



CARING FOR A MASTERPIECE OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

The work of preserving the building and its precious interiors is never finished. Saving what is so special and unique about this National Historic Landmark always requires devoted champions. As an example of the finest design created in America at the middle of the nineteenth century, the building and its interiors are without parallel and are therefore of national and even international importance.

Far from being a static museum, Victoria Mansion is a center of cutting-edge preservation and conservation work, where some of the world's foremost preservation experts pioneer techniques that advance the field. It is an ever-evolving, dynamic study in historic preservation and art conservation.

Conservation and Restoration: Unprecedented Expertise

Victoria Mansion is fortunate to collaborate with many nationally – and even world – renown experts in conservation and historic preservation who help carry out ongoing work at the Mansion. Several have done work for other landmarks such as the U.S. Capitol Building, Faneuil Hall, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and The Alamo, among others.

Decorative Paint Conservation

Victoria Mansion strives to return the house's interiors to their original 1860 condition while preserving important evidence of its evolution over time. Ongoing efforts to clean and restore paint, woodwork, and furniture allow visitors to see the Mansion interiors in all of their nineteenth-century splendor. Since 2012, major interior restorations of the Turkish Smoking Room, Vestibule, Pompeian Bathroom Suite, Reception Suite, and Parlor have been completed. Continuing our valued partnership with the Gianfranco Pocobene Studio, a project to clean and conserve the painted decoration in the Mansion's grand central Stair Hall is currently underway.

- **Gianfranco Pocobene** is the Principal of [Gianfranco Pocobene Studio](#) which specializes in the conservation and restoration of paintings, murals, and historic paint decorations. The studio undertakes treatments of the highest quality for museums, religious institutions, universities, private galleries & collectors. Gianfranco is also the former Chief Paintings and Research Conservator at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston.

- **Christopher Stravoudis** is a private conservator based in Los Angeles specializing in paintings. He obtained undergraduate degrees in Chemistry and Art History from the University of Arizona and his master's degree in art conservation from the University of Delaware/Winterthur program in 1983. He has conserved works by many artists including a public conservation project on a [Jackson Pollock piece](#) at The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.
- **Tony Castro** founded [Tony Castro and Company](#) over thirty-five years ago and restored and decorated the walls and ceilings of countless buildings. He and his team of collaborators have completed the restoration of decorative paintings in some of Maine's finest historic buildings. Notable projects include the interiors of Cumston Hall, the Bowdoin College Chapel, the Joshua Chamberlain House, The Norlands, Biddeford City Theater, First Parish Church in Yarmouth and many other village churches as well as scores of private homes.
- **Jon Sampson** is owner of [Sampson & Company](#), specializing in classical ornamental restoration and replication. Jon's craft extends to contemporary plaster design and veneer plaster, delivering the warmth and authentic feel of plaster to 3 coat plaster systems. For over two decades he has honed his craft working around the United States on many iconic buildings including Grand Central Station in New York City, Union Station in Kansas City and The White House. In Maine, his work includes the State Street Church, the Daniel Freeman House, The Front Room and The Corner Room Restaurants.
- **Amy Cole Ives** is an architectural conservator and historic paint analyst with [Sutherland Conservation and Consulting](#). Amy provides paint research, analysis and documentation for buildings, vehicles, furniture, paintings and objects using cross-section and polarized light microscopy to identify and document plain and decorative paint schemes, paint layer structures and pigments. She has worked on exciting and fascinating projects for private, non-profit, institutional and museum clients, including Historic New England, Peabody Essex Museum, Bowdoin College, the University of Virginia, John Canning Company, The Lost Mural Project, Rufus Porter Museum, the Bermuda National Trust and Strawberry Banke Museum.

Historic Masonry and Architectural Sculpture

Preservation work both inside and outside the Mansion is unfolding at an unprecedented pace. Major projects are now underway to restore a series of rooftop balustrades along the front of the house and to restore the Mansion's front bay window, our first brownstone project in twenty years.

- **Ivan Myjer** is the principal of [Building and Monument Conservation](#) in Arlington, Mass. For the last three-plus decades he has served as a consultant and hands-on conservator caring for traditional masonry buildings as well as architectural sculpture

and stone monuments. He has worked on such iconic structures as the White House, the Alamo, Plymouth Rock, New York's Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, and of course, Victoria Mansion.

- **Robert Shure** is the principal of [Skylight Studio](#) in Woburn, Massachusetts, an historic sculpture design studio specializing in the creation of commissioned public and private sculptures, monuments, memorials, portraits, reliefs, and architectural sculpture and ornament. Projects range from the design and creation of figurative and contemporary sculpture to the conservation and restoration of historically significant museum pieces. Their worldwide clientele includes museums, universities, architects, interior designers, private collectors, cities, towns, veterans' groups, and the U.S. government, including the National Park Service.
- **Stone and Lime Historic Restoration Services** has a long track record of working on historic masonry projects spanning from Massachusetts to Texas. Stone & Lime Historic Restoration Services was established to provide labor services to help execute historic restoration projects. In 2016, Christopher Dabek joined the Stone & Lime team, bringing his knowledge of masonry restoration and building envelope restoration. In recent years Stone & Lime has been taking the role of general contractor, managing all trades of the projects and working directly with owners such as the National Park Service, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), Harvard University, Bentley University, and Wellesley College among others. A few of the most notable projects are the JW McCormack Federal Courthouse in Boston, the restoration of Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas National Park, and the stabilization of Plymouth Rock.

Woodworking and Preservation Carpentry

- **John Leeke** is a nationally recognized expert in historic preservation with over forty years of experience and the creator of [John Leeke's Historic HomeWorks™](#). He also authored *Save America's Windows* and is a registered building assessor for the federal Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program. John was recently honored by [Traditional Building Magazine](#) as one of the industry's "25 leaders who have dedicated their careers to the classical and traditional styles in myriad and outstanding ways that are serving as models around the country." John was instrumental in designing and executing the practical roadmap for Victoria Mansion's Preservation Trades Workshops and was the instructor for the first set of workshops held in April 2024.
- **Robert Cariddi** operates R Cariddi Fine Woodworking in Buxton, Maine, where he specializes in creating high-quality custom wood products for both residential and commercial clients. As a cabinetmaker and conservator of more than fifty years, he has worked on some of the very best historic houses and museums throughout New England. For over forty years, Bob has lovingly cared for the Mansion's spectacular

woodwork, including a restoration of the original front doors in 1986. He's currently working on the project to recreate a missing series of rooftop balustrades which once graced the Mansion's front façade. Restoring these lost elements will make the building's most photographed face whole again for the first time since the 1950s.

Historic Textiles

Victoria Mansion is also the steward of a rich and important collection of original textiles, including fabrics, tassels, and trims as well as remnants of drapes, upholstery, and carpets dating to the house's original 1860 decoration. Following a successful project to faithfully replicate the original fabrics and trims in the Turkish Smoking Room, new efforts to carefully research and restore textiles in the Parlor and Reception Room are now underway.

- **Jacqueline Field** was born and educated in Scotland. A graduate of Edinburgh College of Art, she is now a long time U.S. resident. After a career teaching textile subjects, she devotes most of her time to scholarship, writing about textiles with numerous articles, including *From Agriculture to Industry: Silk Production in Maine*, and a book, *American Silk 1830-1930*. Jacqueline led the efforts to source and replicate the Mansion's Stair Hall carpet design, including extensive research at the Templeton Carpet Company archive in Glasgow.
- **Melissa Debbs-McDougald** has over 25 years of international experience in furniture conservation and restoration. She preserves memories and recreates period designs through traditional methods, and provides finishing, repairs, and reproduction of carved elements enabling each piece to stand out in its environment as it was intended. Melissa restored the leather upholstery of the Mansion's set of original Herter Dining Room chairs, applying period-accurate French polish to their wood works in the process.
- **Deirdre Windsor** is an independent textile conservator and Principal of Windsor Conservation in Dover, Massachusetts. Formerly the Director and Chief Conservator of the Textile Conservation Center, at the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts, she has over 25 years of experience working on the conservation of textiles and fashion arts. Deirdre holds a BFA in Textile Design from the Rhode Island School of Design. She trained in textile conservation at the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Institute of Archaeology in London. In 2001, Windsor was awarded the Rome Prize in Historic Preservation and Conservation, a fellowship funded by the National Endowment for the Arts at the American Academy in Rome.