

The Sutton Place Terence Conran Pair of 6-Seater Settees or Sofas, Custom Made, for the Drawing Room at Sutton Place for Stanley Seeger, each a massive 9ft 6" 2.9m long

£18,000



REF: 11306

Height: 70 cm (27.6")

Width: 290 cm (114.2")

Depth: 125 cm (49.2")

## Description

This massive pair of 6-seat sofas were commissioned as part of Stanley J Seeger's remodeling and grand redecoration of Sutton Place. They are upholstered in two-tone brown and blue corduroy fabric, with rounded arms and three squab cushions.

Measures: Length 290cm, 114in., back height 70cm, 27 ½in., seat height 40cm. 15 ½in., depth 125cm. 49in.

Provenance: Stanley J Seeger Collection, commissioned for the drawing room at Sutton Place, Guildford, designed and made by Terence Conran in 1980.

This Conran classic design known for its comfort and pared down elegance is no longer manufactured.

## SUTTON PLACE GUILDFORD

Sutton Place, Guildford In the early 1520s the manor of Sutton was granted by Henry VIII to courtier and statesman Sir Richard Weston (1476-1542), who had been knighted in 1514. In the late 1520s Sir Richard began building a new house enclosing a courtyard on a virgin site some distance away from the old house which stood in Manor Field. Sir Richard entertained Henry VIII at Sutton Place in 1533. Following Sir Richard's death the estate remained in the ownership of the family, and Queen Elizabeth visited in 1560 during her first Royal Progress. During the mid C17 Richard Weston III, who was a noted agriculturist, altered the River Wey which ran through the estate, to make it navigable.

In 1900 Sutton Place was leased to the newspaper proprietor Lord Northcliffe. The Duke of Sutherland bought the estate in 1919 and sold it to the American oil baron J. Paul Getty in 1959.

In 1980 it was sold for £8 million to Stanley J Seeger who set up the Sutton Place Heritage Trust opening it to the public for concerts, exhibits, lectures and tours. He spent a great deal of money remodeling the interiors and gardens property to provide a home for his art collection, which includes works by Manet, Monet, van Gogh, Cezanne, Rodin, Matisse, Delacroix, Whistler, Picasso, Henry Moore, Ben Nicholson, Francis Bacon and David Hockney, as well as erotic Indian miniatures, old masters, drawings, tapestries and furniture such as an oak table that seated 42 and was last owned by William Randolph Hearst.

Seeger sold it in 1990 to an another American, Frederick R Kosh, who also made it available for public events, but who is said to have never spent a night there. In 2003 Sutton Place changed hands for £25 million to Russian Tycoon Alisher Usmanov whose fortune comes from selling plastic bags and more recently in iron ore production. He also owns a major stake in mobile phone company MegaFon and the Russian internet group.