

FRIENDS OF

Florham

DEDICATION OF J. MICHAEL ADAMS PRESIDENTIAL SUITE AT WROXTON

The dedication of the J. Michael Adams Presidential Suite was held on Sunday, April 21, 2013, at Wroxton Abbey, the Fairleigh Dickinson University campus near Banbury, England. This tribute was initiated in May of 2012 by Friends of Florham board member Carol Knauff and her husband, Jeff, when President Adams announced his retirement from the University. Friends President Linda Meister endorsed the project, and an immediate fundraising campaign ensued.

Wroxton was first recorded in 1089; Wroxton manor became a priory dedicated to St. Mary around 1216. In 1536, when Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries, one of the people to profit from his action was Thomas Pope, treasurer of the Court of Augmentation, who purchased the lease to what remained of this property. Founder of Trinity College, Oxford, Pope established an endowment, which included the lands of Wroxton, and ensured the right of lease renewal for his male heirs. Fair-



FROM LEFT: DEAN OF WROXTON COLLEGE NICHOLAS BALDWIN, LATE PRESIDENT ADAMS' SON BEN, FDU PRESIDENT SHELDON DRUCKER AND SUSAN ADAMS, FOLLOWING THE UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT OF MICHAEL ADAMS.

leigh Dickinson acquired the property from Trinity College in 1965.

The master bedroom at Wroxton, or Room #2, has housed many dignitaries through the years, including Winston Churchill. It is where Walter Savage and his wife, Patty, stayed in their first year at Wroxton in 1966. Although the furnishings had been "freshened" through the years, it was time for a total makeover.

Room #2 is the room where President Adams stayed during his annual visits to the Abbey, and since Wroxton was one of his favorite places, this was a beautiful tribute.

The former abbey is listed on the English Historic Register, and, as such, décor must be representative of the period, or from the years 1668 to 1746. Suzy Moran, interior designer and Friends board member, with substantial knowledge of the historic houses of England, agreed to oversee this important project and enlisted the help of her friend and fellow designer, Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill. It was especially interesting that Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill is the great-granddaughter of Consuelo Vanderbilt, who was the niece of Florence Vanderbilt Twombly of Florham.

The presidential suite was refurbished in keeping with the Regency Period, in which forms
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FALL 2013

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

The Friends of Florham is fortunate to have a hard-working committed board, whose members are willing to put in the time and resources needed to complete so many of the projects detailed in this letter. This year, we were pleased to add Valerie Adams and Ann Petrocelli to our board. Please join me in welcoming Valerie and Ann, who are formally introduced to you in this issue of the newsletter,

The renovation of the Provost's Office on the first floor of Hennessy Hall was the primary focus of the Friends of Florham during the first months of 2013. Formerly Mr. Twombly's library, this space, with its magnificent marble fireplace, is thought to be the most impressive in the mansion. It was the last large room on the mansion's first floor still in need of a renovation that would make it more representative of the gilded age.

In 1954, prior to its sale to FDU, Mrs. Twombly's grandson, Shirley Burden, photographed the mansion and its grounds. Recognizing both the artistic and historic value

of these photographs, Friends of Florham had Shirley Burden's photos digitally archived and available online. Several of the images hang in the Great Hall. Interior designer Suzy Moran suggested hanging more in the Provost's Office, making these historic images immediately accessible to the visitor.

In addition, carpeting and chairs were replaced and new lamps added. Window treatments are being fabricated. All these changes will emphasize the rich detail of this beautiful space and provide an enhanced suite of offices. Campus Provost Peter Woolley shared his delight with the transformation and reports that campus visitors are also impressed.

And there are many more visitors. An audience of almost 100 attended our last lecture, Ulysses Grant Dietz's "Money, Beauty, Power: The Transformation of Taste in the Gilded Age." We are delighted to have such an interested membership.

We look forward to hearing Sam White speak on his recent book, *Stanford White, Architect*. Stanford White, a partner with McKim

and Mead, was largely responsible for the interior decoration of Florham. The lecture will take place on Sunday, November 10.

Our annual gala is on Saturday, September 28, and we are honoring Fairleigh Dickinson's new president, Sheldon Drucker. When we initiated the tribute to Michael Adams at the campus in England, President Drucker's support enabled us to do far more than we originally planned to do. His assistance made the renovation a total transformation, and we appreciate that commitment and his cooperation. Please join us in honoring President Drucker and his wife, Sandi, who will join our board this year.

At the turn of the 20th century, Morristown was home to many gilded-age mansions, all designed by America's best architects. Florham is one of the few remaining. We are lucky to be able to utilize and preserve a building that demonstrates the richness of this era of American history and architecture. Your generosity has made it all possible.

— Linda Meister

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

This year, Audrey Parker retired from active service on the Friends of Florham board and is now an honorary board member. Audrey served on the board since its formation in 1990. Chic and charming, her good taste and excellent advice were always invaluable to Friends of Florham during these years. Audrey supported our gala with her assistance with the band expenses and by bringing

us the singing group "The Ten," who enhanced our experiences. A Madison, N.J., resident, Audrey

is not far away, and we hope to see her and her delightful husband, Henry, on the dance floor at the September Gala.



AUDREY PARKER



ALAN KUSHEN

Alan Kushen, a Friends of Florham board member for many years, now resides in Florida with his lovely wife, Natalie Best. An attorney, who in retirement served in many voluntary capacities, Alan was most helpful to our board with legal advice and solid reasoning. We will miss him very much.

PRESIDENTIAL SUITE

(continued from page 1)

and motifs from ancient Greece and Rome were the basis of the style. A classical frieze borders the room, bringing the coiving, molding and the ornate plasterwork on the ceiling together. During this renovation, the walls were completely restored and repainted with period-appropriate colors. Gilding was added to the fireplace surround to enhance the original carvings and gilt work.

The furniture focal point of the room is a grand, historically appropriate, four-poster, carved-mahogany bed. The antique bed frame was resized and enlarged to king size, and a padded headboard was added. The bed hangings match the window pelmets and Regency-stripped panels.

The bed grouping is completed with two chests of drawers in mahogany, circa 1810, that serve as bedside tables and provide a surface for lamps and clothing storage. Their authenticity complements the room.

The 23 framed images on the walls are illustrations from a book on literature that was in Michael Adams' personal collection. Additionally, there is a plaque thanking the individual donors for their contributions and commemorating the dedication of the room.

Seating in the room is provided by a wing chair with typical ball-and-claw feet of the time and a simple damask two-seat sofa at the foot of the bed. The luxurious fabrics and down-filled cushions create a sense of comfort and beauty.

The desk and armoire were original to the room but were refreshed and enhanced. The armoire now holds a television, refrigerator and coffee-and-tea service.

The desk is situated beneath the windows that now feature dramatic striped draperies from floor to ceiling over light-and-airy sheers. The elegantly fringed pelmet completes the window ensemble and adds emphasis to the height of the room.

The biggest transformation is the bathroom; this renovation makes the suite truly a five-star environment, yet in keeping with the overall theme. As the pictures show, there is now a genuine shower, beautifully tiled and appointed. The carved walls were cleaned and restored and create a wonderful juxtaposition to the new white tiles. There is a small vanity with a lighted mirror and a hair dryer. As anyone who has visited the Abbey knows, access to a hairdryer in the bathroom is luxury indeed.

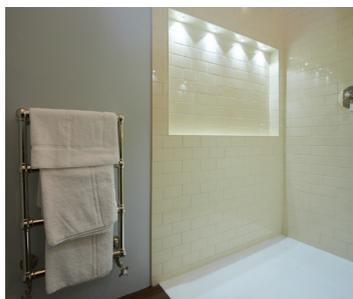
The Friends were able to expand the project to include the bathroom renovation with the support of FDU President Shelley Drucker. His opinion was that the bathroom needed to be updated, and it made sense to deal with all the construction issues simultaneously. Redoing any bathroom is a huge project, and a renovation like this in a 13th-century structure had special challenges, but the outcome is spectacular. The bathroom is now truly beautiful, gracefully luxurious and wonderfully functional. It is a sensational transformation.

It was also President Drucker's idea to hang a picture of President J. Michael Adams in his academic regalia over the fireplace. President Adams loved the formal ceremonies of academia and the traditional observances, and he believed that education is the

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FOUR-POSTER, CARVED MAHOGANY BED WITH BEDSIDE CHEST



NEW SHOWER



BATHROOM BEFORE



VANITY WITH LIGHTED MIRROR AND HAIRDRYER



DONORS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO JOURNEYED TO WROXTON COLLEGE TO CELEBRATE THE DEDICATION OF THE ADAMS PRESIDENTIAL SUITE

THE LIFE OF THE HOUSE: HOW ROOMS EVOLVE

BY HENRIETTA SPENCER-CHURCHILL
RIZZOLI NEW YORK, 2012

Striking architecture, classic interior design, elegant photography and a strong sense of history combine in Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill's 11th book, *The Life of the House: How Rooms Evolve*. Her objectives are deceptively simple: "My hope is that

through this book you will see how it is possible for houses and rooms to evolve in a practical way through the centuries, yet retain the character of the particular era in which they were built, revealing even more of the life and lifestyles of those who lived in them," she says in the introduction to her study.

A well-known interior designer, Spencer-Churchill heads her own firm, Woodstock Designs, and recently launched a furniture line. The eldest daughter of the Duke of Marlborough, whose family seat is Blenheim Palace, Spencer-Churchill is also the great-granddaughter of Consuelo Vanderbilt, whose forced marriage (and later divorce) to the Duke of Devonshire was legendary. Of immediate interest, Consuelo was also the niece of Florence Vanderbilt Twombly of Florham.

Organizing what initially appears to be a rather amorphous thematic structure has been handled effectively by Spencer-Churchill: first, she focused, for the most part, on English homes and some American equivalents, and included some family houses that have personal

historical relevance — that is, Blenheim Palace, in England, and Marble House in Newport, R.I., where Consuelo Vanderbilt spent many formative years. The overall "story" is prefaced by a section on architecture, and includes memorable photographs of various periods of architecture such as medieval, classical baroque (Blenheim), 18th-century terrace homes in London, Victorian, moving forward to the works of Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright.

The evolution of rooms in practical ways, and in response to shifting lifestyles, illustrated by notable period photographs, including striking contemporary works and explanatory texts by Spencer-Churchill comprise the major sections of the book. Living rooms, libraries, dining rooms, kitchens, bedrooms and what Spencer-Churchill refers to rather provocatively as "Indulgent Rooms" —ballrooms, swimming pools, billiard rooms, chapels and the occasional theater — are all placed in practical and historical context. Grand hallways such as the central Great Hall at the Breakers in Newport, for example, gave way historically to smaller hallways in Victorian

houses, or even, more practically, to back halls or cloakrooms of country houses. And, as lifestyles changed, dining rooms, once a major symbol of wealth or status, evolved into more relaxed open-plan rooms, as did living rooms and drawing rooms.

The evolution of the kitchen, as discussed by Spencer-Churchill, is particularly interesting, and represents major shifts in the social paradigm: from medieval kitchens located off the main hall, to below-stairs kitchens manned by a large staff of servants, to more contemporary open kitchens where families might congregate. Ultimately, some kitchens have been built to respond to a culture where the art of cooking itself is preeminent — illustrated here by a wonderful photograph of Julia Child's kitchen.

Finally, an introductory epigraph from Winston Churchill, who was born at Blenheim, serves two purposes: it sets the stage for *The Life of the House* — and ultimately reflects back on the evolution and social history of the houses explored in this fascinating study: "...We shape our buildings: thereafter they shape us."

— Carol Bere



IN MEMORIAM

A sad day for Friends of Florham came on February 14, 2013, with the death of William Dana, the husband for 62 years of long-time Friends of Florham Board President Emma Joy Dana. Bill was a very successful investment banker and father of four sons. Although he much preferred other activities, such as fly-fishing and land conservation, he patiently escorted Emma Joy to the many Friends of Florham Galas. His quiet elegance at these affairs will be missed. The Friends of Florham extend their heartfelt sympathy to Emma Joy and the Dana family.



MONEY, BEAUTY AND POWER, THE TRANSFORMATION OF TASTE IN THE GILDED AGE

On March 17, with Hamilton Twombly's paneled billiard room as a backdrop, now Acting Director of the Newark Museum Ulysses Grant Dietz explained what drove the choices of American domestic architecture and interior design in the years following the Civil War. For many years as

senior curator and curator of decorative arts at the museum, Mr. Dietz was responsible for the outstanding gilded-age collection in Newark's Ballantine Museum and is eminently qualified to speak on the subject. His great-great-grandfather was Ulysses Grant, whose influence and taste contributed to the White House interiors and exterior during his presidency.

jects that reflected the grandeur of earlier times.

Attending the lecture was Jean Burden, wife of Mrs. Twombly's grandson, Ordway Burden. As always, Friends of Florham was very happy to welcome any Twombly and Vanderbilt family member back to Florham. We look forward to their continued return.



JEAN BURDEN IN LENFELL HALL. HENNESSY HALL. BY A PORTRAIT OF THE BURDEN BROTHERS SHIRLEY (LEFT) AND WILLIAM

The audience learned how the American home evolved from "villa" to a mansion, and how the newly rich, Vanderbilts, Carnegies and Morgans, among others, influenced the concept of taste. Mansions stocked with antiques or reproductions became the new "rage" as the freshly minted American millionaires sought to distinguish themselves from the rising middle class by purchasing ob-



GREETING ULYSSES GRANT DIETZ (LEFT) ARE FRIENDS OF FLORHAM BOARD MEMBER CAROL BERE AND FDU FACULTY MEMBER WALTER CUMMINS.

COLLEGE AT FLORHAM UNDERTAKES RESTORATION OF PERGOLA

Hurricane Sandy left her mark in many places on the College at Florham. One of her major blows was to the pergola located at the end of what is known as the Italian Garden. Because of the damage caused by the storm, the brick structure could no longer sustain the heavy wisteria vines it supported.

donations from the Italian community in Madison, N.J., and help and advice from many others, the garden was restored and enjoyed both by students and visitors.

Florham is most grateful to the University for restoring the pergola and look forward to the regrowth of the wisteria.

Restoration of the Italian Garden was one of the Friends of Florham's earliest projects. When the Friends initiated that restoration, years of neglect had caused the symmetrical hardscape to crumble, and the greenery was overgrown or nonexistent. With

Recognizing the Friends of Florham's initial contribution, the University generously financed and managed this second restoration of the pergola. The new structure, reinforced by steel, is likely to withstand many more hurricanes and tolerate the weight of new wisteria growth. The Friends of





BOARD WELCOMES TWO NEW TRUSTEES

Valerie Adams and Ann Petrocelli have been named to the Friends of Florham Board of Trustees.

Valerie Adams joined Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1991. She currently serves as director of career development at FDU's College at Florham. Prior to beginning her career at the University, she worked in many industries including banking, technology, air products and chemicals. A talented entrepreneur, Valerie also owned and operated Yours Truly, a successful gift boutique.

Valerie served as president of FDU's Professional Administrative Senate for six years and as a member of various other University committees. She served as chairman of both the Affirmative Action and Diversity Committees. Valerie is a member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey.



VALERIE ADAMS

In 2003, Valerie received the Pillar of Fairleigh Dickinson University Award. Pillar Awards are given annually to recognize exceptional individuals within the University, who, over time, have made extraordinary contributions to the character and quality of the institution, its community and culture.

Valerie is married to Gregory T. Adams, and they reside in Chatham Township, N.J. Valerie and Greg have two children, Gregory and Kimberly, and five grandchildren.

Valerie is an educator with more than 30 years of experience. She served on the North Brunswick Board of Education for nine years; two of those years as president and three as vice president. Ann serves on the Boards of Trustees of Fairleigh Dickinson University, the Link Community



ANN PETROCELLI

School in Newark and the New Jersey Youth Chorus. She is a former member of the Educational Council of St. Joseph's School in Mendham.

Ann helped to develop and taught in the English as a Second Language program at Franklin High School in New Jersey. She was also a general science teacher in that school system. In the New York City school system, Ann taught at the elementary level for nine years, going on to teach science and Italian at the intermediate level for six years. In addition, Ann trained student teachers and teacher aides and participated in the authorship of the *Language Arts Handbook* for the Curriculum Planning Office.

A graduate of Hunter College, she holds a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in education. Ann resides in Mendham, N.J., with her grandchild, Gabrielle.

PRESIDENTIAL SUITE

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pathway to peace and that education should be global. Nowhere is his dream of preparing world citizens through global education more apparent than at his beloved Wroxton Abbey.

The renovation of Wroxton Abbey's Room #2 into the J. Michael Adams Presidential Suite was a divergence from the normal Friends of Florham projects; it was done with monies raised specifically for that project and has not distracted from the ongoing focus on the mansion.

The Friends do want to thank everyone who assisted with the project — the many donors who contributed to the project, Suzy Moran and her assistant, Laura Cochran, who had overall design control; Lady Henrietta Spencer Churchill and her assistant, Bridgette Jones, who assumed most of the on-site design deliverables; Colleen Coppla and Karin Hamilton, who coordinated things between the United States and the United Kingdom for Fairleigh Dickinson; Dean Baldwin's staff who oversaw the

actual construction processes; and especially President Shelley Drucker, whose support created a better outcome. And, our deepest appreciation to Dr. Nicholas D.J. Baldwin who not only supervised and supported the project, but hosted the dedication weekend with grace and warmth.

This wasn't just a renovation; it was a transformation. It was a beautiful and fitting tribute to the man who worked to transform FDU. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.



SAM WHITE RETURNS TO FLORHAM

The Friends are delighted to welcome back Samuel G. White, architect, one of our more popular and knowledgeable speakers, who will speak on Sunday, November 10, about his book, *Stanford White, Architect (2008)*, written also with Elizabeth White. This will be Samuel White's fifth



SAMUEL G. WHITE

visit to Florham: he participated initially in a panel on "The Custom of the Country House," in 1994. White's own architectural work was exhibited in the Library in 1998, accompanied by his talk on the domestic architecture of McKim, Mead & White, as highlighted in his book, *The Houses of McKim, Mead & White*. In 2002, White presented a talk, "McKim, Mead & White: the Reinvention of the Classical Ideal," and in 2004, he offered a slide lecture, "Stanford White, Venice and New York."

Nine years later, White, the great-grandson of Stanford White,

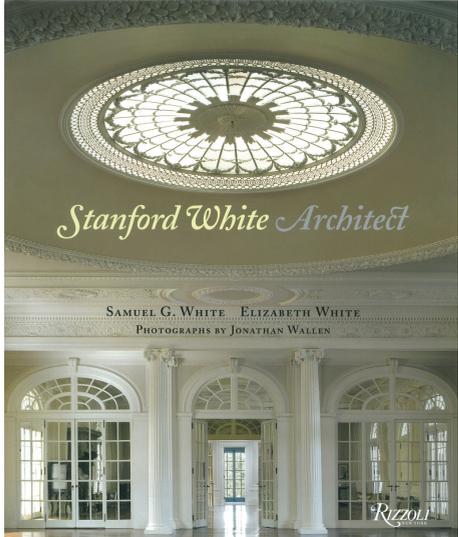
will talk in more depth about the famed architect, an individualist with an outsized personality, and of his particular "genius" or ability to capitalize on the period of enormous growth in the U.S. — essentially to translate the dreams and aspirations of the newly rich, as well as the vital claims of uni-

versities, museums and stewards of public buildings. More specifically, White was a partner in the leading architectural firm of the period, McKim, Mead & White, which had more than 1,000 commissions for public and private build-

ings — among them Harvard and Columbia Universities, Pennsylvania Station, the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and, of course, "Florham," the former Hamilton Twombly Estate, now the College at Florham. Samuel White is a partner of Platt Byard Dovell White, LLC, New York, a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, an Acad-

emician of the National Academy of Design, an adjunct assistant professor of Fine Arts at New York University and a trustee and adviser to several educational and arts organizations.

The Friends look forward to seeing you on Sunday, November 10, 3 p.m., in Lenfell Hall, Hennessy Hall, College at Florham. Admission is \$15 at the door, and refreshments will be served. Mr. White will also sign copies of his book, *Stanford White, Architect*.



EDITOR'S NOTE

The Board of the Friends of Florham is defined by its mission, its renovations and restorations, its special events and, most of all, by its talented and dedicated membership. Michael and I always knew that we were only at Fairleigh Dickinson for a time, and that time is now over for me as well.

I'm so proud of all that you've accomplished during the last 14 years — the courtyard lights, the renovations of the Sarah Sullivan and Hartman Lounges, the President's Office, the Provost's Office and the lectures and the galas that fund your activities.

I thank you all for the support and consideration you've shown me this last year. I know the future holds many opportunities for you, and I hope you continue to be the "best of friends" to each other and to the College at Florham.

— Susan Adams

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, FRIENDS OF FLORHAM GALA Honoring Fairleigh Dickinson University President Sheldon Drucker

Lenfell Hall, Hennessy Hall, 6:30–11 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, LECTURE

Samuel G. White, FAIA, Partner
Platt Byard Dovell White, LLP

Author of *Stanford White, Architect*

Lenfell Hall, Hennessy Hall, 3–5 p.m., includes reception and book signing.

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