



# Newsletter

## Review

# ACSCNY Bus Trip to Cleveland

by Frank Morigi



In November 5, the Arts & Crafts Society chartered a limo and took a group of 14 arts and crafters to Cleveland to see the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's traveling exhibit "The Arts & Crafts Movement in Europe & America" curated by Wendy Kaplan. The one day trip, about six hours each way, included a picnic breakfast and dinner served in our fancy, leather seated, bar and ice box filled limo-bus. The weather cooperated with a beautiful, but not too sunny day, and the company was superb.

The show was excellent. Represented were the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Scandinavia, Belgium and France. Social and ideological issues were highlighted as each country's artistic contribution to the movement was discussed. It was informative to see the arts and crafts handwork and fine detailing up close, especially in the metalwork, and the actual textures and sizes of pieces, which are usually lost in catalogue photographs. I found it interesting that the legs and stretchers of two Gimson pieces shown were carved to look like rustic tree branches, while the cabinets themselves were almost classical in their detail.

The installation of a dining room setting designed by Peter Behrens in 1902 for the Wertheim department store in Berlin with original furniture and accessories and recreated carpet, light fixtures, decorative wall treatment and paint scheme by Chicago Architectural Arts was a highlight. I contacted Robert Furhoff, the colorist for the room, and he explained the research and reconstruction process to me:

There was only a black and white photo and no reference to any colors other than the dinner ware – typical German blue and white. We obtained color notations from a German museum for wallpapers designed by Behrens and also a color description of a different carpet he designed at the same time. So understanding a Behrens' palette, I adopted the brown, tan, green and violet to the wallpaper and carpet. The carpet was hand knotted in China.



Though knowing that black and white photos can not be trusted to represent true values of colors, I chose to adapt colors to match gray values to what the public would see in the 1902 exhibit photo. Using the Munsell gray scale

I established the light reflective value of the different grays, then selected and worked with Benjamin Moore colors of the same reflectance. In the original description of the store exhibit, there were frequent references to the use of greens. This suggested to me as possibly being a unifying factor. It was an arbitrary impulse for the green carpet. Why put a brown or tan rug on that typical German herringbone brown oak floor?

Jo Hormuth and John Phillips scaled the room, carpet and wall pattern from the photo and created full scaled drawings for construction. Jo actually wove the wainscoting for each of the three museum locations.

The firm also did the Craftsman room for the V & A exhibit and is currently recreating a room by the MacDonald sisters for Glasgow.

This was a day well spent, and we hope to be able to take the group to the Buffalo area to study restoration work at Wright's Graycliff and Darwin Martin complex in the spring of 2006.

*Frank Morigi is Professor Emeritus of Interior Design at Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts and former Chair of the Design Department..*



THE ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY OF CENTRAL NEW YORK, founded in 1994, is a not-for-profit educational organization dedicated to the study of the Arts and Crafts Movement through a schedule of lectures, symposia, tours, and other educational programs. Its mission is to help increase public awareness and to promote preservation of the rich cultural heritage in Upstate New York. This legacy includes the work of important architects and craftspersons and holdings in historical collections and libraries.

# From Our President

Winter is nearly at an end. The annual Grove Park Inn Show has come and gone and it was nice seeing a few of our members had the opportunity to attend. The speakers and special exhibits were worth the conference fee and there were many quality dealers there selling both vintage and newly created items inspired by the period.

Since our last letter we have had some excellent programs, a very successful annual meeting with a talk by Jenny Riggs, a long time friend and member. Some of our other events included a talk by Cheryl Robertson on "The Byrdcliffe Colony: An English Country Estate Cum Arts & Crafts Idyll" and a day trip to Cleveland to see the Exhibit "The Arts and Crafts Movement in Europe and America, 1880-1920: Design for the Modern World". Our last event which was very well attended was a great party at the wonderful home of Joe & Claire Sturr.

This past year we had the opportunity to purchase three Ward Wellington Ward drawings. These were brought to the board and we unanimously decided to purchase and donate to the Onondaga Historical Society.

We have put together another series of excellent programs for the upcoming months and I want to thank all that have worked so hard to make these happen.

We are always looking for more people to get involved in our group. I am happy to see high attendance at our events but it would be nice to get to know some of you better. If you are interested please give me a call or stop by the gallery.

Thank you,



Dave Rudd

# Annual Meeting

# Update

The Arts & Crafts Society of Central New York (ACSCNY) held its 11th Annual Membership Luncheon Meeting on September 18th, 2005 at Wellington House in Fayetteville, New York. Well over fifty attendees filled the grand dining room of architect Ward Wellington Ward's 1923 Arts & Crafts mansion for the occasion.

Jennifer Riggs's Power Point lecture, "Trompe L'Oeil: Creating an Authentic Bungalow for the 21st Century," was the afternoon's featured event. Ms. Riggs, a human resources manager for Pratt & Whitney and a long time Arts & Crafts enthusiast and collector, took us step by step through the process of transforming a 1964 ranch house, located in Hartford, Connecticut, into "Juniper Cottage," her Arts & Crafts idyl. She and her husband, Jay Poliner, sought to "fool the eye," trompe l'oeil, by creating as authentic a bungalow as possible in the 21st century. Their approach was to apply the principles that were the foundation of the Arts & Crafts movement to the many choices one inevitably makes when renovating. The theory being that if you apply Arts & Crafts principles or Craftsman ideals—even today—you can create something "authentic" in its own right. The talk focused specifically on four Craftsman ideals: the presence of nature in Arts & Crafts designs; the importance of craftsmanship and the craftsperson in Arts & Crafts objects and structures; the emphasis on simplicity and honesty in design; and last—the celebration of hand craft and people's personal involvement in the craft arts through do-it-yourself projects. Ms. Riggs showed photos of historic homes and buildings she and her husband had visited that inspired their application of each principle, and then photos of before and after changes in their home. Ms. Riggs's story of her journey through renovating a ranch house into an Arts & Crafts slice of paradise was truly inspirational.

A highlight of the afternoon that has gained in popularity from year to year was the silent auction. This year, lots included a vast variety of exhibition posters, a fine matte green Arts & Crafts vase, and a rather organic-looking ashtray by Silvercrest, among others. Proceeds from this auction go into the Society's treasury. All contributions of items for auction are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Another special feature of the annual meeting was the donation of three architectural perspective renderings by Ward Wellington Ward, that had been acquired by ACSCNY, to the Onondaga Historical Association. OHA holds the largest collection of Ward Wellington Ward artifacts, and a representative was on hand to accept the paintings.

(continued on next page)

ACSCNY president David Rudd reviewed the full roster of the previous year's events, and then conducted a brief business meeting. The slate of current board members—Bill Bowen, Barbara Cooke, Marcia McGill, Frank Morigi, Cleota Reed, and David Rudd—as well as new board members Liz Fowler and Susan Loevenguth, were approved by acclamation. Ms. Fowler has come on board to serve as our new Program Chair and Susan is a returning board member who was one of our founding members. Welcome Liz and welcome back Susan!

Frank Morigi gave the Treasurer's report. A written copy of the financial statement may be obtained from the Treasurer upon request. The state of the treasury, under Professor Morigi's aegis, is strong. Finally, the day ended with what has become an annual

tradition. An informal and freewheeling group discussion on the state of the Arts and Crafts in Central New York, and the Gustav Stickley House in particular, took place. As usual, numbers of vigorous opinions were aired to the floor.

Each year, the Annual Membership Luncheon Meeting provides a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships, make new ones, and talk Arts & Crafts with fellow enthusiasts. Please plan to attend next year.

Bill Bowen



# PROGRAMS

## Tentative schedule for 2006

March 10

Thomas Piche Jr. Opening night lecture on Adelaide Alsop Robineau, Everson Museum of Art, Friday, 5:30 PM, For details go to [www.everson.org](http://www.everson.org)

April 26-30

Syracuse hosts the American Art Pottery Convention. Deadline for registration March 15, 2006 go to [www.amartpot.org](http://www.amartpot.org)

MAY 10

Dr. Elizabeth Fowler, Only an Artist, Adelaide Alsop Robineau and Women's Role in the Art Pottery Movement, Wednesday, 6:30 PM Everson Museum of Art

MAY 17

Leslie Freudenheim, Building With Nature: Inspiration for the Arts and Crafts Home, Wednesday 7 PM, Main Auditorium, The Warehouse (Armory Square), Syracuse University

June 10

Frank Lloyd Wright Buffalo Tour: Darwin Martin Complex and Graycliff. Jack Quinan, Martin House curator will be our guide. Details to be announced. Watch our web site [www.acscny.org](http://www.acscny.org).

September 29

Matilda Jocelyn Gage house Talk and Tour, details to be announced, watch our web site

October 1

ACSCNY Annual Meeting at the Wellington House in Fayetteville. Dr. Gabriel Weisberg, Professor at the University on Minnesota and Curator of L'art Nouveau: La Maison Bing will speak on the same. Details to be announced.

October 26

Dr. Elizabeth Fowler will speak on Shirayamadani and Rookwood Pottery. Time and place to be announced.



# Leslie Freudenheim Lecture

The Arts and Crafts Society of Central New York will sponsor an illustrated lecture by author Leslie Freudenheim on

Wednesday, 17 May 2006, 7:00 pm

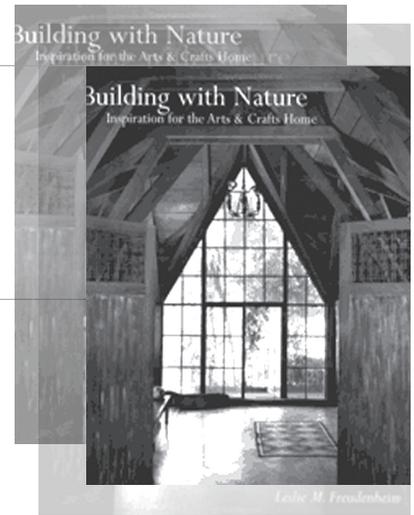
Main Auditorium, The Warehouse (Armory Square), Syracuse University

Reception and book signing will follow. Admission: Free to members.

Leslie Freudenheim's new book, *Building with Nature: Inspiration for the Arts & Crafts Home*, focuses on the beginnings (1865 and on) of the California Shingle and California Mission Style Arts & Crafts houses, and the origins of the trend toward building simple rustic homes in harmony with nature. Some of the key players in this drama were Bernard Maybeck, Willis Polk, Ernest Coxhead, A.C. Schweinfurth, John Galen Howard, Charles Keeler, Julia Morgan, and their "wizard" mentor, the Swedenborgian minister Joseph Worcester. Surprisingly, the famous Chicago architect Daniel H. Burnham, New York's Central Park designer Frederick Law Olmsted, and Sierra Club founder John Muir also contributed to these developments. *Building with Nature: Inspiration for the Arts & Crafts Home* presents some revolutionary ideas, including exciting new material that places California in the forefront of the Arts & Crafts movement. On Friday, 10 February 2006, Leslie Freudenheim will talk about her discoveries, quote

letters from Joseph Worcester, Daniel H. Burnham, Bernard Maybeck, William Morris, Frederick Law Olmsted, John Muir, and illustrate her lecture with rare historic images.

Leslie Mandelson Freudenheim grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, completed her B.A. at Smith College, M.A. at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, and completed coursework for the Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. She published her first book with co-author Elisabeth Sussman, in 1974, *Building with Nature: Roots of the San Francisco Bay Region Tradition*. (Peregrine Smith). Freudenheim also contributed to the book *Capital Drawings: Architectural Designs for Washington, D.C.*, from the Library of Congress



(The Johns Hopkins University Press, November 2005). Previously she wrote a weekly column on architecture and urban affairs for the Baltimore Sun and contributed to *The Washington Post* and *Museum News*. Ten percent discount on book purchase extended to members.

[www.acscny.org](http://www.acscny.org)

For additional information, call (315) 463-1568  
or e-mail [rudd@daltons.com](mailto:rudd@daltons.com)

[www.acscny.org](http://www.acscny.org)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Marcia McGill

PROGRAM CHAIR Cleota Reed

TREASURER Frank Morigi

SECRETARY Barbara Cooke

PRESIDENT David Rudd

Syracuse, New York 13217

P.O. Box 6035

The Arts & Crafts Society of Central New York

