



PRIVATE CHARLOTTE: EXPLORING CLASSICISM IN THE SOUTHEAST

with the North Carolina Chapter of ICAA
November 4 to 7, 2025 · Tuesday to Friday
Tour arrangements by Classical Excursions

Charlotte is home to several leading ICAA architects such as Ruard Veltman Architecture and Interiors and Pursley Dixon Architecture, whose work will be featured alongside such prominent historic architects as William Lawrence Bottomley and prominent Charlotte architect Martin Boyer (1893-1970) considered Charlottes preeminent revivalist architect. Image: The center hall of The Duke Mansion (hotel).

This is a vibrant city known today for its financial prowess and modern skyline, has deep historic roots that stretch back to its colonial past. Originally inhabited by the Catawba Nation, the area began to take its modern shape in the 18th century, when waves of European settlers, primarily Scotch-Irish and German, moved into the region.

Founded in 1768 and named in honor of Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, wife of King George III of England, the city proudly carries its royal heritage in both name and spirit. During the American Revolution, Charlotte gained a reputation as a hotbed of independence and defiance. British General Cornwallis famously called it a “hornet’s nest of rebellion”—a nickname that stuck and is still used with pride by Charlotteans today. As the 19th century progressed, Charlotte became a hub for commerce and the cotton trade, and in 1837, it became the site of the first branch of the U.S. Mint outside of Philadelphia. This period also marked the city’s early industrial growth, fueled by its position as a transportation and trade center due to the arrival of the railroad.

Charlotte's neighborhoods reflect the city's layered history. Dilworth, the city’s first streetcar suburb, was developed in the 1890s and showcases charming Queen Anne and Colonial Revival homes. Myers Park, a meticulously planned garden suburb developed in the early 20th century, offers tree-lined boulevards and stunning examples of Southern architecture. Other historic districts like Wesley Heights and Fourth Ward preserve the city’s early residential charm and community spirit. In the 20th century, Charlotte’s role in the civil rights movement and its emergence as a financial capital added new dimensions to its evolving story. Today, historic landmarks such as the Hezekiah Alexander Rock House (built in 1774), Historic Rosedale Plantation, and the Charlotte Museum of History anchor the city’s rich narrative in place.



Charlotte's historic fabric is not just preserved in its buildings and museums, but also in its culture and communities—where past and present intertwine in a city that remembers its roots even as it looks to the future.



Image: The Duke Mansion (hotel)

OVERVIEW of the ITINERARY

TUESDAY, November 4th • Arrival to Charlotte

Afternoon arrival and check-in to The Duke Mansion, where we will be staying for 3 nights. That evening enjoy an opening talk and dinner at the mansion.

WEDNESDAY, November 5th and THURSDAY, November 6th

Both days will be spent with private tours of residences designed by such architects as Ruard Veltman, Bobby McAlpine and Martin Boyer. We'll have a visit to 318 Cherokee Road by Pursley Dixon Architects, and a visit to the Wing Haven Garden. Lunch one day at Quail Hallow Country Club. Private reception at the Schwab Residence (as featured in Verandah Magazine). And two of our dinners will be at the Charlotte Country Club, and at Stagioni, the former Reynolds-Gourmajenko House designed by William Lawrence Bottomley.

FRIDAY, November 7th

Morning touring continues. The trip will end by noon. Independent departures – or you may wish to extend your stay to explore more of Charlotte.

Meals Included in the Itinerary: breakfast and lunch daily per itinerary, one reception and three dinners.

Itinerary as of May 2025 and subject to updating by Classical Excursions.

THE DUKE MANSION: Built in 1915 and tripled by its most famous owner James Buchanan Duke, Duke Mansion has been home and host to leaders of the 20th century. Duke's most lasting legacies, including Duke University, Duke Energy and The Duke Endowment, took shape at the home. Today, the mansion is run as a nonprofit historic inn, gardens and meeting place in the heart of Charlotte. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Famous philanthropist Doris Duke grew up here. Her parents also had Rough Point in Newport, the Duke Mansion on upper Fifth Avenue in New York City (today home of the New York University's Institute of Fine Arts) and Duke Farms in Hillsborough, NJ.

1915: The home is built by Zeb Taylor in the newly created Myers Park Neighborhood. It remains a fine example of Colonial Revival Architecture.

1919: Buck Duke's Water Fountain: In order to introduce his beloved daughter, Doris, to life in the South, North Carolina entrepreneur James B. "Buck" Duke purchases the home and triples it in size. Renowned Charlotte residential architect C.C. Hook designs the Dukes' renovation. It serves as a home base for him as his business grows.

1924: James B. Duke: Working in the mansion solarium, Mr. Duke envisions an endowment for the betterment of his community. Today, The Duke Endowment invests more than \$200 million annually in worthy causes across the Carolinas.

1926: After Buck Duke's death in 1925, Mr. C.C. Coddington, owner of the local Buick dealership and of radio station WBT, purchases Duke Mansion. He and his three boys live in the Mansion until his untimely death.

Quail Hollow Club was founded in 1959. The original golf course, designed by George Cobb, opened in 1961. The clubhouse followed in 1967 with a white southern-style building designed by Charles W. Connelly & Associates. Over the years, the golf course has had modifications by Arnold Palmer, Tom Fazio.

Charlotte Country Club, a renowned golf club in North Carolina, has a rich history dating back to its founding in 1910. Initially named the Mecklenburg Country Club, it was later officially renamed Charlotte Country Club in 1917. The building's history includes a red brick house (known as the "Rock House") that was remodeled and expanded to become the initial clubhouse. A new, larger clubhouse was completed in 1931, designed by renowned Charlotte architect, Louis Asbury.

The Stagioni restaurant is located in a building that was previously the home of socialite Blanche Reynolds-Gourmajenko in the early 1900s. The architect for the villa was William Lawrence Bottomley, who also designed the Italian villa that served as inspiration for the building. Known for her grand parties and vivacious sense of humor, her home was called "The Villa". The restaurant, which opened in 1926, pays homage to her and continues to maintain a high standard of hospitality. The building, a historic landmark.

Ruard A. Veltman | Ruard Veltman Architecture + Interiors
Owner & Principal Architect | www.ruardveltmanarchitecture.com

In 2005, Ruard founded Ruard Veltman Architecture + Interiors, a Charlotte, North Carolina-based firm specializing in residential architecture, interior design, and custom furniture. Ruard expanded to an LA office in 2023 and, as the lead principal architect, remains responsible for each design from the initial concept. He draws by hand to develop the preliminary design stages, before assigning a project architect to help develop

the construction documents stage for the project. He is passionate about designing homes that incorporate traditional and timeless design with organic and modernistic elements.

Ruard received his Bachelor of Architecture from Auburn University where he was mentored by McArthur Genius Samuel Mockbee in the School of Architecture's Rural Studio. After graduating, Ruard was trained by and worked for Bobby McAlpine in Montgomery, Alabama, before starting his own firm in 2005 based in Charlotte, North Carolina, with two remote coastal studios; one on the East Coast in Bald Head Island, North Carolina, and the second on the West Coast in Los Angeles, California. He is also an active member of the Design Leadership Network, the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, and American Institute of Architects.

The firm's projects can be found all over the country, including North Carolina, California, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Colorado, Utah, Maryland, Georgia, Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and Indiana. For information on our published projects, please view our [Press](#) page.

Bobby McAlpine | McALPINE

Founder, Partner, Architect | www.mcalpinehouse.com

It is no wonder why I love this work. I am called by houses. I understand them.

Born in an Alabama sawmill town, Bobby designed his first house at the age of five—and hasn't stopped since. Architect, romantic, poet and entrepreneur, he envisions home as a timeless, graceful, and emotionally evocative place. From the time he founded the firm in 1983, he has realized this ideal in a diverse array of traditional styles and regional vernaculars for clients all over the country. Today, known as McAlpine, the firm now embraces a brilliant and eclectic family of professional architects and interior designers with offices in New York, Nashville, Atlanta, Palm Beach, and the original corporate office in Montgomery. Bobby's popular furniture line, McAlpine Home, is available nationwide. His latest book, *McAlpine Romantic Modernism* (Rizzoli 2023) joins his critically acclaimed and Rizzoli bestselling titles *The Home Within Us* (2010) and *Poetry of Place* (2017).

Ken Pursley and Craig Dixon | Pursley Dixon Architecture

Founders | www.pursleydixon.com

Pursley Dixon Architecture is an architecture and interior design firm specializing in custom residential work. Founded on the simple thought that beauty matters, our firm strives to thoughtfully create living spaces that are as beautiful and unique as the people who will occupy them. Ever mindful of traditional building elements, the design team collectively views both modernism and classicism as a part of the broader language of architecture, while working to cultivate a fresh and forward approach to design. Distinctive homes created by the thirteen member firm can be found throughout the country, including in North Carolina, New York, California, Illinois, Colorado, Maryland, Virginia, Vermont, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and South Carolina. Our work has been featured in numerous publications including *Traditional Home*, *Luxe Interiors + Design*, *Garden & Gun*, *House Beautiful*, *Southern Accents*, *Southern Living*, *Renovation Style*, *Elegant Homes*, *Decor Magazine*, *Southern Home*, *The Classicist*, and *Beautiful Homes*. We were honored to receive the Philip Trammell Shutze Award for Residential Architecture, the Veranda/ADAC award for architecture firm of the year and the Southern Living Home of the Year award.

Martin E. Boyer, Jr. (1893-1970 | www.ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000589

Boyer was born in Glen Wilton VA and moved to Charlotte NC in 1908. He graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1917 then volunteered for the Navy in WWI. In 1919, he returned to Charlotte and worked for the Southern Engineering Company before opening his own design firm in 1920. Some of his drawings burned in a 1922 fire. During World War II, he worked for the Army Corps of Engineers. He is known for preserving the Charlotte branch of the U.S. Mint in 1932, a building now known as the Mint Museum of Art. He retired in 1966. Boyer did mostly traditional house architecture.

Boyer was among the first of Charlotte's architects to become a member of the American Institute of Architects. When he went to Wilmington to attend a meeting of the group, the *Charlotte Observer* of July 29, 1921 noted that he was also secretary and treasurer of the Architectural Association of North Carolina.

Some of Boyer's projects in the early 1920s were for public schools—one in Lilesville and another in Morganton—but as Charlotte's suburban growth took off in the 1920s, he found a special niche in designing residences for the families of the business and professional leaders who populated such elegant suburbs as Eastover and Myers Park. He is credited with designing as many as twenty-five houses in these two neighborhoods, exceeding the number by other leading local architects who planned the city's fine suburban residences of the era, such as Franklin Gordon, C. C. Hook, Leonard L. Hunter, and William H. Peeps. The landscape designs for many of these houses were by Earle Sumner Draper.

William Lawrence Bottomley (1883-1951) | <https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000130>

William Lawrence Bottomley (February 24, 1883-February 1, 1951) was a Beaux-Arts trained master of the period revival styles popular in the early to mid-20th century. With offices in New York, he took many commissions in that city and its environs, but his skill in the Georgian Revival and other Beaux-Arts influenced modes also won him a strong clientele in the American South as well, especially in Virginia. His best known work in North Carolina is his Palladian inspired Raleigh residence, Tatton Hall.

Bottomley's four known North Carolina projects well represent his work in style and type. One of his first projects in North Carolina was for Emmanuel Episcopal Church II, located in Warrenton, a small town near the Virginia border. The congregation asked Bottomley in 1926 to design a new brick church, but soon realized that their limited budget could support only a "restoration" of the existing 19th century frame church. He transformed the old church with brick veneer in Flemish bond and buttresses. About the same time, Bottomley planned the Reynolds-Gourmajenko House in Charlotte, in a Tuscan Revival style for Blanche (Alice B.) Morgan Reynolds and her husband, William A. Reynolds, a cotton oil manufacturer. Blanche, who had grown up in Richmond, was known for her interest in the arts and as a "world traveler and independent spirit."

Bottomley's other known works in North Carolina, both built during the Great Depression, illustrate his facility with the Georgian Revival style. Not far from Warrenton, in the small town of Weldon near the Virginia border, he designed the luxurious Georgian Revival style DeLeon F. and Dora Green House (1934) for retired tobacco executive Green and his wife, Dora. When Norman and Mishew Rogers Edgerton decided to build their residence, Tatton Hall, on the northwestern side of Raleigh during the Depression, they considered and rejected other house designs before learning of Bottomley from their landscape architect, Charles Gillette.

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Updated as of May 2025 | Itinerary subject to change without notice.