

Vicenza where we spend the day with *Dr. Clemente di Thiene* and explore other aspects of Palladio's work. After lunch we climb the hilltop to the "**Rotunda**" the most renowned of all Palladio's villas. In close proximity to this is the "**Valmarana ai Nani**" with its frescoes by *Giambattista Tiepolo*. On our return journey we are treated to an entrée to a privately held villa, the "**Villa Chiericati Lambert**" with its grand English style garden and frescoes by *Paolo Veronese*. Cocktails at a **private residence** in Asolo followed by dinner.

Saturday, October 2nd

Free morning in Asolo, time to relax in the gardens, take a walking tour of the historic buildings or explore the antique stores and book market. In the afternoon we continue our exploration of Palladio with *Dr. di Thiene* at **Villa Maser**. This allows for a look at how Palladio designed on a hillside making use of the cascading water for fountains. The villa is known for the vast cycle of frescoes carried out by *Paolo Veronese*. In order to contrast Palladio's work with other architects of the time we stop at a villa, now privately held, the superb "**Villa**

Negri-Piovene" conceived to satisfy 18th-century aristocratic taste.

We supply you with hand-made Venetian masks with fantastical plumes and faces for an 18th-century Venetian dinner masqué at the romantic villa of *Contessa Rosalind Buramisita*.

Sunday, October 3rd

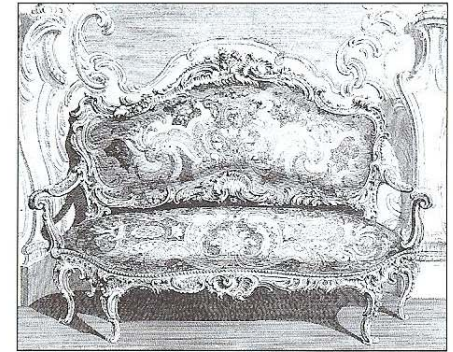
We return to the airport in Venice in time for departures at noon.

Fee and Registration

The fee for the program is \$4850 for double occupancy with a single supplement of \$500. This includes luxury hotel accommodation in Venice and Asolo, meals at top restaurants, commentary and guided side excursions throughout by Michael Bentley and Tony Giacomini, lectures and expert study, local transportation, cocktail receptions and all entrance fees. Registration is limited to 18 participants. A deposit of \$1500 is required at time of registration with full payment due on August 1st. Cancellations received before this date will be granted a refund minus \$150 registration fee. Cancellations after this date will not be refunded unless the space can be filled.

Paris: Decorators, Designers and their Interiors

November, Monday 1st
- Tuesday 9th, 1999



ASK any decorator where you can find the finest antiques and luxury goods and they will answer Paris. In this city of unrivalled beauty and style are interiors that celebrate the art of the designer. Here are rooms dressed in the finest of all epochs, a hallmark of some of the leading decorators such as *Jacques Grange* or *Frederic Mechiche*. Or they might express the individuality of other top names – the tranquil modernism and flowing lines of *Christian Liaigre*, the lushness of *Graaf*, and lavishness of *Jacques Garcia*. These are amongst the many people of the moment but behind them is a long tradition of refined decorating which has made all the world recognize France as an arbiter of taste. Parisian interiors are carefully guarded by their owners and rarely opened to the outside world.

We have structured a program that takes you into the secret world of the Parisian luxury market of art, antiques and decoration. We shall explore the city with the help of a long time professional whose

knowledge opens resources one would never find on one's own. The program is further enhanced with entrée to top decorators' homes and interiors executed by them. Sessions in museums with curators and visits to the most exclusive antique shops allow us to embark on a *voyage de découverte et surprises*. We examine present trends through discussion with decorators who will share with you the ideas that fuel their imagination. Visits to resources allow us to see trades carried out by skilled workers, dating from the time of the *marchands merciers*.

In order to protect the owners as well as honor professional relationships we have promised to preserve their anonymity in print. Described below is what you will see in each place. Accommodation will be in the elegant four-star **Montalembert**, a small luxury hotel decorated by *Christian Liaigre*. The hotel is on the left bank near the Rue de Bac in a neighborhood where all the top fashion designers from the Rue St. Honoré have established boutiques

and is well situated for shopping, exploring and antique hunting. A buffet breakfast is served daily. We have not yet chosen all the restaurants but they will be places highly recommended by Parisians and known for their chefs.

Monday, November 1st

Arrive in Paris and transfer to the **Montalembert**. Opening dinner in the hotel's elegant restaurant.

Tuesday, November 2nd

In the morning we visit some of the leading dealers who specialize in rare antiques of the 18th and 19th century. Amongst the highlights is a visit to a collection of high quality furniture and *objets d'art* housed in a private apartment, against a dramatic backdrop, overlooking the Seine.

Lunch with **Jacques Grange** at the famous restaurant **Ledoyen** on the Champs Elysées, and decorated by him. This enables us to see his ability in combining vastly different periods and styles.

In the afternoon we have the rare opportunity to have a reception and collection study in a mansion owned by one of the most admired and respected families in Paris. Here you will discover exceptional pieces that once belonged to French royalty.

Dinner.

Wednesday, November 3rd

Morning session at the **Orsay Museum** and study with the curator on Art Nouveau and Art Deco. Lunch in a bistro known for its remarkable cuisine.

In the afternoon we visit a decorator whose gallery reveals his fine eye and genius for collecting. His residence, which he kindly opens to us, is filled with precious pieces assembled and arranged in such a way as to present classic French taste. We then meet with the *decorator Frederic Mechiche* in a recently transformed interior. Here we have a glass of champagne with him and discussion of his work.

Late afternoon visit to the museum **Nissim de Camondo** containing French 18th-century masterpieces collected over three generations by the Camondo family. We are greeted by the *curator Marie Noël de Gary*. We enjoy private entrée for a study session when the museum is closed to the public.

Thursday, November 4th

We visit a series of ateliers where we see artisans carrying out luxury trades. We view how marble is cut and inlaid, leather tooled and stamped, the making of chandeliers by the finest workshop in Paris, passementerie, avant-garde furniture design, and ironing of linens sent from all over the world.

After lunch we visit a variety of

decorator/dealers specializing in 20th-century works. Included are museum quality pieces from designers such as Hoffman, Ruhlmann, Dunand, Jean-Michel Frank, Eileen Gray etc. We also examine the radical concepts of the 50's which are presently making a comeback. Cocktail reception in a private residence where you will see a collection of great 20th-century furniture. Dinner at **Thoumieux** specializing in cuisine of la Corrèze.

Friday, November 5th

For over one and a half centuries the manufacture of decorative locks and associated hardware as well as artistic copper items have been carried out by a firm which is the best kept secret of decorators. Here, specially trained craftsmen create masterpieces that may be equated to jewelry. We view the range of models and styles and watch age-old techniques in casting, chasing, gilding, and application of specialized finishes. Country basket lunch en route to the countryside. We are received at a private chateau extravagantly decorated in the taste of the 18th century and home of Mr. Jacques Garcia. We are led by the designer through a remarkable interior resembling the grand style of Versailles. We return to Paris for a champagne reception at an ambassadorial residence. Evening on own.

Saturday, November 6th

Visit to two apartments in the Bastille area, both private residences of top decorators. Lunch in the **Palais Royal** followed by a visit to a private apartment housed in the Palais Royal, exquisitely decorated with views over the Palais gardens, and housing furniture by 18th-century master craftsmen. Following this, **Serge Lutens** meets us in a jewel-like boutique interior, brilliantly designed and where all the merchandise is hidden by cabinets covered with outstanding trompe l'oeil painting. We stop at the showroom of **Grange** and end the day with cocktails in a contemporary private apartment by an up and coming designer. Dinner on **Ile de St. Louis**.

Sunday, November 7th

Morning free. Afternoon excursion to the current antique shows or special exhibitions on in Paris in November. These will be announced prior to the trip.

Monday, November 8th

Morning session at the **Cluny Museum** where we examine how medieval forms are the inspiration for much of contemporary furniture.

After lunch visit to **The House of Glass** by **Pierre Chareau**. We see the interior by special permission. This is followed by a visit to the showroom of Christian Liaigre where his

daughter, a journalist, discusses the concepts behind his designs. Visit to an historic house that a French aristocratic family has lived in for several generations. Closing dinner at one of the gastronomically famous restaurants.

Tuesday, November 9th

Hotel check out and departure.

Registration

We have been allowed access to apartments and resources on the basis that there will only be fifteen people. As the hotel is an historical building with limited occupancy, rooms vary in size and will be allocated according to receipt of registration. The fee for

deluxe double occupancy is \$5,575. Single occupancy is \$5,850. Included are almost all meals, breakfasts, luxury hotel accommodation, bus transportation, lecture and study fees, museum entrance fees, materials, and cocktail receptions. A list of reasonable bistros and restaurants will be recommended for free evenings. A registration fee of \$2,000 is required to secure a space with the balance of payment due on August 1st. Full payments not received on August 1st will be regarded as cancellations with a full refund minus \$150 and the place ceded to someone on the waiting list. No cancellations will be accepted after August 1st. As several spaces on this program have already been taken, we advise you to call early.

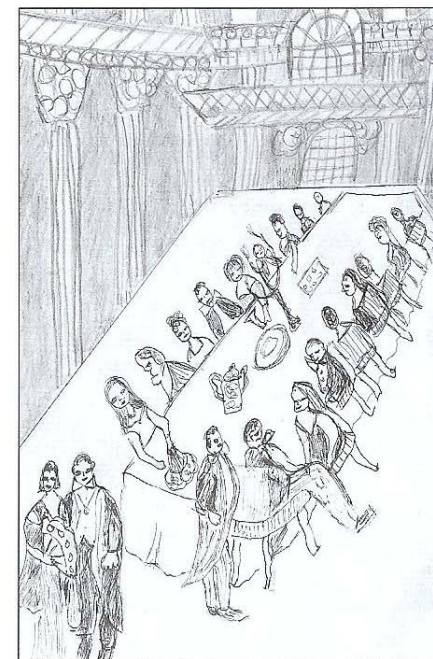
Travel insurance is mandatory.

By Invitation Only London/Cambridge

December, Sunday 5th
- Saturday 11th, 1999

DRESS in white tie and tails and formal dress as you join the *Worshipful Company of Fan Makers* in the Egyptian Hall of **The Mansion House**, one of the grandest Georgian palaces in London and home to the Lord Mayor, for a formal banquet with the Lord Mayor complete with all traditions including "passing the loving cup". Such banquets are splendid events open only to members of a livery company but the Free Warden is pleased to extend a personal invitation to participants in this program.

In a six-day study we show you both a London which you cannot see on your own, as well as enjoy being private guests of **Corpus Christi College** Cambridge. We visit ancient guilds and livery companies and little known gems, usually overlooked, to present the story of London. We reach into its heart in the **City of London**, the famous square mile of what is the oldest part of London, and explore its evolution. With the aid of an expert faculty including *Christopher Kelly, Professor of Classics Cambridge University and Dean of Corpus Christie College; John Hardy,*



International Consultant, Christie's; Dan Cruickshank, Author and Architectural Historian, we take an in-depth look at Roman London, life in Medieval times and London in the 17th and 18th centuries. In Cambridge we have special entrée to see some of the finest extant medieval paintings and the oldest manuscripts in England. We bring the past alive through period dinners in magnificent livery halls and entertainment at private clubs. Visits to special collections and private houses allow you to imagine what it was like to live in Georgian London.

Other highlights include a private evening visit to the **Tower of London** where we have the rare opportunity of a champagne reception and viewing of the Crown