

"Geneva on the Lake" Villa
Prototype

Villa Lancelotti - country retreat in Frascati, outside of Rome, Italy.



VILLA LANCELOTTI — FRONTE DEL PALAZZO E GIARDINO.

(Fot. Mosconi).



VILLA LANCELOTTI — INGRESSO AL PALAZZO.

(Fot. Anderson).

A BRIEF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

GENEVA ON THE LAKE

Placed on The National Register of Historic Places

THE NESTER ESTATE -- Original Architects (1910 - 14)

Lewis Colt Albro
Harrie T. Lindeberg

The original NESTER ESTATE is architecturally significant as the work of two important early twentieth century architects of country residences. Both architect's early training was with McKim, Mead and White; Albro from 1895 to 1904, Lindeberg until 1906 when they established a firm of their own which gained a reputation for the design of fine homes such as the Nester villa. The use of marble fireplaces which appear to have been removed from Italian buildings as well as the coffered ceilings and handsomely paneled formal rooms reflect the influence of Stanford White on both architects. The design of the symmetrical gardens on an axis with the villa was the work of the Rochester firm of Pitkin and Weinrichter and shows a close collaboration between the architects and landscape designers.

THE CAPUCHIN MONASTERY 1949 - 74

In 1949 the Capuchin monks added the south wing as a chapel and classrooms and the north wing as a dormitory and dining room.

GENEVA ON THE LAKE -- Designers of the Renovation 1979-80

Schickel Design & Devel. Co., Loveland, Oh. & Ithaca, N.Y.
Peacock, Garn & Partners, Cincinnati, Ohio
Bentley, Meisner Associates, Cincinnati, Ohio

The design conception for the renovation of GENEVA ON THE LAKE is the work of William Schickel, the principal designer of SCHICKEL. Mr. Schickel is a nationally recognized designer, responsible for a body of important work throughout the U.S., including: residences, commercial buildings, churches, renovation designs for noted historic structures, major commissions of stained glass works, urban design and condominium developments, paintings, sculptures, artifacts, furniture designs and interiors. Among his current projects are new churches in Wisconsin, Ohio and Virginia. He has received a Gold Medal and National Honor Award for the renovation of the 100 year old Trappist Abbey at Gethsemani, Kentucky, the National Design Review Award for five years, has exhibited stained glass & designed objects in major museums, including The Smithsonian and Brooklyn Museums, and is published in Architectural Forum, Architectural Record, and The New York Times Magazine. The architects were Peacock, Garn and Partners; and the landscape architects, Bentley, Meisner Associates.

There were two major aims in the conception of the 1980 renovation. First to preserve in every way possible the finest in the architectural form and decorative elements of the original villa. And second, to use these old forms in a new design to create the most modern, comfortable and attractive resort for today's guest.

SOME BRIEF BACKGROUND NOTATIONS ON "GENEVA ON THE LAKE" VILLA

The "Geneva on the Lake" Villa, built between 1910 and 1914 by the late Byron M. Nester, is a faithful replica, although on a diminutive scale, of the imposing and grand Lancellotti Villa in Frascati in the Alban Hills outside of Rome (see Plate I).

The Lancellotti Family is recorded in Rome as far back as the mid-fifteenth century. This aristocratic lineage included among its members high churchmen such as Scipio Lancellotti who became a Cardinal on 15 December 1583 and built the beautiful "Lancellotti Chapel" (no longer in existence) of the historically important Church of St. John Lateran, and Orazio Lancellotti, created a Cardinal on 17 August 1611. The Lancellotti palaces in the city of Rome were designed and built by such famous architects as Francesco da Volterra, Carlo Maderno and Domenichino. Their major Roman palazzo on the Via dei Coronari, modified several times, was finished in its present form in the nineteenth century.

The garden of the Lancellotti country retreat in Frascati consisted of a spacious enclosure bounded by the splendid habitation at one end and balanced by a teatro d'acqua (water theatre) at the other. The sides were planted with huge walls of carefully clipped ilex. The lawn parterre (see Plate I foreground) was patterned with box-edged arabesques filled with dwarf plants, giving the effect known as carpet-bedding. This garden was, and remains, an outstanding example of the styles of the time.

At the "Geneva on the Lake" Villa, the lawn parterre is of a more modest design reminiscent of the Frascati prototype. The water theatre has been supplanted by an elegant pool surrounded by columns topped with colossal clay jardinieres (in the Borghese style) which successfully frames a magnificent view of beautiful Seneca Lake.

"Geneva on the Lake," in its superb exterior design and its exquisitely decorated interior (with carved marble fireplaces, woodworking in classical motifs and gilt coffered ceilings in the Italian Renaissance style), is an architectural and landscape ensemble of historic merit. It has been beautifully renovated and successfully adapted for contemporary use by the Schickel Design and Development Corporation and is once again a jewel of the Geneva, New York community.


Anthony D'Agostino, Ph.D. and  Joseph Antinoro-Polizzi, Ph.D.,

Consultants, Classical and Renaissance Architectural
Restoration
Rochester, New York

GREENWICH HOUSE, INC.

Interiors

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P.O. Box 8855 - for correspondence only

May 19, 1982

Mr. Norbert Schickel
Schickel Design and Development Co.
100 Fairview Square
Ithaca, NY 14850

Dear Mr. Schickel:

Listed below are works of art accumulated around the world for the main hall of an Italian Villa to be enjoyed by people of taste and money.

A beautifully carved oak English mid 17th Century Bible Box on a latter table, 17th Century. This type of box was used to store Bibles and other valuable books.

A typical adaptation of an 18th Century Mexican hand crafted mirror in tin.

A Portuguese planter made up of original 18th Century Portuguese tiles which are in good color.

A pair of original 17th Century side chairs in walnut and tooled leather with hand crafted nails. The leather seats had disintegrated so we have replaced them with velvet.

A modern copy, in tapestry, of an 18th Century Dutch painting of a basket of flowers.

A pair of brackets for over buffet, antique fragments of an 18th Century Italian chandelier, now adapted to serve as sconces.

A sideboard, actually American about 1830 but so in the classic Italian Renaissance style that it was easy to add those touches.

A pair of candlesticks hand crafted in a typical 17th Century style.

A modern copy of an elegant heraldic medieval tapestry in a blaze of colour.

A pair of Chinese vases, 18th Century, modern copies of Kang Shi.

A pair of gold elegantly carved panels from a scrumptious 18th Century French carriage.

A pair of gigantic Italian Renaissance church candlesticks in original paint, probably early 18th Century.

A large blue and white Delph plate. It is probably early 19th Century.

A pair of Italian pottery caryatids, copy of Renaissance, turned into wall sconces.

A pair of modern adaption tables of a typical Italian Renaissance table with hand forged steel stretchers.

Very Truly Yours,

GREENWICH HOUSE, INC.


Walter I. Farmer, ASID, AIA
President

WIF/cls

Enclosure - Picture of lay out of pieces above.

THE SCULPTURES OF GENEVA ON THE LAKE

Sculptures (outside) front of the building right side to back of building.

1. Esquiline Venus (torso), Greek, 5th Century B.C., Naples Museum.
2. Cherub, Renaissance, by Andrea del Verrochio, Pulazzo Vecchio, Florence.
3. Hermes (head), Greek, by Praxitelles, 4th Century B.C., Acropolis Museum.
4. Lemnian Athena (head), Greek, attributed to Phidias, circa 450 B.C., Civico Museum, Italy.
5. Sophocles (head) late 4th Century B.C., British Museum.
6. Hera of Samos, Archaic Greek, circa 560 B.C., Louvre.
7. Torso (clothed), Archaic Greek, Louvre.
8. Venus de Milo, Greek, circa 100 B.C., discovered in 1820, Louvre.
9. Two heads in oval niches, east facade.
10. Two angels on main marble steps from the monks chapel.
11. Pieta and other religious statues - part of the original Shrine of the Finger Lakes

Bas-reliefs (inside)

1. Bacchic Dance, originally from Herculaneum, circa 100 B.C., National Museum Naples. Entrance F, 1st floor.
2. Satyr with Panther, originally from Herculaneum, circa 100 B.C., National Museum Naples. Entrance E, 1st floor.
3. Rosette, Moorish, from the walls of the Alhambra, Granada, Spain. Entrance B, 1st floor.
4. Egyptian Frieze, Pharon, Horus and his wife meeting the god Thoth, Louvre. Entrance F, 2nd floor.
5. Processional Relief, Classical Greek, Hermes and one of the Charities, circa 480 B.C., Louvre. Entrance E, 2nd floor.

Terra-cotta Urns (outside) on pedestals around the pool.

1. Six terra-cotta urns originally brought from Italy, are being restored and will soon be replaced on their pedestals.