



For centuries, the English interior, set in age-old family seats and great country houses that bejewel the island, has defined the quintessence of aristocratic taste. At the time of the First World War, however, these houses began to pass into the hands of new (largely American) money. This new gentry class sought to retain the nobility of the past without neglecting the comforts of the present, and turned to decorators to supply them with interiors modeled after the fine collections and heirlooms previously the exclusive possessions of the old aristocracy. The new collectors wished to honor traditional English tastes, but also to announce their own arrival with zestful splashes of color and light. Thus, the task of the decorator was to reinvent an imaginary past, glamorizing it for the present while retaining its sense of classical grandeur.

This nine day program will focus on the tastemakers of the 20th century, men and women like Syrie Maughan, Nancy Lancaster, John Fowler, David Hicks, Nina Campbell and Imogen Taylor, and David Mlinaric, each of whom developed a distinctive, and distinctively English style. We will examine

Sunday May 7

The program opens with an afternoon visit to a private home. Dinner at *The Ritz Hotel*

Monday May 8

David Mlinaric, considered the most brilliant of English designers today, will take us through the splendid interior of *Spencer House*, which has been lavishly restored to its 18th Century grandeur. Mr. Mlinaric will discuss his task in "reinventing the past, imagining it as it might have been". Lunch. Evening drinks at the home of *Ashley and Allegra Hicks* and lecture on the work of David Hicks. Dinner

Tuesday May 9

In the 1950's the designer *Oliver Messel* created a legendary suite of rooms in the penthouse at *The Dorchester Hotel*. We hold a one-day seminar in these theatrical surroundings and lunch in the Oliver Messel penthouse dining room with a distinguished cast of speakers. Late afternoon private visit to *Colefax and Fowler*.

Friday May 12

We visit the former garden and home of Nancy Lancaster, *Haseley*. Our hostess is presently readdressing the garden with the aid of Penelope Hobhouse. We lunch at Haseley. Free afternoon in Lower Slaughter. Dinner at a private home.

Saturday May 13

Ragley Hall is one of the few great stately homes still in private hands. *John Fowler* decorated it and recently *Nina Campbell* has refurbished the Dowager Duchess's home. We have drinks with the Dowager Duchess and Nina Campbell and dine in the hall. *John Hardy* discusses the earlier architecture and work of John Fowler. Late afternoon visit to *Hidecote* - perhaps the greatest garden of the 20th century. Dinner at the Manor House.

these styles and the legacies these men and women bequeath to future designers, through visits to private homes and houses as well as public institutions where their work has been exquisitely preserved.

A cast of distinguished speakers, including some of the most illustrious names in England today, will discuss the evolution of the English interior of the 20th century, its relationship to the antique trades and its fate in the century to come. We will also explore rich and luscious gardens where the designer's ingenious sense of orderly interior space is confronted by the luscious disorder of a natural world. Lunches and teas will be served in the comfort of private homes and dinners in the splendor of magnificent period rooms.

This leisurely program is limited to 15 people. The fee of \$6,850 (for double occupancy) includes accommodation in the Ritz Hotel in London and The Manor House in Lower Slaughter in the Cotswolds. There will be a \$600.00 supplement for single rooms.

Wednesday May 10

The Royal Opera House is an example of a public space that has been brought back to life in the hands of a genius designer. David Mlinaric takes us through the building discussing his renovation. Lunch at the Royal Opera House followed by a visit to a *1930's house*. Dinner.

Thursday May 11

Graham Child, former Director of English Furniture at Sotheby's addresses "The Antique Trade" as he spends a morning taking us off the beaten track to dealers known only to the trade. Pub lunch and departure for Oxfordshire to visit the garden of *David Hicks*. We enjoy Mr. Hicks' bold approach to whatever project he undertook, creating always something that was distinctly of the 20th century. Drive to *Lower Slaughter* in the Cotswolds and dinner at the *Manor House*.

Sunday May 14

Sudeley Castle is one of the most romantic and historic of England's stately homes for it was here that Katherine Parr lived 6th and last wife of Henry VIII who married Thomas Seymour of Sudeley. *Lady Ashcombe* receives us in her private quarters exquisitely decorated by *Colefax and Fowler*. Lunch at Sudeley and return to London. Farewell dinner at *The Ritz Hotel*.

Monday May 15

We address taste as it relates to an American collector and how this collection has revolutionized the idea of display in a museum. Private study at *Somerset House* of gold boxes, silver and jewelry. Champagne reception.