

Institute of Classical Architecture & Art

**PRIVATE CHARLESTON**

**October 1 – 4, 2015**

Tour Arranged by Classical Excursions

Charleston...the name rings a silver bell when it comes to elegant classical architecture at its best, a magnificent spectacle of pastel stucco, columned piazzas and ironwork balconies beautifully restored by talented architects and preservationists, and many enchantingly decorated by equally talented interior designers. The historic classical has certainly influenced Charleston's new architecture.

A certain lifestyle of charm, grace and hospitality (the "most mannerly" according to one etiquette expert) developed when Charleston became a leading port of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, a way of life that continues to this day. One would like to think that the architecture has something to do with this or perhaps the lifestyle set the standard for the architecture. No matter which, Charleston is like no other city.

Charlestonians learned early on about the advantages of preserving its beguiling antebellum surroundings. What was preserved later on was under bombardment in April 1861, when Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor was fired upon. The city suffered enormously during and well after the Civil War.

It wasn't until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century when economically flattened Charleston discovered the potential of its historic homes (there are some 3,000 still standing) and public buildings, never razed in the name of unrealized progress. The city became by law in 1931 the country's earliest advocate of historic preservation that saved whole sections, thereby recognizing the aesthetic and economic value of its architectural legacy.

The Institute of Classical Architecture and Art invites you to join its Private Charleston tour, where doors will be opened on some of the city's most exclusive and sophisticated homes.

As a start, there is Gatewood House, a magnificent 1843 Greek Revival residence that New York architect Gil Schafer has sensitively restored and has modernized certain amenities. Here, the owners will host Sunday brunch. Roper House, owned by, shall we say without stretching a point, America's leading collector of classical houses, Richard Jenrette. The rooms are gorgeously furnished with museum-level Empire furniture and appropriate period window treatments.

Stayed tuned. This is only the beginning with more sites to come, including the work of the city's highly rated architects and interior designers, including Glenn Keyes and Amelia Handegan.

Three-night accommodations have been reserved at the The Mills House Wyndham Grand Hotel, opened in 1853 and now a member of the Historic Hotels of America, authorized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

For further information, contact Tom Hayes, director of Classical Excursions, [tom@classicalexursions.com](mailto:tom@classicalexursions.com), 413-243-4155.