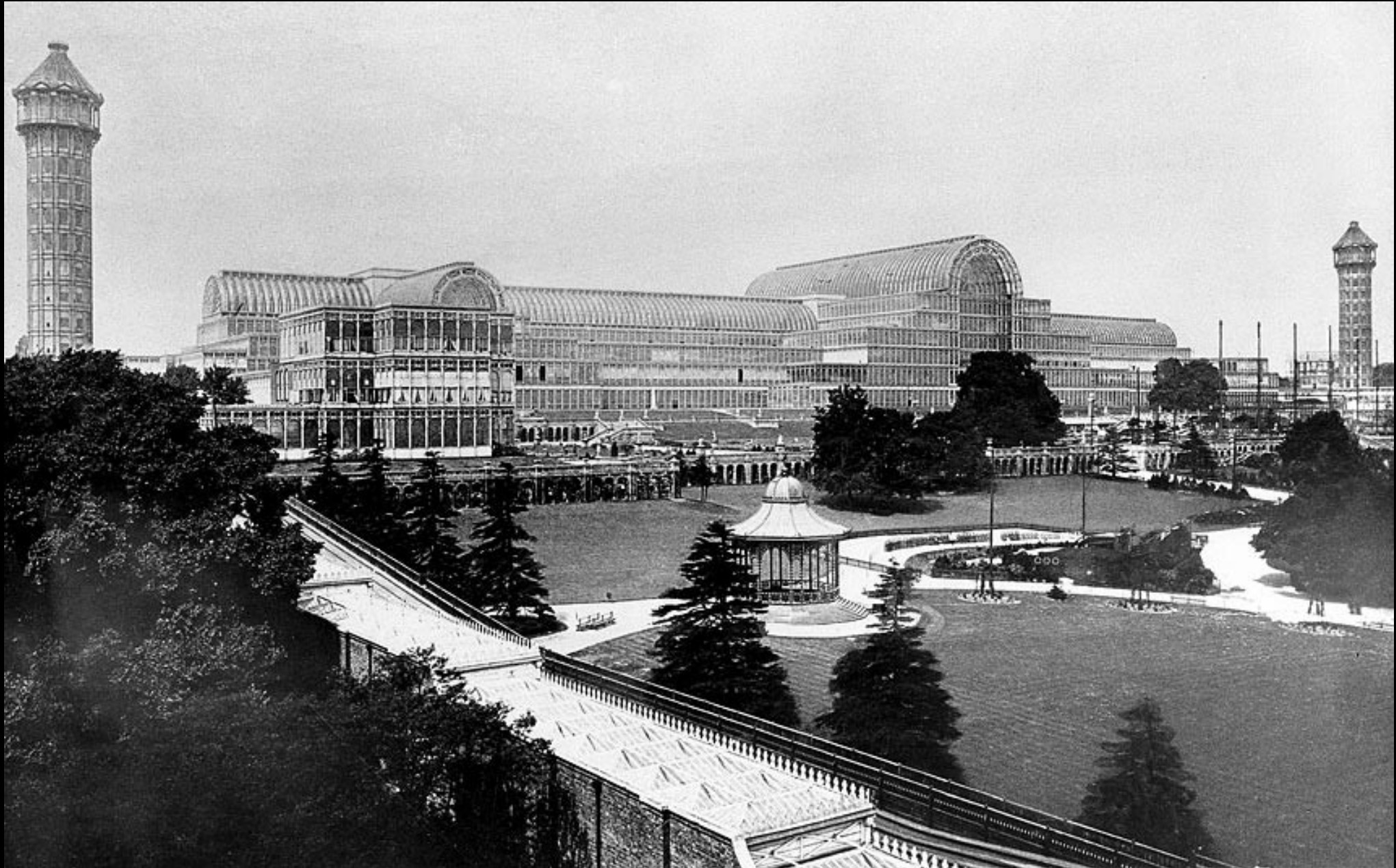
Left: The Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park viewed from the South. The Great Exhibition of 1851

Right: Crystal Palace at Sydenham in 1854



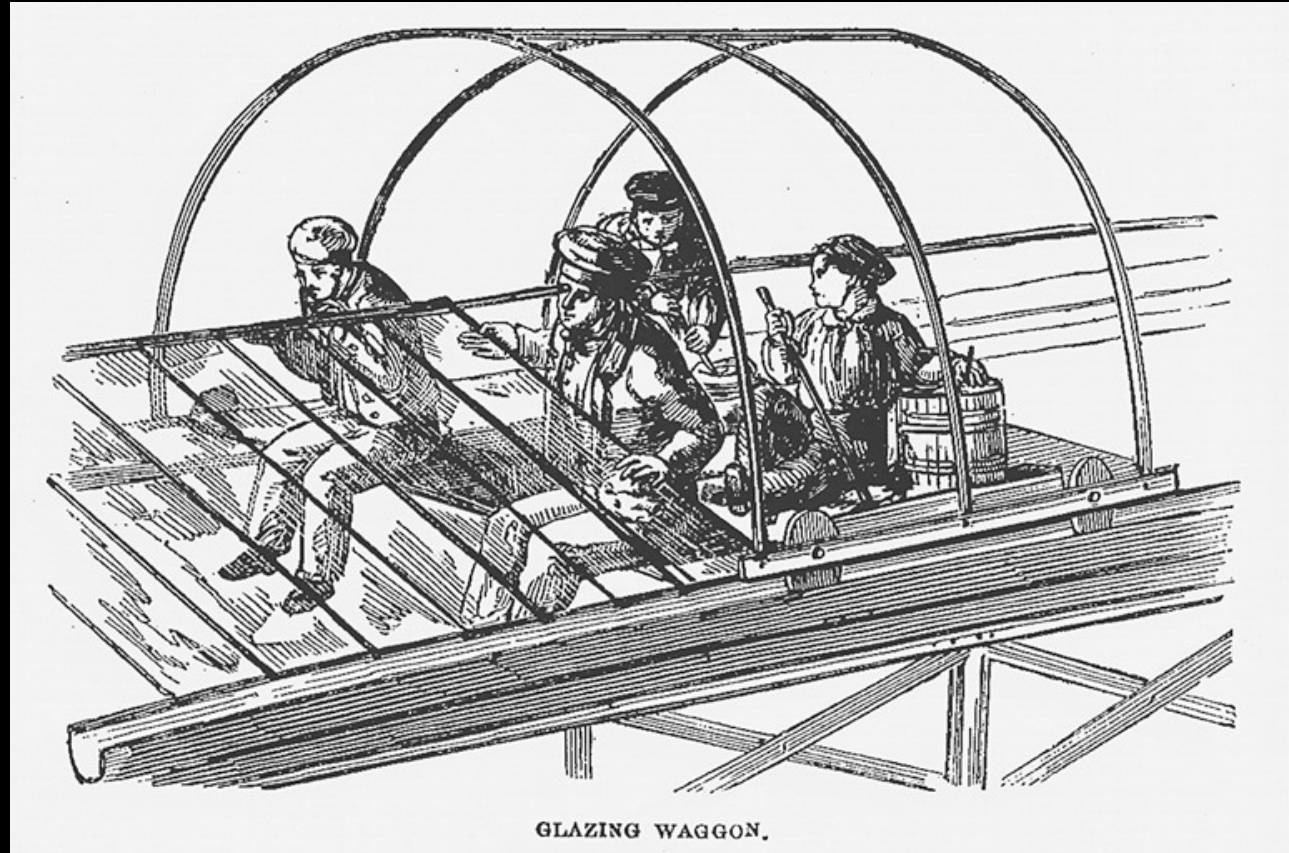


Crystal Palace at Sydenham, 1853-1854



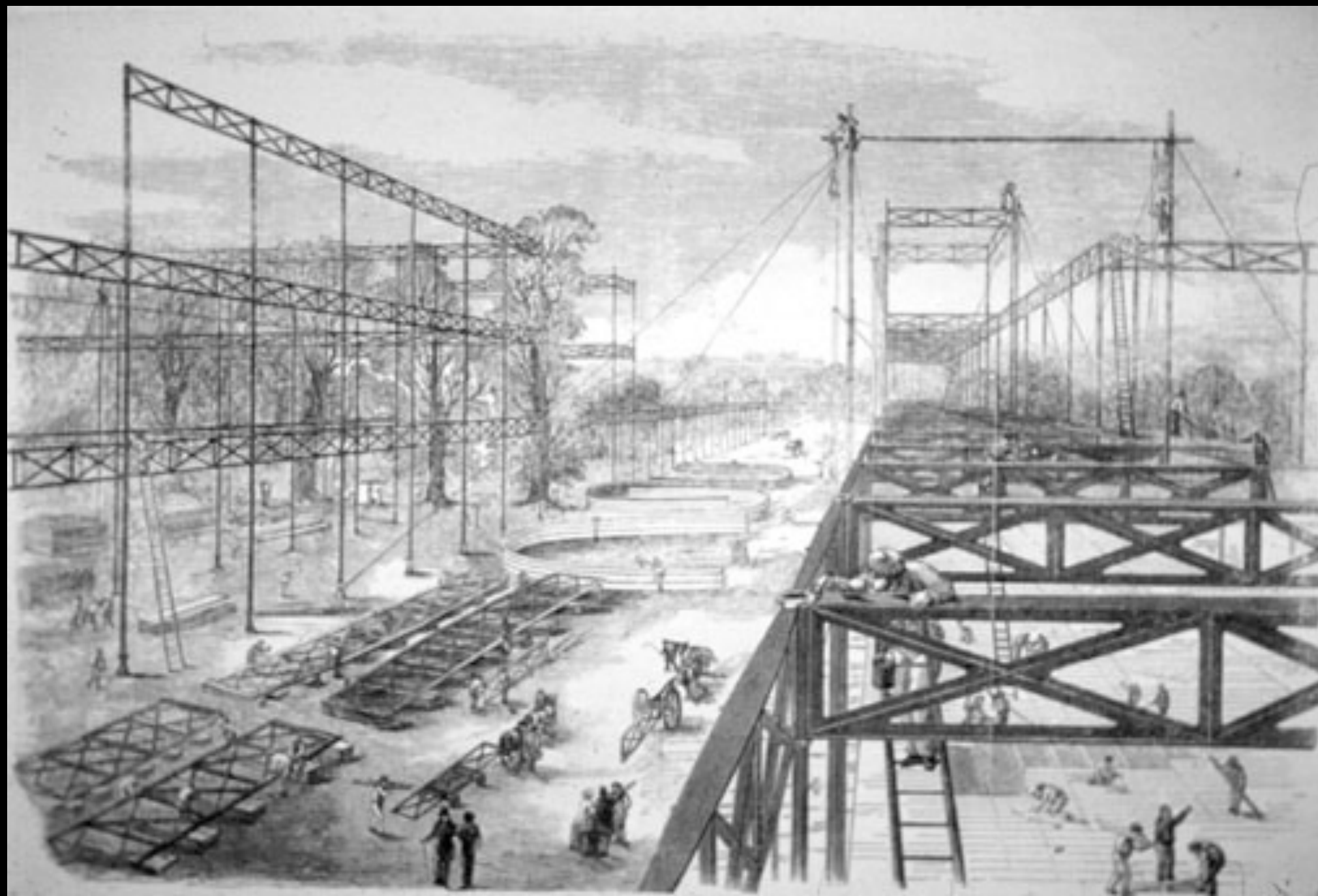
Martin Growald, Infomart, Dallas, 1985

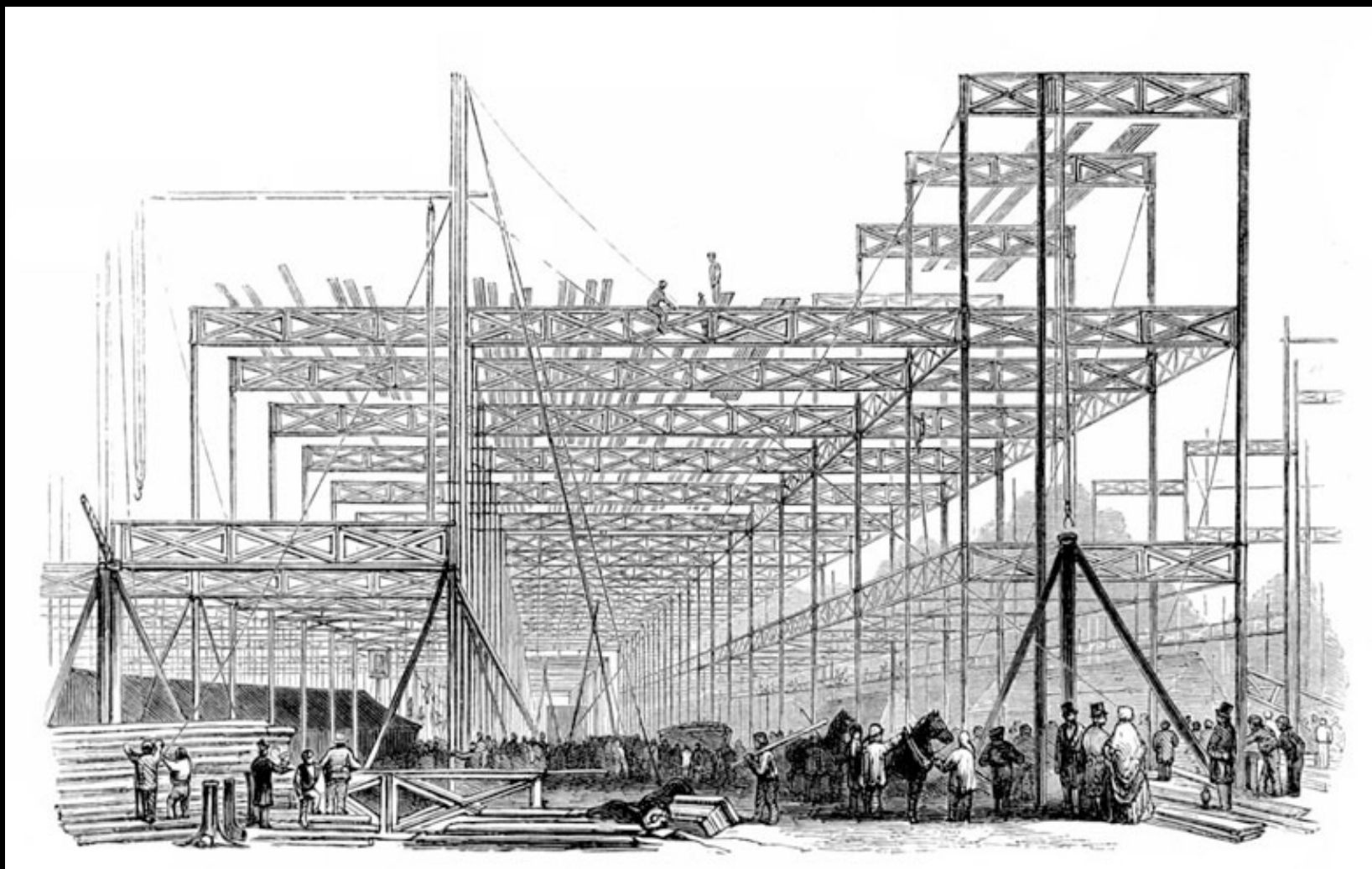
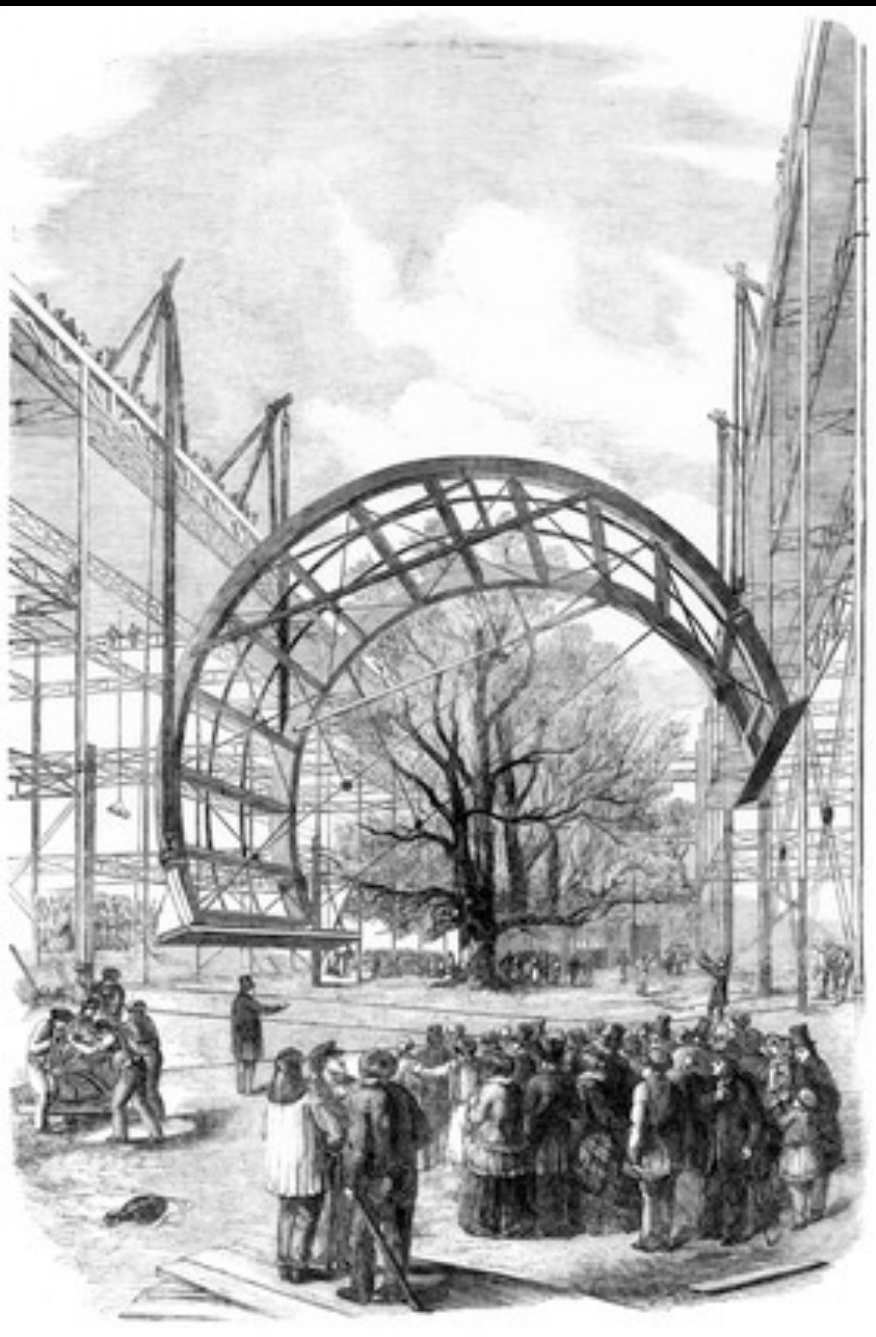




Joseph Paxton, Crystal Palace, London, 1851, construction

- temporary
- simple
- as cheap as possible
- economical to build in less than a year before the already scheduled exhibition
- PREFABRICATION







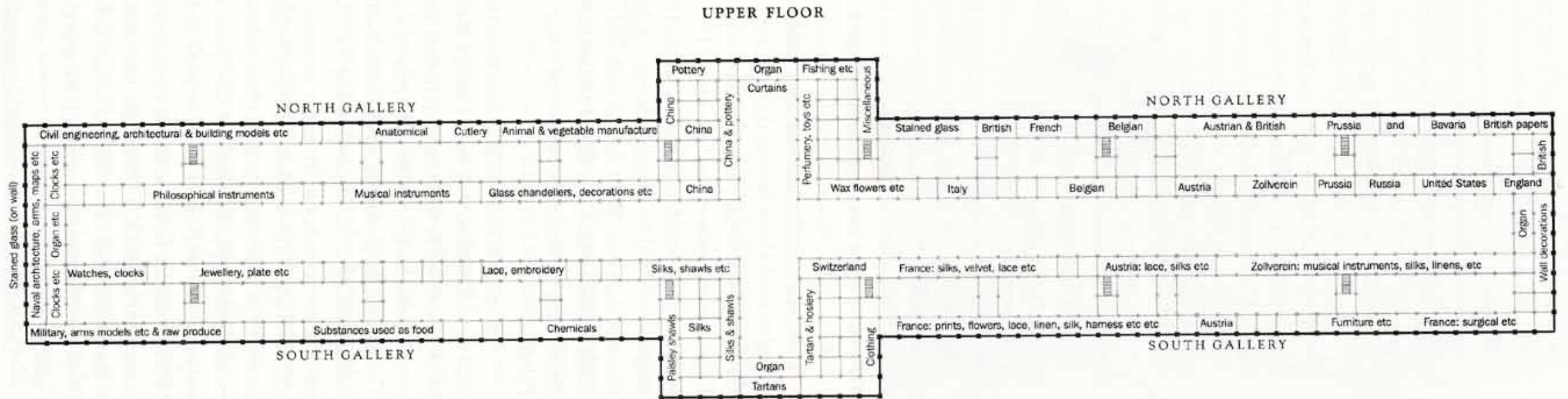




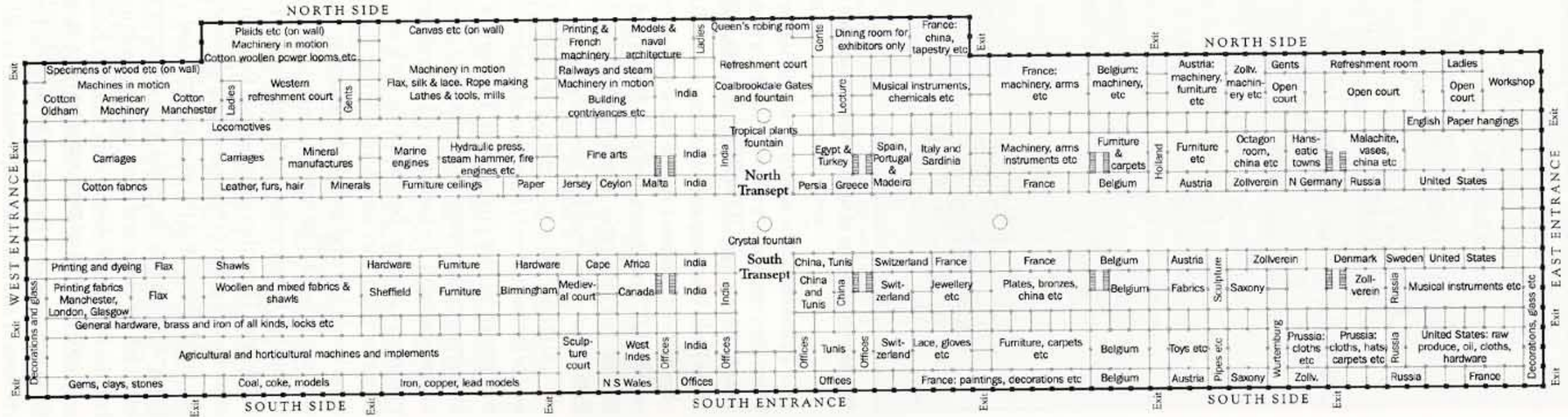


Within the Crystal Palace some 100,000 objects were displayed – taking up ten miles of space – the work of 15,000 contributors. Over half the display came from Britain and its empire, but other nations were invited to participate. In fact, the event was tactfully entitled “The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations”.

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/modern/the-decline-and-fall-of-the-british-empire/>



# GROUND FLOOR



PART II

FEBRUARY

PRICE 1s.

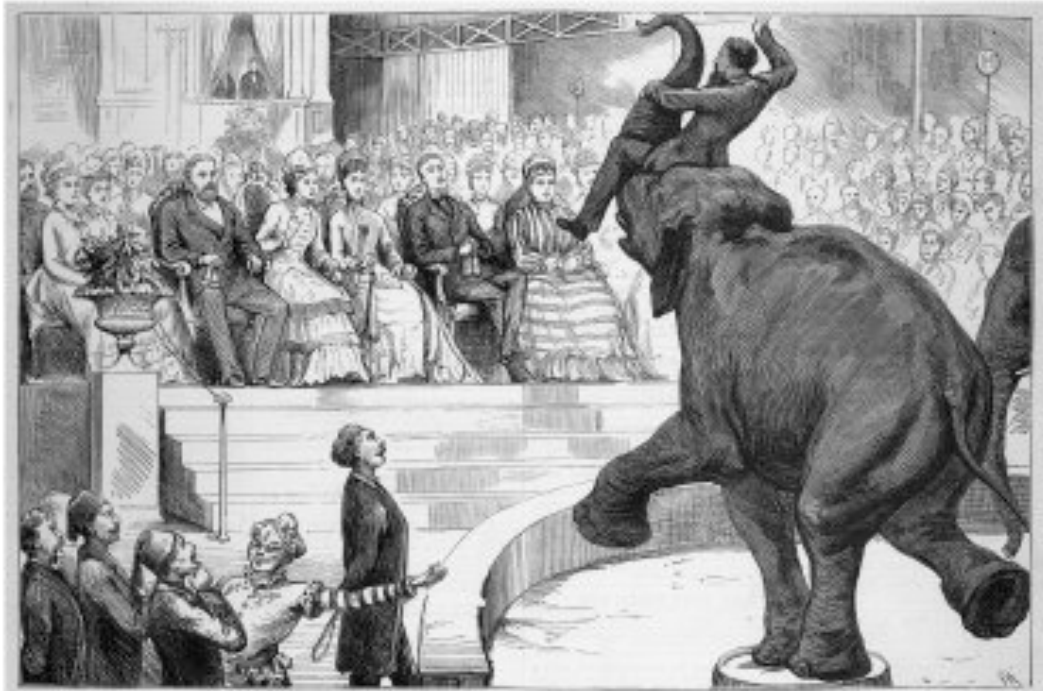


THE  
WORLD'S  
SHOW.

**1851.**  
OR,  
THE ADVENTURES  
OF  
MR AND MRS  
SANDBOYS  
AND FAMILY,  
WHO CAME UP TO  
**LONDON**  
TO ENJOY THEMSELVES,  
AND TO SEE THE  
**GREAT**  
**EXHIBITION**  
BY HENRY MAYHEW, AND  
GEORGE CRUIKSHANK.

LONDON: DAVID BOGUE, 86, FLEET STREET.

JOHN MENZIES, PRINCES STREET, KINGSTOWN. — JAMES M'GLASHAN, D'OLIER STREET, DUBLIN.



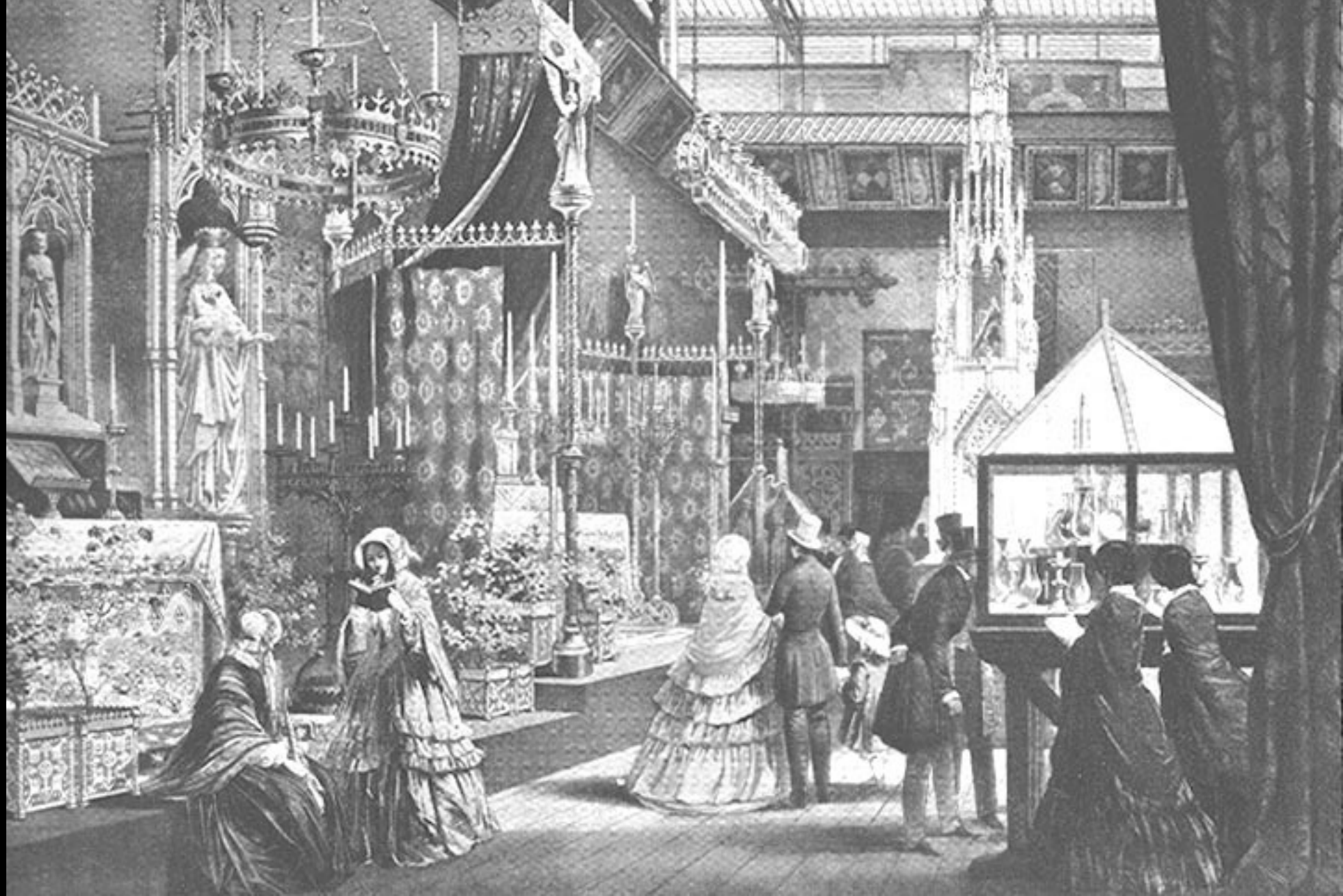
THE ROYAL VISIT TO THE CRYSTAL PALACE — PERFORMING ELEPHANT IN THE AMERICAN HIPPODROME



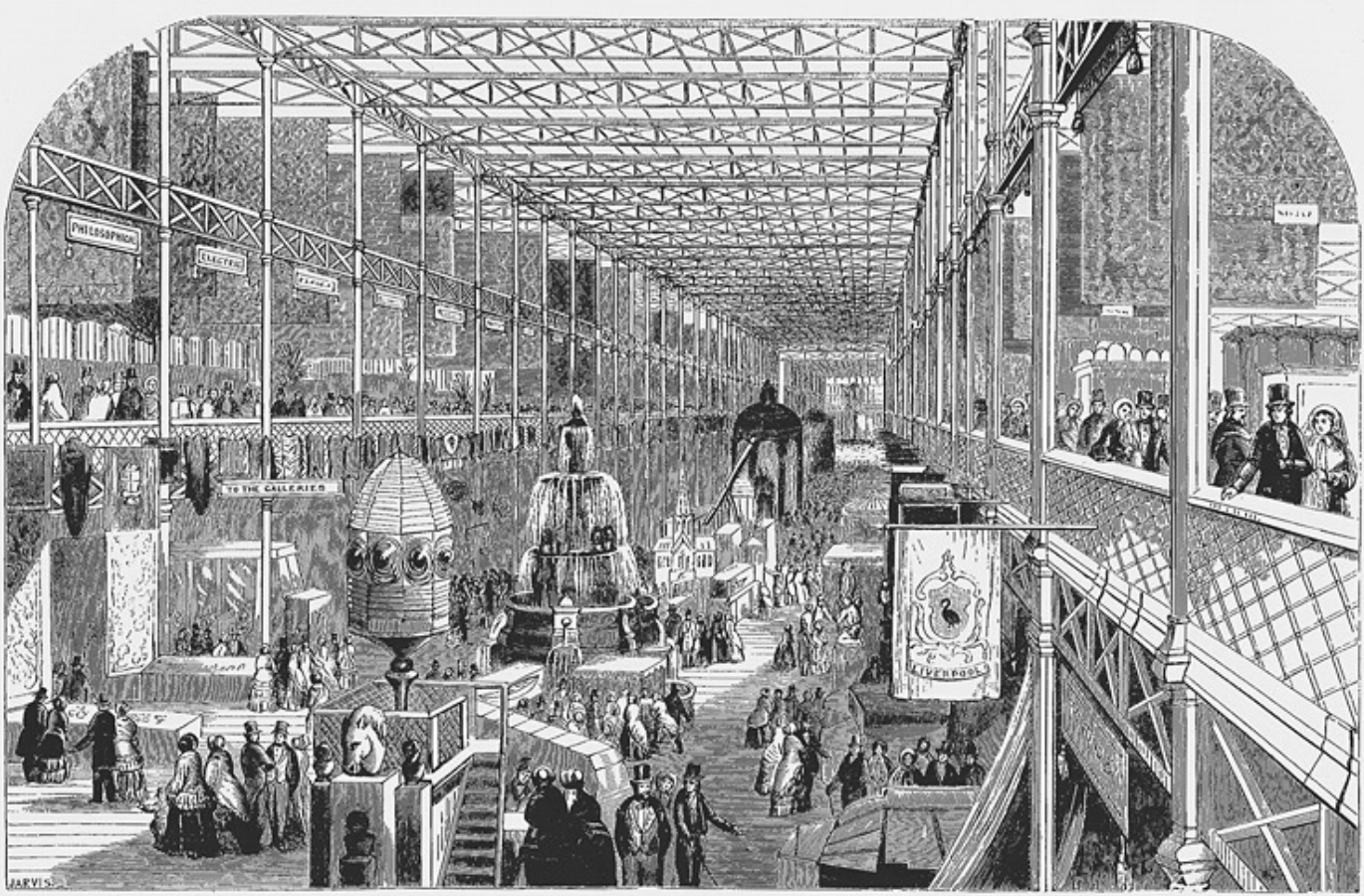




Machinery Hall



Augustus Welby Pugin, The Medieval Court at the Great Exhibition of 1851, London



VIEW OF THE BRITISH NAVAL.

# LONDON NEWS

## SUPPLEMENT.

VOL. XX.] FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1852. [GRATIS.

GRAND PANORAMA OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION.—PORTION OF THE SOUTH TRANSEPT.

1874 Entrance West.—Office of Special Commissioners, &c.—Electric Telegraph—  
 130,000 Persons entered the Building, Monday, October 6.

1874 Commissioners' Room.—Brown Group—Fighting Hares—Journey of Clarendon,  
 Arab, Dutch, and Texans.

Passage to Gibraltar Department: Catala—British Galana—Domenary—The Coast—  
 Australia, &c.—Dyugh preparing for the B.M.S.

Turkish No 2 stand

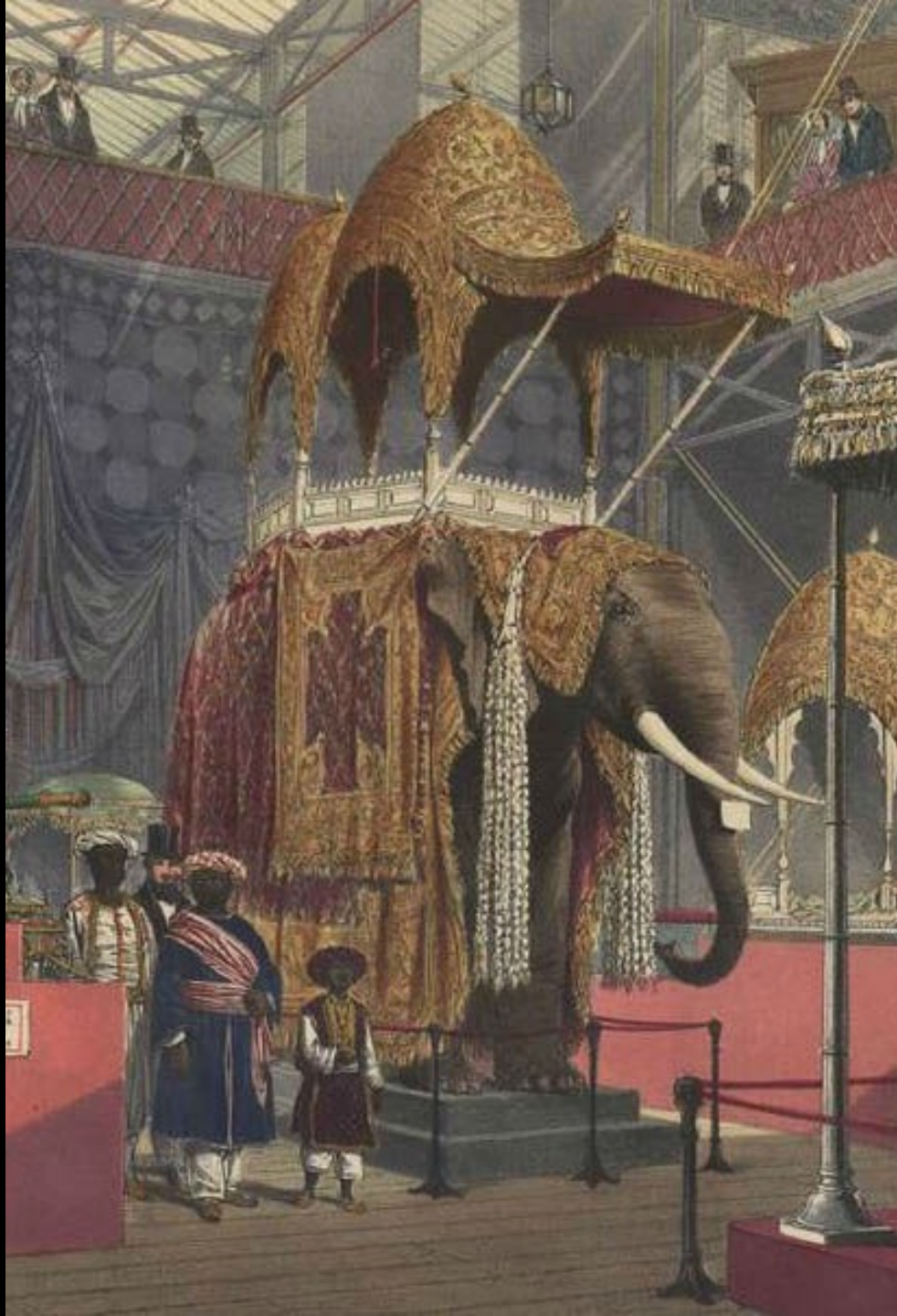


*Crystal Palace --- Some Varieties Of The Human Race*



Right: Handicrafts from India – the so-called “jewel” in the imperial crown

Left: West Indian and colonies stand at the Great Exhibition





Crystal Palace burning 1936

# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1936.



THE DESTRUCTION OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S LANDMARKS: THE DRAMA OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE FIRE AT ITS HEIGHT—WATER JETS PLAYING NEAR THE SOUTH TOWER, WHICH THREATENED TO COLLAPSE.

The Crystal Palace on Sydenham Hill, a landmark famous not only to Londoners but throughout the world, was destroyed by fire on the night of November 30. Only the two great towers, 282 ft. high, one at each end, were eventually left standing above the ruins of the huge structure, which covered 25 acres.

The fire broke out about 8 p.m. and spread with astonishing rapidity. Some 500 firemen were engaged, with over ninety fire-fighting appliances—a record for a London fire. At one time it was feared the South Tower might collapse into streets crowded with spectators. Further photographs appear on later pages.