

Solarium Restoration

The restoration of the Solarium in the Manor House is almost finished! Restoring this room adjacent to the Music Room has actually a combination of several projects. Objects, textiles, and room features were all restored to bring this space back to its original beauty.

Thank you to The Reinberger Foundation, which funded the restoration of The Solarium.

THE FOUNTAIN

The marble fountain in the center of the room needed a large amount of work. Due to water and calcium deposits — as well as poor temperature and humidity control in a 100-year-old house — the fountain had discolored and cracked. To restore, the marble was honed by hand to remove deposits, and the cracks were filled with a matching epoxy. The marble bowl and bronze putti (cherubs) were polished to bring back their shine.



Fountain bowl and putti before restoration.



Testing a honing spot to remove deposits.



Fountain bowl and putti after restoration efforts.

Upholstered Furniture

Another project to tackle was the upholstery and trim of the Chippendale style furniture. Eight pieces of furniture were restored in this room in 2018: two ottomans, two settees, one easy chair, and three chairs. The original upholstery chosen by the Seiberlings in the early part of the 20th century was a blue and gold damask fabric with dragonflies and pheasants. In the late 1980s, the furniture was recovered with fabrics in a powder blue damask.

The collections team wanted to restore the furniture with fabric in the original blue and gold pattern, so the team went to the archives and found samples of the original fabric and trim to use as a guide to determine how the new custom fabric and trim should look.



Original upholstery and fringe trim.



2018 upholstery and trim.



A full repeat of the new fabric.



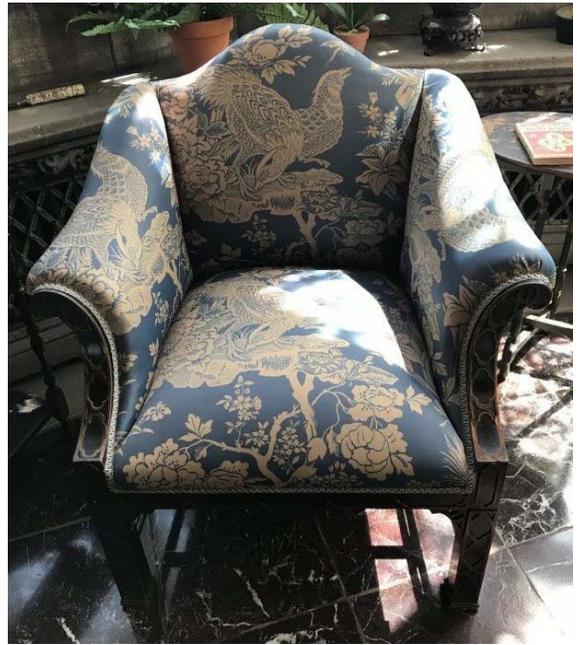
Second generation fabric and trim



2018 fabric and trim

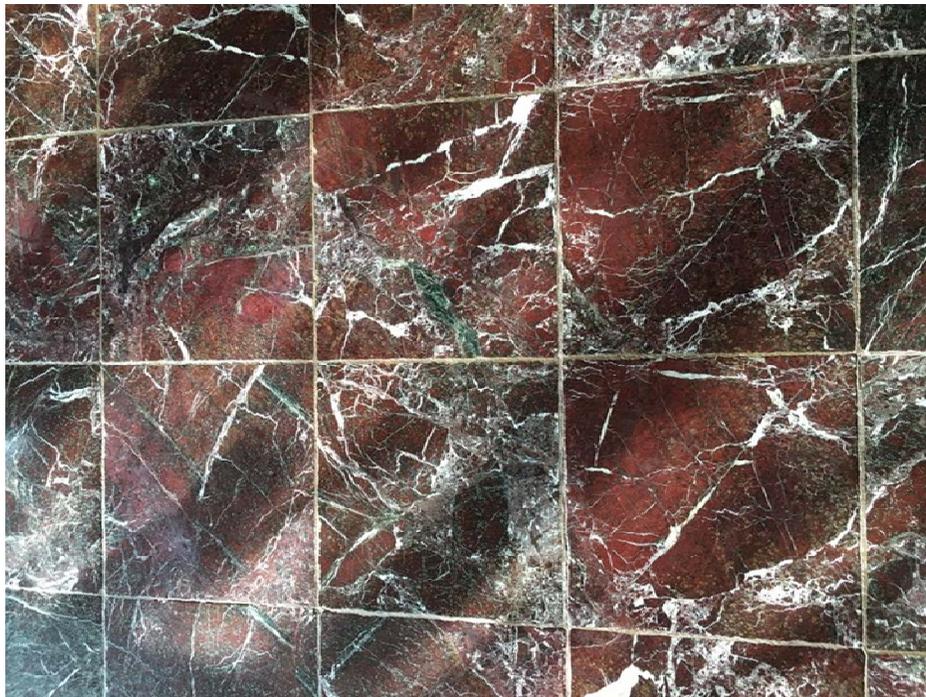


Second generation upholstery



2018 upholstery

MARBLE FLOOR



The floors in the Solarium were polished, revealing multi-colored veins in the marble.

Objects Restored at ICA – Art Conservation

Seventeen objects from the Solarium were sent to the ICA – Art Conservation (ICA) in Cleveland for conservation work. This included six tables, one desk, some decorative pieces, an ornate wastebasket, a leather chest, and two lamps. Pictured below are the restored fold-out writing desk, a tilt-top table, a Karako Drummer lamp, a leather chest, and the fire screen.



Cloud Collar

The last object the ICA is working on is the “Cloud Collar” that hangs over the fireplace. It is a silk ceremonial collar meant to be worn by a high ranking Chinese nobleman. The Seiberlings used it as a decorative feature in this room. Silk is a very vulnerable textile and can flake and shred over time —even in the most perfect storage conditions, which is what happened here. Stan Hywet sent it to the ICA, where the textile conservator is stabilizing the threads and reorienting it for display. Once it’s back, the Solarium restoration will be complete.



On your next tour of the Manor House, make sure to visit the restored Solarium in the Manor House.

For more information on Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens,
including tour options and operating hours, please visit stanhywet.org

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