

Art Appreciation lecture series 2022

Pomp and ceremony: The celebratory role in art

Design of the grand hotel: from le goût Ritz to barefoot luxury

Distinguished Professor Peter McNeil

Lecture summary

The luxury hotel arose firstly in North America. Technology, comfort and service as much as interior fittings determined the degree of luxury. The style selected to convey luxury hotel interiors was generally eighteenth century, often French or 'Adams' style. Oscar Wilde was scathing about the hotels on his famous North American speaking tour (1882). Modern artist-designers quickly became involved with rethinking the 'Grand Hotel'. By the 1960s, the era of 'barefoot luxury' arrived. The 'hotel effect' today creates a desire to emulate the appearance of contemporary hotels in everyday life. The Airbnb or 'disruptive sharing' model sees contemporary domestic spaces approximate hotel rooms in many ways. Explore celebratory hotel art, design, food and experience culture.

Slide list

- 1. Oliver Messel, Dorchester Hotel, Messel Suite, HM The Queen Coronation, 1953
- 2. Oliver Messel is descended from the Linley family, here painted by Thomas Gainsborough, his famous 'beauty' sister became Countess of Rosse, and her son Anthony Armstrong-Jones married Princess Margaret, 1960.
- 3. Oliver Messel, Decoration of the Royal Box, Covent Garden, for Coronation premiere of Benjamin Britten opera, *Gloriana*, 1953
- 4. Queen's Hotel, Toronto 1886, unidentified photograph
- 5. Manager, The Astor Hotel, unidentified photograph
- 6. Statler Hotels, 1920s, unidentified photograph
- 7. The Ansonia Hotel , New York, unidentified photograph
- 8. Charles-Frédéric Mewès & Arthur Davis, The Ritz, Place Vendôme, Paris, 1897-98
- Charles-Frédéric Mewès & Arthur Davis, The Ritz Hotel London, Picadilly, for César Ritz, 1904-1905
- 10. Escoffier, Service à la Russe
- 11. Bathroom in The Ritz, 1900; Bath, Nissim de Camondo residence, Paris, 1911
- 12. No. 5 Hamilton Place, Mayfair, London, for Leopold de Rothschild: now Les Ambassadeurs Private Gaming Club, location for James Bond *Dr No* (1962).
- 13. Ball at the Ritz; Screen by Syrie Maugham for Mrs Pleydell-Bouverie, 1930s
- 14. Louis Vuitton luggage: Desk Trunk, Vuittonite Canvas 1904; trunk for Hemingway
- 15. Alvar Aalto, the fittings for his Paimio TB Sanitarium 1929 re-used in home in Helsinki, photograph McNeil
- 16. Jean Dupas, 'History of Navigation', painted glass, gold and silver mural for Normandie, 1934, Met Mus Art
- 17. Morris Lapidus, Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami, 1954, Library of Congress
- 18. Hotel Tammer, also Grand Hotel Tampere, Finland, photo McNeil May 2017
- 19. Hotel Tandjung Sari, Sanur, Bali, Indonesia, from c1970 Photo McNeil
- Dutch tourists in Bali c1935
- 21. Walter Spies, Villa in the Royal Hotel Compound area, Ubud, Bali, after 1927, now the Hotel Tjampuan, Photo McNeil
- 22. Rudolf Bonnet, Self Portrait, 1913 and Portrait of Dewa Made Oka, 1975, Agung Rai Museum of Art, Ubud, photo P McNeil
- 23. Charles 'Charlie' James, Honeymoon Outfit Anne, 6th Countess of Rosse (née Messel) for Bali, c1935, yellow and red pieced (not draped) cloth. Brighton Mus.
- 24. Hotel Bali Beach Hotel, built during Suekarno regime, 1962, at the same time as a modern airport.
- Ed Tuttle (Paris based, USA architect, d. 2020, aged 75) Amanpuri Villa, PHUKHET, 1988 (LEFT). Shah of Iran's Winter Palace on Kish Island

- 26. Peter Mueller, Oberoi Hotel Bali (formerly the Kayu Aya private club), from 1972. Photo P McNeil
- 27. The Halekulani, Waikiki, Hawaii, around 11 am, November 2017. Photo P McNeil
- 28. Bookshop, Bali Oberoi, original editions of 'orientalist' primary sources Henri Cartier-Bresson and Miguel Covarrubias. Photo P McNeil
- 29. One Kensington Gardens 97 apartments by David Chipperfield
- 30. Jean-Michel Frank, Gypsum and Bronze Cabinet, 1935; Vicomte & Vicomtesse De Noailles residence, Hotel Bischoffsheim, Paris, Place des Etats Unis, 1929
- 31. Zaha Hadid, floor of the Puerta America Hotel, Madrid, opened 2005
- 32. 27 storey residence for India's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, Mumbai.
- 33. Slim Aarons, Julie London eats breakfast in the Beverly Hills Hilton, 1957

Bibliography

- Berger, M., Hotel Dreams: Luxury, Technology and Urban Ambition in America, 1829-1929, Baltimore; John Hopkins University Press, 2011.
- Brody, D., *Housekeeping by Design: Hotels and Labor*, Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2016.
- Castle, Charles, Oliver Messel, London: Thames and Hudson, 1986.
- Gaines, S., The *Sky's the Limit: Passion and Property in Manhattan*, New York: Little, Brown, 2005.
- Hofer, M. and G. Scharnhorst, Oscar Wilde in America: The Interviews, Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2010.
- McNeil, P. and G. Riello, Luxury: A Rich History, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Series sponsor

