

# Lookbook

by Glensheen



September 2017 - Vol 3

Unveiling Restoration • Spring Emerges • Glensheen Gala

## Director's Desk

Oh Spring!

Happy to report that in 2016, Glensheen had nearly 124,000 visitors: 123,999 to be exact. I'm also pleased that as the weather has warmed, this upward trend has continued.

These numbers give us tremendous pride. But as exciting as it is to reinvest ticket revenues into estate repairs, it has been equally inspiring to watch people become fans of the estate. Some have even become Superfans and have traveled great distances to join us at our annual Galas.

This year, it was moving that a couple chose to spend their 30th anniversary at the event, while others used the occasion to celebrate their birthdays. Why? – because Glensheen has become important to them. Perhaps they're moved by the story of this influential Minnesota family or the fine craftsmanship of this Lake Superior mansion.

Or maybe, they like being part of saving the estate.

At the Gala, we usually reveal newly completed restoration projects. This year, guests saw the hand-drawn stenciling in Alfred's room for the first time since it was painted over some 40 years ago. Also, the refinished hardwood floors brought the lower level to life, helping us reimagine it as the warm family space it was.

All of this is possible because of your interest and support. Thank you from all of us at Glensheen.



Dan Hartman  
Director of Glensheen





saving

Alfred's

stenciling







This spring saw another brilliant Glensheen reveal. After 40 years behind latex-based paint, the intricate stenciling in Alfred's room was finally reintroduced to the world. Director Dan Hartman's enthusiasm (bottom left) conveys the

staff excitement for the restoration progress by Midwest Art Conservation Center conservators. This project was funded by proceeds of the Glensheen Gala and tour ticket sales.





# 2017 Summer Summer Staff

The energy level at Glensheen surges when the summer staff returns en masse as tour guides, special event staff, administrative assistants, ticket sellers, historic

housekeepers and gardeners. We are proud to provide employment (and memories for a lifetime!) for approximately 100 students attending the University of Minnesota.



Winter gives way  
to Spring







Winter slowly loosens its hold on the estate while putting on a spectacular show.





With its ice formations and rolling “sea smoke,” the dark months are some of the most photogenic...if you don’t mind the chill.







Always thinking of ways to improve the guest experience, we created an inviting pathway down to explore the wooded area of Bent Brook. It was in

this shaded area that the Congdons would enjoy the creek on hot days. The trail also affords a whole new view of the Carriage House.









New garden staffers take in the enormity of tending to a 12-acre property (upper left). This year's improvements include the new "hammock grotto" (lower left) and hundreds of cafe-style bulbs (right), adding to Glensheen's Lake Superior magic.







Between the water views and the new Adirondack chairs made by local furniture-maker Loll, it's heartening to watch guests take in the moment.

One must stop to admire the convergence point where Tischer Creek flows into Lake Superior – all in the shadow of the mansion's Stonearch Bridge.









Glensheen Head Gardener and budding apiculturist, Emily Ford, mentored gardening staff as the estate became home to two



Langstroth hives. These pollinators are kept busy with the sizeable formal and vegetable gardens at Glensheen.



## Advisory Council Highlight

Monica Hendrickson may have ridden into her Glensheen volunteer role on a re-branding wave, but she's been visiting the estate all her life.

Coming to the Lake Superior mansion was a family tradition, part of her Iron Range roots. "I grew up knowing that Chester shaped mining and really all of Minnesota," Hendrickson says. "It's an important story." And there's no better way to tell it than through Glensheen.

"Oh, to have been a spy in the Den!" says Hendrickson, referring to Chester Congdon's office on the first floor, "hearing all his business conversations, shaping legislation." This all speaks to her own entrepreneurial spirit.

It was that spirit, including two decades in marketing, which brought Hendrickson to the Advisory Council. When she joined the group in 2013, "there was a strong desire to take this wonderful place to the next level." One of the best changes, according to Hendrickson, has been the welcoming of a broader demographic of visitors.

"I love that Wednesdays now are for free community events throughout the year – like the recent Beer Gardens." Attending this casual, educational event, she noted that not only were the grounds and amusement room buzzing with visitors, but a true range of them.

"It was fascinating to watch Glensheen's traditional Baby Boomer fans mingle with a business-attire crowd dropping in after work and young families with small children and hipsters, too—all interacting around the bonfire and in the gardens. Glensheen managed to create that rare atmosphere where it's easy to talk to a stranger... and that's special."

Monica  
Hendrickson







original  
**Floors** revealed





It was a bold move, ripping up the 40-year-old red carpet in the lower level. No one knew the condition of the original hardwood, but fortunately the flooring was intact throughout the billiards room, hall, and amusement room. After much protective preparation, the refinishing began.







A month later, the refinished floors help us better appreciate the family's attraction to this once-again cozy part of the mansion. One

can easily envision the family celebrations and intimate moments that occurred in this warm wood-rich space.





With the carpet gone, it was the perfect opportunity to return the Congdon's specially designed cabinetry to their original homes in what



was once called "the little museum." This area was used to showcase family souvenirs from their great travels.





## Staff Highlight

In 1996, Andy Kauppinen started as a freshman at the University of Minnesota Duluth campus. He'd been looking for work when a roommate pointed out the Glensheen student job. It sounded great, except for one thing –it was a tour guide position.

Andy would have to face down a long-held fear of talking in public. "I knew public speaking was an important skill and I figured doing it several times a day would help," says K. It did.

As graduation loomed, Andy took an opportunity to stay as a historic housekeeper. "You are spoiled by sunrises here," says Kauppinen who often gets to Glensheen at "o'dark thirty" when the estate is perfectly quiet.

But those quiet hours are busy ones. Tending a turn-of- the-last-century mansion as a historic housekeeper is more than just passing

the vacuum. "I use my minor in chemistry more than you'd think," says Kauppinen who has researched many of the maintenance techniques he uses.

It was more of Andy's off-the-clock reading that put the estate into new light. He'd read an article about new Edison LEDs bulbs. Not only did they solve aesthetic and sourcing issues, a grant from Minnesota Power paid for half of the initial costs. Now the home's 436 bulbs are replaced far less often and consume a fourth of the electricity.

An unexpected benefit has been the warm quality of the light the new bulbs cast in Glensheen. "I like to think it's closer to what it was like when the Congdons lived here," says Kauppinen. "Really, that's always the goal."

*Pictured alongside Andy is Collections Manager, Milissa Brooks-Ojibway.*





Glensheen Gala No. 4





Our wildly flexible Glensheen staff embraced this year's Gala theme: The Congdon's 1911 Trip to France. The event showcased little seen parts of the estate and an evening as lovely as any in *la République Française*. The proceeds from the fundraiser make property restoration possible.





It wouldn't be a trip to glorious France without decadent cheeses, wines, pastries and charcuterie platters. Our generous eatery sponsors did not disappoint, as one can see in the fine photography from Sternberg Studios.







This 1915 Pierce Arrow, lent to the Gala by UM alumnus Curtis Sampson, made for fun photo antics with musical guests, Tender Ness. It also succeeded in

getting attendees into the spirit of this turn-of-the-last-century evening. The automobile fits in perfectly at the estate, right down to the wooden tire spokes.









It is wonderful to bring live music back to the Congdon's living room with the evening's house band, Tender Ness, strumming Bossa Nova style with

a French Twist. We like to think the monks in the painting (top right) are enjoying the performance, as well.









These French paintings by Henri Harpignies (upper left) and Jean-Baptiste Camille Corot (lower left) were created in the later 1800s and acquired by the Congdons in 1912 and 1911 respectively. Both were displayed at the Gala.

Also open that evening was the Silver Safe, featuring two steel doors and sold by Boutell Brothers, a company that advertised itself as a "Minneapolis Institution owned by Minneapolis People."







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