

# Lookbook

by Glensheen



December 2016 - Vol 2

Falling Leaves • Inside the Gardener's Cottage • Christmas



## Director's Desk

Welcome to another addition of the Lookbook.

We at Glensheen are excited to share the news that last year was our busiest year since the 1980s with over 100,000 visitors and 2016 looks to end even bigger. In fact, on Saturday of MEA weekend we had over 1,300 tour visitors. This is our single biggest day on record.

With that success comes more restoration work.

With that we are happy to report that we completed the rehabilitation of the Gardener's Cottage. On pages 18-25, we have created photo spreads showing some of the work done. This was only possible because of a large private gift from the Nicholson family and the success of our tours in 2015.

This has greatly enhanced our overall operation, but also has made our start to finish wedding experience second to none.

Thanks for helping us make both statements a reality.



Dan Hartman  
Director of Glensheen







# Falling Leaves

across the estate









This summer, we invested in Minnesota-made chairs from Loll Designs, placing them around the estate. Our hope is they will tempt visitors to

linger and take in the grounds and Lake Superior –a body of water that big deserves one’s full attention.







# Classroom in the Garden







Every Wednesday, Glensheen has a free community offering, such as September's Classroom in the Garden. Here UMD chef, Daemon Williams, demonstrates recipes using vegetables fresh from our garden.





## 2016 Summer Student Staff

To connect with contemporary audiences, we've updated the tour guide uniform. Collared shirts have been replaced with contemporary tees. The saying on the shirt's back, *Mind your Manor*, was written

by our student staff. (The collection staff's new work aprons have a tongue-in-cheek scolding: *Seriously, Stop Touching That*).



Inside  
the **Gardener's**  
Cottage







In refurbishing the Carriage House for office space and bridal parties, we salvaged all that we could and replicated what couldn't. For recreating the woodwork, our carpenter used his father's hand tools

to perfect every detail. The radiators are original, cleaned up and painted the same bronze as the Congdons chose for other servants' spaces.





While the country-style sink is new, it matches the original blueprints for the Carriage House drafted back in 1907.











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## Staff Highlight

Before Emily Ford's recent hire as Glensheen's Head Gardener, she was a University of Minnesota field botanist. "I put thousands of miles on my rented car driving from Minnesota to Florida and zigzagging in between," said Emily. With her then 8-week old puppy, Zulu, tucked into her backpack, she created a mobile lab collecting prairie grass and flower seeds for inclusion in a seed vault. "It's a study of micro evolution and it taught me so much about plants."

When the position opened for Glensheen's Head Gardener, Emily was drawn to the job's variety with responsibilities for the formal, informal and vegetable gardens, plus landscaping. "I'm excited to grow a 'time-scape' where people can step back to the grounds of 1910."

One bright spot for Emily has been working with student staff. "Some love curating the lawn, while others are focused on how to make the formal garden look perfect. And a few have to know about each of the 16 varieties of carrots and what makes them different. It's all these passionate questions that make it glorious to work here."





Peek at a  
**Christmas**  
in the Mansion





When decorating a 39-room home, there's always room for a little more sparkle. Manager of Visitor Services Barbara Boo marshaled her student staff to put up 25 Christmas trees, and more yards of garland and seasonal lights than they care to think about.





Guests enjoy displays of original Congdon ornaments, some dating back to the turn of the previous century, and Clara's own beloved collection of nativity scenes.







The Congdon's middle daughter, Helen, hosted a classmate over the 1912 Christmas break from Vassar College. (Helen's room is decorated in the

school's colors: gray and rose.) The pair participated in Duluth's wintery pastimes including ice skating on Lake Superior and even a curling bonspiel.









# New Candlelight Tours

New this year, visitors can take in wintry Glensheen at night. Illuminated only by the twinkly lights of the Christmas décor, one can easily imagine this

grand house as a family home. The atmosphere is transformed from majestic and stately to warm and utterly magical. It's not to be missed.



## Advisory Council Highlight

You could say that Bob Reichert has been part of Glensheen since before it became the public treasure it is today. Back in 1978, he was a “one-man planning consulting office,” hired by the University to write a 109-page Utilization Study on the historic estate. His task was to present options of how to best use the gift of Glensheen.

“Everything was considered from a convention center to dorms,” said Bob, who traveled to other repurposed properties in the Midwest. He noted that many were bereft of their original furnishings. Fortunately for Glensheen fans, Reichert’s careful research concluded that with its intact collection, the estate could best serve the public through tours and programs. “It was important that Glensheen, as part of the University, serve an educational role – and it does.” Among other programs, Glensheen is a part of the UMD’s Museum Studies class.

Bob conservatively projected that Glensheen might attract 47,000 visitors a year. The first year of operation saw over 95,000 guests through the grand oak doors.

Now Reichert serves on Glensheen’s Advisory Council. “I’m delighted with the current direction –new events and pieces of the collection on display make it so there’s always something new to discover.

Robert  
Reichert







# Night at the Museum





Who says history can't draw a crowd? Our Night at the Museum event brought 1,400 visitors, some of whom started lining up over two hours before our formal West Gate even opened.















The free evening of self-guided tours, a cash bar and bonfires boosted our spirits as unexpected numbers turned out to learn about and enjoy

the estate. It felt like the embodiment of our mission to inspire Minnesota pride by preserving and sharing the Glensheen legacy.





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