HIS 5360: Historic Domestic Interiors  
Spring 2002  
Monday, 2:00-4:30 pm; 2250 Coleman Hall

Instructor: Dr. Debra A. Reid, Office: 2572 Coleman Hall (a.k.a. 216B) phone: 581-7272  
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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:00 am-1:00 pm; Monday 5:00-6:30 pm; and by appointment  
The syllabus is on-line at: http://www.eiu.edu/~history

This course is designed to provide the information necessary for a staff person in a historic house museum to develop a furnishings plan and then collect, install, and interpret a domestic interior. To do this, lectures and discussion will focus on the household furnishings, equipment, and floor, ceiling, and wall coverings in American homes between 1600 and the present. Rooms include living areas, parlors and sitting rooms, bedrooms, kitchens, halls, bathrooms, and storage areas. Style provides a starting point to assess various forms, i.e. chairs, tables, case furniture, stoves, beds, lighting devices, clocks, glassware, ceramics, and accoutrements such as paintings. But style is much more than design; style provides social, cultural, and symbolic meanings. It is a complex language that requires interdisciplinary analysis (art history, social and cultural history, material culture analysis, anthropology/folklore) to master.

The course combines slide lectures with discussion based on course readings. The readings provide students with background information on the economic, social, and technological history of decorative arts, and their analysis/interpretation. Application of the information is tested in three ways, via class discussion, exams, and a final course paper/furnishing plan (see requirements below).

Course Schedule

Week 1  
January 9  
Material Culture Studies and Historic Domestic Interiors, an introduction  
Style, material & construction, producer, consumer, utility, aesthetics.  
Connoisseurship

Visit to Dick and Kathy Hummel

Week 2  
January 14  
1620-1680s: The Beginnings; Pewter  
Settlement, community formation, and establishing farms and families.

Week 3  
January 21  
No Class  (Field Trip TBA: Conner Prairie; Butler House; Indiana Historical Society)

Week 4  
January 28  
1690-1720: William & Mary; Iron, Copper & Alloy; Floorcoverings; Textiles  
Expansion and declension.

Week 5  
February 4  
1725-1760: Queen Ann & Early Georgian; Paintings; Needlework  
Artisans and American identity  (video: Make a Chair From a Tree)

Week 6  
February 11  
1755-1790: Chippendale; Prints; Silver; Ceramics  
Revolutionary era; Cabinetmakers, pattern books

Week 7; February 18  
EXAM

Week 8  
February 25  
1790-1815: Federal Style/Neoclassicism; Clocks; Glassware  
Relationship of republicanism and geographic expansion to domestic interiors. Chair Factories, Tinsmiths, Itinerants

Week 9  
March 4; HA Interviews  
Away from the Mainstream: Frontier and Vernacular; Painted Furniture; Windsor Chairs  
Visit to Dick & Kathy Hummels  
(reschedule, Thursday March 7)
Antebellum Styles: Empire/French Restoration; Gothic Revival
Civil War Era: Rococo Revival; Naturalistic
Sectionalism and the Decorative Arts
Factories and Style; Catalogues

March 11  Spring Break – NO CLASS

Week 10  Eastlake; Elizabethan & Renaissance Revival (video - Grand Rapids Made)
March 18  Heating, Cooling, and Seasonal Change in Home Interiors

Week 11; March 25  EXAM

Week 12  Putting it Together: The Historic Furnishings Plan; Interpreting Style and Taste
April 1  Art Nouveau, Colonial Revival
The Bathroom, The Kitchen, and Plumbing
Gas Fixtures, Electrification, and Lightening the Load: Myth or Reality?
Bedrooms and Social Interaction: Grandma`s Featherbed

Week 13  Arts & Craft Styles; Prairie School; Art Deco; Reaction and Reform
April 8  (video - Grand Rapids Made)

Week 14  Modernity: Bakelite, Formica, Chrome, Plastic, Aluminum, Corelle
April 15  Suburbia, air conditioning, mobile homes
International Style  (video - Grand Rapids Made)

Week 15  REPORTS - Putting it Together: The Historic Furnishings Plan
April 22  Interpreting Domestic Interiors and Setting Objectives
Accessories: Guns over the Mantle, Rugs on the Floor, Fires at Midnight
Making the House Look Lived In
Toys, Games, and Slumber Parties. Interpreting children in the home.

FINAL; April 29 (or TBA)  EXAM

Course Requirements

Exams: Three exams to assess student retention of information related to form, style, and provenance. (20% each; total 60%)

- If you have a documented disability please discuss needed accommodations with the course instructor as soon as possible, definitely before the first assignment is due. To receive academic accommodations please contact the office of Disability Services, 581-6583, located in the Ninth Street Hall.

Furnishing Plan/Paper: The end-of-course paper allows students to explore the topic of their choosing related to decorative arts research and/or interpretation. For example, you may select a historic house and produce a furnishing plan. You may select a contemporary interior - i.e., an Amish home - and produce a furnishing plan from the primary evidence. You may take a more academic, less applied approach and select a form of decorative art (chairs; silver tankards) or a maker or style and explain how the perceptions of the object/maker/style has changed over time - an historiographical approach. The paper should be approximately fifteen (15) pages long, typed and double-spaced. (25%)

Book Reviews: Each student is expected to select three additional readings from the course bibliography. On those three weeks, the student will lead a class discussion on their reading. (5% each/15% total)
**Reading List**

**Textbooks:**


**Other Recommended Readings:**


Craftsmen’s terms in “Authors’ Note,” xiii-xviii


**Suggested Readings on House Interpretation and Furnishing Plans:**


Guidelines for Preparing Historic Furnishing Reports, Div. of Historic Furnishings, Harpers Ferry Center, NPS.


“Historic House Museums: Seven Teaching Strategies,” 91-119


**Suggested References:**


Schedule coordinated with
Required and Supplemental Readings and Bibliography

January 7
Required:  Krill and Eversmann, Part I
           Lanmon, Evaluating Your Collection


Overall Appearance
Form
Ornament
Materials
Finish
Color
Craft Techniques
Trade Practices
Function
Style
Attribution
History of Ownership
Condition
Evaluation

January 14:
Required:  Naeve, 12-17; 68-9; 72-3; 74-5
           Krill & Eversmann, Part II, Chap. 6-Beginnings; 17-Pewter
           Ulrich, Ch. 1-Indian Basket


January 21  No Class - Field Trip TBA

January 28
Required:  Naeve, 16-19
           Krill & Eversmann, Part II, Chap. 7-Wm. & Mary;
           and EITHER 18-Iron, Copper, & Alloy; 21-Textiles; 23-Floorcoverings


Fennimore, Donald L. Metalwork in Early America: Copper and Its Alloys from the Winterthur Collection. Winterthur, 1996.


**February 4**

Required: Naeve, 20-21

Zea, “Construction Methods” in Jobe & Kaye

Krill & Eversmann, Part II, Chap. 8-Queen Ann & EITHER 19-Paintings or 22-Needlework


**February 11:**

Required: Naeve, 22-23

Ulrich, Chap. 6-bed rugg & silk

Krill & Eversman, Part II, Chap. 9-Chippendale & EITHER 14-Ceramics, 16-Silver or 20-Prints


Required: Naeve, 24-25   Ulrich, either Chap. 7-pocket, 8-tablecloth, 9-blanket
Krill & Eversmann, Part II, Chap. 10-Federal and EITHER 13-Clocks or 15-Glassware


This includes painted furniture, fire screens and interior architectural decoration, and paintings.


**March 4**

Required:  
Naeve, 70-1; 76-81  
Ulrich, EITHER Chap. 10-basket; 11-stocking  
Kril & Eversmann, Part II, Chap. 12-Windsor


Lewis, Johanna Miller. *Artisans in the North Carolina Backcountry*.


**March 4, cont.**

Required:  
Naeve, 26-35; 38-47  
Kril & Eversmann, Part II, Chap. 11-Empire


**March 11 - No Class - SPRING BREAK**

**March 18:**
Required: Naeve, 36-37; 44-45; 48-9; 50-51 (video: *Grand Rapids Made*)


______. “Design in France: Notes on the Transmission of French Style to America.” *Winterthur Portfolio* 12: 103-


March 25 Exam

April 1:
Required: Furnishing Plans and Research:
Required (on reserve):
Supplemental Readings on Researching Interiors:


Supplemental Readings on Furnishing Interiors (Philosophy & Method):


Part I: Searching for clues in historic house documentation; Part II: Interpreting the clues related to household technology and families at home. Each section includes a list of suggested readings.


A survey of written records, oral history, and artifacts (maps/photos) useful in documentation.


This surveys hundreds of fixtures from the colonial era through the 1920s.


This includes 350 wallpaper reproductions with historic background.


This catalog includes 550 fabric reproductions for curtains, upholstery, bed hangings, table covers, etc.


This book covers the following time periods: 1750-1800; 1800-1840; 1840-1875; 1875-1900; 1900-1930. Glossary included.


Finding Reproductions:
ALHFAM Replica Resource List, a publication of the Replica Resource Committee of the Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums. Updated regularly.

Several other catalogues exist including Amazon Dry Goods, Smoke and Fire, Applewood Books, Dover Publications, etc.

General Readings:


Rose, Mark H. *Cities of Light and Heat: Domesticating Gas and Electricity in Urban America*.


Weatherbee Jean. *A Second Look at White Ironstone*.


April 8
Required: Naeve, 52-53; 54-55; 56-61 (video: *Grand Rapids Made*)


**April 15:**

Required: Naeve, 61-67 (video: Grand Rapids Made)


Heisinger, Kathryn and George Marcus. *Landmarks of Twentieth Century Design*.


**April 22**

**Required:** Reports on paper/furnishing plan


Old Time Victrola Music on Cassette. Recorded from hand-crank phonographs (1908-1929). For samples of all the songs in real audio format see: http://www.victrola.com


April 29 EXAM
General Sources
For additional sources see the bibliographies and suggested readings in
Naeve (Furniture), Fairbanks and Bates (Furniture), Montgomery ( Pewter),
McKearin or Spillman (Glass), Swan (Textiles), Levin (Ceramics),
Fennimore or Hood (Silver), Von Rosenstiel (Rugs/Carpets)


Knopf Collectors’ Guides to American Antiques.


Spillman, Jane Shadel, *Glass* (2 vols)


**Period Literature:**


Chippendale and Hepplewhite design books


Advertisements in *House & Garden*, *Good Housekeeping*, and other “ladies” magazines

*Sears & Roebuck
Montgomery Ward, Inc.*

Trade catalogues from manufacturers, i.e. Belter’s firm, General Electric, Hoover, etc.

**Periodicals**

*Art Index*, 1929-

*Americana*, New York, 1973-

*The Antiquarian*, New York, Aug. 1923-Nov. 1931 (monthly)

*Antique Collecting*, 1977-

*[Magazine] Antiques*, New York, 1922-

*Art and Antiques* (American Art and Antiques) 1978-

*The Art Quarterly*, Detroit, 1938-

*The Burlington Magazine*, London, 1903-

*Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin*, Hartford, 1934-

*Winterthur Portfolio*, 1965-

Sotheby’s auction announcements

Christie’s auction announcements

**Makers Marks**


Bjerkoe, Ethel H. *Cabinetmakers in America*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1957


**Guides to Museum Collections**


A landmark study of a silver collection, with 162 silversmiths and 517 objects.


**Authenticity?**
