

## TOWN + COLE

[desk in NW corner]



THOMAS COLE, *The Architect's Dream*, 1840, oil on canvas, Toledo Museum of Art, Photograph by Michael Fredericks

Town commissioned Cole to paint a landscape.

### **Ithiel Town to Cole, May 20, 1840**

Your picture is a fine Architectural painting but I was desirous of a Landscape from your brush...I regret to state, that you have greatly misunderstood. I wish the landscape to predominate – the Architecture, History, etc., to be various and subservient.

### **Cole to Town, May 25, 1840**

The picture which I have painted was executed in such a manner as to meet your expressed desire—I have taken upmost pains with it and it is one of immense labor.

### **Town to Cole, July 4, 1840**

The subject is not at all what I described—it cannot be termed a landscape.

### **Cole to Town, May 25, 1840**

If I were to paint pictures to be refused at the option of those who gave the commission, my profession would be both anxious and precarious...I am grieved and disappointed but I cannot undertake to paint another subject in place of it.

Town ultimately rejected the painting, and Cole kept it here in his home for the rest of his life.

Is this painting a landscape?