

SPRING 2009

THE HOUSE *Beautiful*

LECTURE SERIES



EVERGREEN
MUSEUM & LIBRARY

SPRING 2009

LECTURE SERIES
THE HOUSE
Beautiful

Wednesday evenings 6:30–8pm
March 25 / April 22 / May 27

Our second annual *The House Beautiful* lecture series explores ways in which Evergreen has both inspired—and been inspired by—trends in artful design.

The illustrated talks will take place in Evergreen's Bakst Theatre, followed by a lightly catered reception.



Above: Aubergine Sitting Room of Harvey Ladew, created by Billy Baldwin (photo by Michael Koryta)

On the cover: Detail of Anglo-Indian Style Desk and Bookcase, American, c. 1880, The Johns Hopkins University, bequest of Margaret B. Wilson (photo by Will Kirk/JHU)



JAMES ARCHER ABBOTT
March 25

**Billy Baldwin:
Baltimore's Brilliant Boy**

"The gates of Evergreen had opened up a whole new world to me. There I was surrounded by the best art and music... I knew I could never return to the life I had led before." So wrote Baltimore-born Billy Baldwin (1903–1983)—"dean of decorators" of the post-war era—after one of his many visits to the Garrett home. Evergreen Museum & Library director-curator James Abbott will explore the wisdom, versatility, and occasional wickedness of the Monument City's most recognized interior decorator, and examine the unique relationship between Baldwin's home town and his still-influential design vocabulary, which melded common sense practicality with the fastidious precision of a gentleman's tailor. Abbott has previously held the position of curator at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Boscobel Restoration, Inc., and Historic Hudson Valley. His publications include: *Jansen Furniture* (2007) and *Jansen* (2006), both published by Acanthus Press.



ROBERTA A. MAYER
April 22

**Lockwood de Forest and the
East Indian Craft Revival**

Lockwood de Forest (1850–1932) is best known as an artistic decorator with a flair for designs based on the arts and crafts of the Middle East and India. He drew attention to the work of the mistri of Ahmedabad, India—a sub-caste of highly skilled wood carvers—and *House Beautiful* described his New York City home as "the most Indian house in America." De Forest, who began his professional career in partnership with Louis Comfort Tiffany, created Anglo-Indian interior designs that were in demand by some of the most visible figures of the Gilded Age, including Mary Elizabeth Garrett. Roberta A. Mayer, de Forest expert and author of the new release, *Lockwood de Forest: Furnishing the Gilded Age with a Passion for India* (University of Delaware Press, 2009), will explore the designer's career within the context of the late-19th-century East Indian Craft Revival. Mayer is Associate Professor of Art History at Bucks County Community College in Pennsylvania.



ARLENE PALMER SCHWIND
May 27

**Antebellum Opulence:
Portland, Maine's Victoria Mansion**

Victoria Mansion appears today much as it did in 1860 when it was decorated and furnished by Gustave Herter (1830–1898) as a summer home for a New Orleans hotelier. The house is the earliest known Herter commission, and the only one that is still intact. Remarkably, more than 90% of the original contents survive, including important furniture from the Herter workshops, elaborate wall paintings, artworks, carpets, gas lighting fixtures, stained glass, porcelain, silver, and glassware. Curator Arlene Palmer Schwind will discuss the history, architecture, furnishings, and restoration challenges of this unique historic house museum, whose opulent interior suggests how the original 1857 Evergreen House may have been decorated. A Baltimore native and graduate of Goucher College, Schwind received an M.A. in the Winterthur Program at the University of Delaware and worked as a curator at the Winterthur Museum before moving to Maine in 1980.

THE HOUSE Beautiful

2009 LECTURE SERIES

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SERIES

\$48 General Public

\$33 Members and Students

INDIVIDUAL LECTURES

\$20 General Public

\$15 Members and Students

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