



AIA Long Island Chapter proudly presents Gary Lawrance of Lawrance Architectural Presentations

Gary Lawrance is an architect from Stony Brook, New York. His firm, Lawrance Architectural Presentations, provides design presentations, architectural models and design development services to architects, landscape architects and interior designers. Most of his recent work has involved the refinement and development of study models into fully detailed models of fine residences and landscapes in the Hamptons and Long Island's north shore.

Since completing his architectural thesis on the country house architecture of Long Island's Gold Coast in 1982, at the New York Institute of Technology, Old Westbury, New York from where he graduated with a Bachelor's of Architecture, Mr. Lawrance has lectured on the lost architecture of the Gilded Age for historical and garden societies, and preservation and arts groups. Gary Lawrance also consults with preservation groups, scholars, and homeowners in researching the historical background of their properties.

He has written articles on architecture and society for Architectural Digest and Quest magazine, co-authored the best selling book "Houses of the Hamptons, 1880-1930", Acanthus Press 2007, and writes for his two blogs, Mansions of the Gilded Age and Houses of the Hamptons, in addition to founding and contributing to the very successful Mansions of the Gilded Age Facebook Group. Mr. Lawrance is currently researching his next book "Houses of Palm Beach, 1900-1940

HOUSES OF THE HAMPTONS, 1880 1930 explores more than 30 houses, many designed by some of America's leading architects McKim, Mead & White, John Russell Pope, Harrie T. Lindeberg and by less well-known but equally gifted designers such as Edward Purcell Mellon, Isaac H. Green, and John Custis Lawrence. Less enamored with showy grandeur than Newport, but clearly a place apart from the whitewashed cottages of New England, the great summer places of the Hamptons present an ensemble of exceptional architectural variety and achievement. Here, American Colonial, half-timbered Tudor, and red brick Georgian vie with shingled cottage and Mediterranean fantasy. The book is illustrated with more than 300 photographs and floor plans, and its text provides a rich and informative portrait of the American leisure class at play. Authors Gary Lawrance and Anne Surchin lead the reader on a tour of a bygone era when couples in white flannel played tennis or croquet on verdant lawns or when America's aristocracy flocked to watch the students of William Merritt Chase's Shinnecock Art School at their paintings. The volume also contains biographical sketches of individual architects, a comprehensive bibliography, and a portfolio of some 40 grand residences of this beautiful and unsurpassed vacation enclave. Through word and image, HOUSES OF THE HAMPTONS recaptures the grace and beauty of an era long vanished. Lovingly researched and chronicled by the authors, that era lives again in these vibrant pages.

Fifth Avenue Chateaux: Fifth Avenue's Glorious French Mansions during the Gilded Age

In a period not so long ago, there were palaces that lined New York's Fifth Avenue from Washington Square to the upper reaches of the avenue, built by some of the most prominent architects of the day for America's newly rich Millionaires: the Astors, Vanderbilts, Whitneys, Phipps, Goulds, and many others. While many great fortunes of the time were made in other parts of the country, to be truly recognized as a success, a mansion on New York's Fifth Avenue was the ultimate accomplishment.

Many also chose to have mansions designed that recalled the glories of French architecture. These new millionaires wanted to live in replica French chateaus and miniature Versailles, with interiors and furnishings worthy of the originals, if not the actual pieces. These homes also housed art galleries, ballrooms, libraries, numerous theme rooms, and dining rooms that would seat 100 or more guests.

The new millionaires of the Gilded Age craved culture and refinement and looked to France for almost every detail for their lifestyles. At the parties given in these great houses, often meals would be prepared by French chefs accompanied with fine French wines. The ladies would be attired in silken gowns from Worth of Paris, wearing jewels from the French court, some even wore Marie Antoinette's diamonds. They then descended marble staircases, lit by footmen holding blazing candelabras, into gilded paneled salons. Amongst the palms, Rembrandts, crystal, gold, and ancient velvets, the guests danced and plotted marriages to European Nobility, made inquiries into getting friends into their inner circle, and told gossip to banish enemies.

Many of these fabulous mansions have vanished without anyone ever knowing of the secret splendors beyond their gilded doors. It was a time of excessive grandeur and playfulness, and while it was only yesterday, it seems as far away as the Court of Versailles.

Some of the houses to be discussed which were inspired by French originals are as follows:

Mrs. Astor's rather plain but impenetrable brownstone at 34th Street, and her later marble palace on 65th Street, where she would stand in front of a full length portrait to welcome "The 400".

The William K. Vanderbilt house at 52nd Street, designed by Beaux Arts architect Richard Morris Hunt, that would forever change the style of all future townhouses, built to dazzle Society and gain entrance for the Vanderbilts into Mrs. Astor's world.

Cornelius Vanderbilt II's block-long house at 57th Street, designed by architect George Post, the largest townhouse ever built, with its French paneled ballroom, overlooking the Plaza Hotel



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Mr. Lawrance will give an illustrated view into the great summer resort homes that made the Hamptons, often referred to as the “American Riviera,” one of the premier resorts of glamour, luxury and architectural achievement. Some of the houses to be discussed are Wooldon Manor, the home of Jesse Woolworth Donahue; Black Point, the H. H. Rogers mansion; Bayberry Land, The du Ponts’ Chestertown House, Villa Mille Fiore, Red Maples, and The Orchard, one of architect Stanford White’s last great commissions. The talk will also give a brief history of the founding of the Summer Colony.

Mr. Lawrance has an extensive background in the history of Gilded Age architecture, landscapes, and society, and co-authored the bestselling book, **“Houses of the Hamptons 1880-1930”** with Anne Surchin (Acanthus Press 2007, Revised 3rd Printing 2013). Lecturing on the lost architecture of the Gilded Age for historical and garden societies, preservation and arts groups for over twenty years, Mr. Lawrance curates a symposium on the Gilded Age, held at Lyndhurst Castle in Tarrytown, New York, currently in its third year with the recent one taking place on April 29, 2018. Mr. Lawrance is currently working on his next book, “Houses of Palm Beach, 1900-1950”.

Mr. Lawrance will also speak on the *Fifth Avenue Chateaux—Fifth Avenue’s French Mansions during the Gilded Age.*

Some of his more recent lectures are:

Smithsonian Associates: Architectural Splendors: Fifth Avenue Palaces and Long Island Retreats
 Mansions of the Gilded Age Symposium, Lyndhurst, Tarrytown, NY; Gilding the Coasts: Art & Design of Long Island’s Great Estates, Long Island Museum, Stony Brook, NY; The Orchard: Stanford White’s Final Masterpiece, Southampton Historical Museum, Southampton, NY

This is a program that should not be missed.

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2018
Time: Cocktails/Dinner - 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM
 Program begins promptly at 7:30 PM
Place: Chateaubriand, 440 Old Country Road, Carle Place, NY
 516-334-6125 for directions
Cost: \$55.00 AIA/LIC Members \$25.00 Associate Member
 \$65.00 AIA Members \$80.00 Non Members
CEU: 2LU’s

We accept Visa, MasterCard & American Express or check
 Fax reservation to: 516-294-0973
 Email: alomo3535@aol.com
 Or mail to:

AIA Long Island Chapter, 499 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 101, Mineola, NY 11501

Enclosed is \$ _____ _____ Attendee _____ Attendee _____ Telephone No. (required) _____ Credit Card Number	for _____ Reservations _____ Member Number _____ Member Number _____ Email Address (required) _____ Expiration Date - Security Code
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