

THE ARTS & CRAFTS MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLORADO ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

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Boettcher Mansion Defies Aging Process

Charles Boettcher (1852-1948) would be proud. Not only did his beloved “Lorraine Lodge” — an Arts & Crafts-style getaway designed by Denver architects Fisher & Fisher in 1917 — just celebrate her 90th birthday, but she’s showing no signs of fading away (Charles himself worked up until his death at age 96). Having just received an extensive makeover, she was absolutely exuberant during the official Grand Reopening on October 3rd.

Over the last seven years, Jefferson County has taken great strides towards even more responsible stewardship, ensuring that the Boettcher’s bequest is properly preserved for posterity. In 2000, the Mansion’s mission statement was rewritten to reflect its commitment to public education, paving the way to outside grant funding from such sources as the Colorado State Historical Society, Scientific Cultural Facilities District and other entities. This paradigm shift has helped the Mansion secure numerous grant awards, two of which were for Historic Structure Reports and Condition Assessments that confirmed the need for major repairs and upgrades to the aging building.

In late December, 2005 the Jefferson County Commissioners approved a \$3.1 million Capital Improvement Plan — primarily funded by the Conservation Trust Fund — to restore and update the historic facility over a two-year period. Completed in two separate phases, which necessitated partial closure during the winter months to ensure public safety, the work has been overseen by SlaterPaull (preservation architects) and TC2 Construction (general contractor). During Phase I, a new slate (fireproof) roof was installed, a kitchen/storage addition was constructed and many new mechanical (HVAC, snow melt and electrical) systems were implemented.

Phase II encompassed retrofitting the gourmet kitchen with state-of-the-art appliances; remodeling the lobby, office and restroom areas; replacing/refinishing the floor, windows and woodwork in the Fireside, Buffet and Piano Rooms; repointing the rubble walls (inside and out); and repairing and repainting the original stucco and half-timbering on the exterior. Leaving no stone unturned, a period garden, complete with native plants, recycled flagstone and a copper-clad shed, has transformed the grounds, attracting chirping birds, chattering squirrels and hungry deer (kept at bay by the repellent in the irrigation system).

All this was finished just days before the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society’s annual Show, Sale & Bungalow Workshops on May 19 and 20, 2007. This popular event, which started out at the Mansion in 1998 and has finally come “back home” after being held at various locations in and around Denver, not only epitomizes the Mansion’s cultural history focus, but draws a slew of aficionados seeking vintage and reproduction pieces for their aesthetic lifestyle.

For more information on the Boettcher Mansion visit <http://mansion.jeffco.us>

—Cynthia Shaw McLaughlin



The old floor comes up so the new one can go down. (More photos on page 4)

From Our President. . .

Following on the heels of a successful Show & Sale in May, the August trip to the Forbes' Ranch at Trinchera was a great success. (See related story) Thanks go to Robert Rust for setting up the trip and to Pam and Robert for making everyone who attended so comfortable.

Next up from a programming standpoint is our annual Member's Premium event — A Night at the Kirkland. This is an opportunity for CACS to thank its membership. Come and enjoy free admission, light refreshments and unique access to one of Denver's museum treasures, the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art. Details are included elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope to see many members in attendance but space is limited so make your reservation early for this special event.

The Board of Directors is in the process of updating the CACS web site to make it even more interactive and useful for those who visit the site. This effort is being spearheaded by Board member Scott McCormack and is making significant progress. We are hoping to be able to launch the revised web site at the time of the Annual Symposium in January. Stay tuned for more details in the next newsletter.

—Mark Davidson, President of CACS



The Arts & Crafts Messenger, the newsletter of the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, is published quarterly for the society's members as part of their membership contribution. Send comments to The Editor, Philip Normand, 2732 Williams Street, Denver, Colorado 80205, or e-mail to noldo01@msn.com. All articles are copyright 2007 by the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, with rights reverting to the authors after publication.

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All correspondence concerning the society or membership should be sent to Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, 900 Colorow Road, Golden, CO 80401 www.coloarts-crafts.org

CACS Fall Soiree at Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art

So delightful last fall that we're going back again... Colorado Arts & Crafts Society members and their guests are invited to a private tour of the collections at the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art, 1311 Pearl Street, Denver, on Thursday evening, November 8, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m..

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served and free parking is available in the secure lot at 14th and Pennsylvania.

There is no charge for the event, it is a premium of your membership, however space is limited to 75 and you must RSVP no later than November 5 to attend.

RSVP to rust.r@comcast.net. Hats and spats are not required.



A Wiener Werkstätte desk set and a Della Robbia vase from the Kirkland collection.



A cartoon by WW Denslow from Elbert Hubbard's magazine The Philistine.

The Tax Payers' Burden

Historic Seattle Presents 10th Annual Bungalow Fair

The 2007 Bungalow Fair celebrated a very successful decade as the premier event of its kind in the Pacific Northwest and Historic Seattle, Inc. was its sponsor. The Town Hall, Seattle once again provided a warm and inviting setting for a show and sale of antiques of the Arts & Crafts era and modern work in the style by fifty of the nation's leading designers and craftspeople in metal, tile, glass, textiles, ceramics, and lighting, antique dealers, architects, and interior designers.

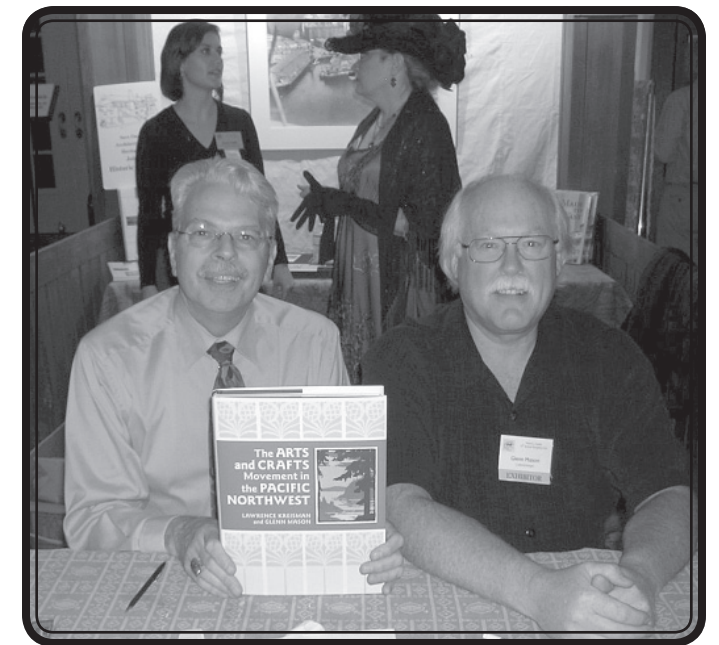
The Fair also was a fine opportunity to learn about early twentieth century architecture and design and to ask questions and get answers from some of the most knowledgeable people in the field in the three well-attended lectures. They included Ray Stubblebine of New Jersey, a board member of the Craftsman Farms Foundation, speaking on his recent book, *Stickley's Craftsman Homes: the Complete Plans, Drawings, Photographs*. Also the historian of Rejuvenation Lighting, Bo Sullivan, of Portland and Seattle gave an in-depth look (from actual period catalogs) of Mission/Arts & Crafts/Craftsman lighting fixtures from 1905-1920. He included the awareness that both the "Monk's Head" and the "Elk's Head" were frequent additions to many of the firm's fixtures throughout the era. The third talk was by Harvard professor Judith Tankard speaking on her recent book, *Gardens of the Arts & Crafts Movement*. Though mostly from the UK, they were the most beautiful photos; all taken by the author. All authors had books to sell and sign after their talks.

Also among the authors' presentations was Lawrence Kreisman and Glenn Mason with their new book from Timber Press of Portland, Oregon, *The Arts and Crafts Movement in the Pacific Northwest*. Glen and Larry told the story of the three-plus years of research which went into this first-time, in-depth study of the period, its participants, crafts-men and -women and the products of their labor in the Pacific Northwest. Another feature of the book is the breadth of material on the major International Fairs held in both Seattle and Portland between 1905-1916. A reception preceded and followed the almost 90-minute presentation and book signing. All the funds raised were to benefit Historic Seattle

Historic Seattle also included a tour of Arts & Crafts homes in the Ravenna neighborhood on Sunday afternoon; unfortunately when Pam and I signed up for attendance there was already a waiting list of over 50 persons. Pam and I also traveled to Tacoma on Friday to view the wonderful Arts & Crafts/Craftsman National Register Historic Neighborhoods. Also the downtown Swiss Building from 1905, now a popular Bar and Restaurant with most of its original interior fittings. Seattle and the Pacific Northwest in general are a must for all Craftsman/Arts & Crafts aficionados!

—Robert Rust

We are pleased to announce that Larry Kreisman will be our guest speaker at the Winter Symposium January 19th. Details to follow (Ed.).



Lawrence Kreisman (left) and Glenn Mason (right) show off their new book at the Seattle Bungalow Fair in September

Worth the Wait — The Renovation of Boettcher Mansion



Clockwise from top left:

A roofer finishes installing slate and copper on one of the eaves;

Brackets and half-timbering blend the new kitchen/ storage addition with the original building;

Handmade ceramic tiles embossed with a pinecone motif by Stone Hollow Tiles of Wisconsin surround the new lobby fireplace;

Casement windows are restored in the dining room (and many other places in and around the Mansion).

L & J.G. Stickley President, Benefactor and Revivalist Passes



ALFRED J. AUDI

*President L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc.
April 11, 1938 – September 29, 2007*

Alfred J. Audi, one of the most influential furniture manufacturers of his generation, died peacefully on September 29th at his home in Fayetteville, NY surrounded by his loving family. He was 69.

Alfred J. Audi was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1938 to Dr. Rosa Lee Nemir Audi, one of the earliest women physicians and E.J. Audi. Mr. Audi graduated from Colgate University in 1960. He served for three years in the Army National Guard in New York City's 42nd Infantry Division. He served as President of E.J. Audi, Inc., the furniture business founded by his father in 1928.

For more than three decades Mr. Audi presided over L. & J.G. Stickley Furniture, Inc., founded in 1900 and inspired by the American Arts and Crafts pioneer, Gustav Stickley.

When he purchased Stickley Furniture in 1974 the company employed 22 people and operated out of a small outdated factory. Together with his wife Aminy, he nurtured the company back to health and eventually to the forefront of American culture. Today Stickley employs over 1600 dedicated employees whom the Audis consider their extended family. It is distributed internationally through a network of around 125 dealers. Stickley, Audi & Company, Stickley's retail division, has 13 locations in 5 states. Under Mr. Audi's direction the Stickley brand has gained a reputation for values he held dear: quality craftsmanship, corporate integrity, and timeless value.

In 1974 Louise Stickley, widow of Leopold Stickley, called Mr. Audi as her business faced bankruptcy and said, "Alfred, you're the only one who loves Stickley enough to keep its quality, would you buy it?" Mr. Audi, who had grown up sleeping in a Stickley bed, and whose college fraternity at Colgate had Stickley throughout, recognized that despite the company's declining fortunes, it still enjoyed a reputation for quality craftsmanship. He believed that its

style reflected an underlying human desire for a return to simplicity for the home, where furniture was functional and offered subtle elegance.

For 11 years, Mr. Audi and his beloved wife and business partner, Aminy, worked on the infrastructure of Stickley, operating out of the small original Stickley factory on Orchard Street in Fayetteville, New York, now home of the Stickley Museum. In 1985, Mr. Audi built a new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Manlius, New York, which after several expansions now exceeds 450,000 square feet.

Mr. Audi's championing of Mission Oak in 1989 has sparked a massive resurgence in its popularity. Stickley's Mission Oak is now not only their most heavily sought-after style, but one that is emulated, today, in furniture stores nationwide. Until the very end, Mr. Audi credited the venerable international reputation enjoyed by L. & J.G. Stickley to the caliber of craftsmanship and work ethic of his employees. He had a talent for identifying and seeking out the highest caliber of colleagues and staff that exist in the industry.

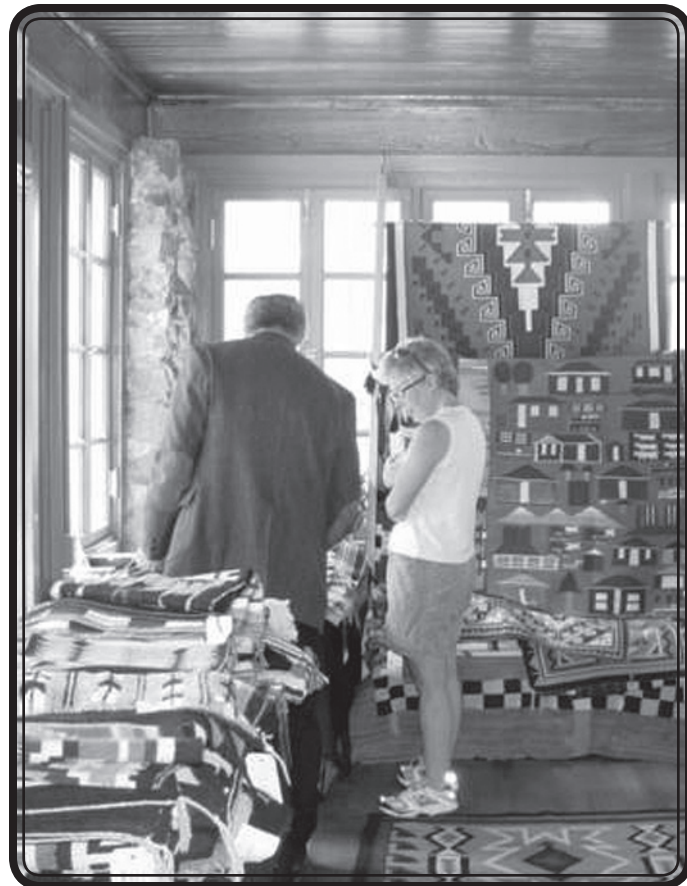
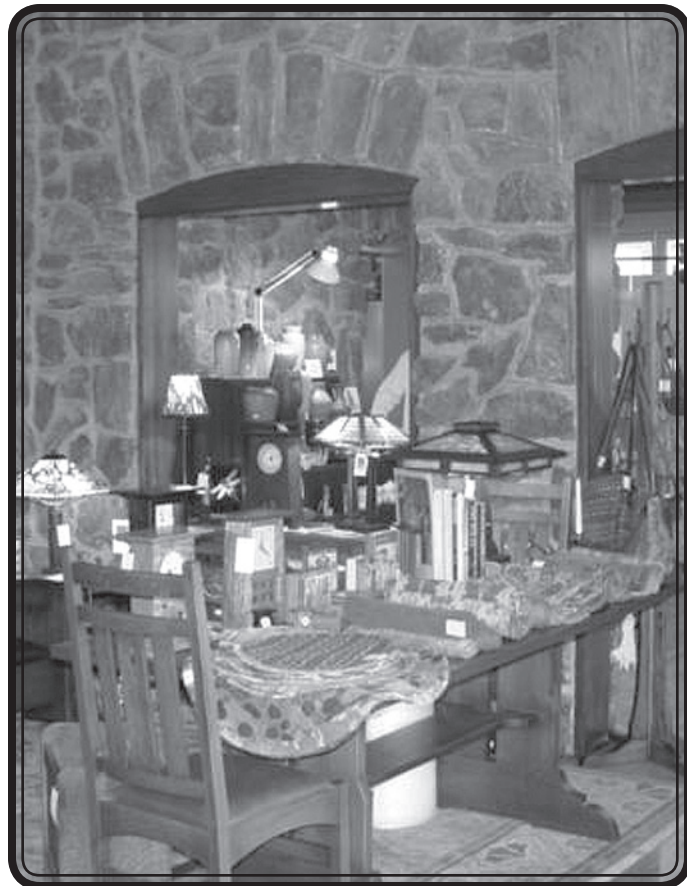
Mr. Audi was an avid sportsman, winning numerous awards in golf, squash, racquetball and bowling. In 2004, he won the New York State Super Senior Golf Championship, the Onondaga Golf and Country Club Men's Club Championship, the Onondaga Senior Club Championship and the Syracuse Senior District Match Play Championship. He was also the Squash Chairman of the Downtown Athletic Club and a member of the Metropolitan Squash Racquets Association. He was Squash Club Champion at the Heights Casino for three years.

His many awards were complimented in 2006 when he received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from his alma mater, Colgate University. He was also nominated that same year for the manufacturers "Furniture Hall of Fame."

Together with his wife Aminy, Mr. Audi aptly received the prestigious Laurel Award from the International Furnishings and Design Association in 2004, for: "...furthering the Arts and Crafts movement in America." In 1997 they were recipients of the Ernst & Young Upstate New York Entrepreneurs of the Year Award and the 1995 recipients of the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award. In addition, Alfred was also named the 2004 recipient of the Community Team Spirit Award at the Salvation Army's Annual Civic Luncheon.

Alfred Audi is survived by his wife, Aminy; son, Edward of Manlius; and daughters, Carolyn Audi Fischi and son-in-law Dr. Michael Fischi and Andrea of Fayetteville; three grandchildren; Anna Grace, Sophia Elizabeth and Paul Alfred Fischi; a sister, Elaine Audi Macken of New York City; a brother, Dr. Robert Audi and his wife Mary Louise of Indiana; and a nephew and four nieces. He is also survived by the Inati family, the Audi family and the nearly 1600 Stickley employees.

— from the Stickley web site



A couple of scenes from the May Show and Sale at the newly renovated Boettcher Mansion.

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