Glorious Gardens • Servants Sneak-Peek • Room Revealed
Welcome to the first ever Glensheen Lookbook.

Is it your normal history museum newsletter? No.

But of course, we are not normal; we are Glensheen.

We strive to be different.

Why this format? Glensheen is a visual place with visual events. It is difficult for words to truly capture the many things that make the estate so amazing to all of us. Frankly, even photos don’t do justice, but it’s closer to the truth.

The Lookbook will be your visual guide.

Lastly, this is the summer edition. So enjoy seeing all the great things that are summer at Glensheen, like our stunning gardens, gorgeous lake views, and even get a sneak peek at our newest tour.

Enjoy!

Dan Hartman
Director of Glensheen
Summer is in bloom
As part of the University of Minnesota Duluth, Glensheen hires over 70 students to fill a variety of roles. These positions transform staffers into confident public speakers and history enthusiasts. Here are just a few getting their Chester mustaches after a meeting of the “Nerdery,” an advanced training club for our guides.
Barbara Boo has been with Glensheen for nearly a decade and has a closet full of hats with a variety of tasks that come along with being the Manager of Visitor Services. As the Manager of Visitor Services, she oversees Glensheen’s tour operations. This is no small feat; with over 100,000 visitors having toured the 39-room mansion in 2015, it is quite the operation. She also acts as the buyer, merchandiser and manager of the Gift Shop. What sets her apart from her wide range of day-to-day duties, is her commitment to the 50+ University of Minnesota Duluth student Tour Guides. She takes pride in the opportunities students receive while working at Glensheen, to gain valuable work experience in a truly inspirational environment. What she likes most about working with students are the long-term relationships that develop. According to Barb, “…the phone calls to my office, emails or Facebook messages from past students that just want to check-in and keep in touch, make my day.”
For too many years, Robert’s room, on the third floor, was not open to the public. After bringing the bedroom closer to its 1908 state, we sleuthed old photographs and tracked down its original furnishings located in other parts of the estate.
We are certain that these were Robert’s toys, as many sport his name on them. Robert (pictured) was the youngest Congdon boy. We were delighted to track down many of his playthings, including this boat.
Aaron Hanson joined the Glensheen Advisory Council in 2014 and has recently earned the position of Advisory Council Chair. As a Certified Interior Designer at LHB for nearly 20 years, Aaron has a natural appreciation for the mansion and is a passionate advocate for Glensheen and the influence it has had across Duluth, Minnesota and the Midwest.

In his words, "Glensheen has incurred a century of impact on the region," with its influence spanning across many levels. He cites Glensheen’s impact in the local community as an economic driver in the tourism industry, in the significant educational opportunities and connection to the University of Minnesota, and, of course, in the influential interior design seen throughout the estate. He believes the level of professional talent displayed by the early craftsmen and designers of the 1900s who built Glensheen, still has residual effects today. It is no surprise the third floor, which houses a rare, complete collection of Minneapolis Interior Designer John Bradstreet, is one of Aaron’s favorite spaces in the mansion.