

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



BLUFF HEIGHTS

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

INC

www.bluffheights.org • (562) 439-BHNA

Autumn 2007 Issue • Happy Halloween!

FALL MEETING ON THURSDAY, 9/20 AT 7PM

FREE BHNA T-SHIRTS!*

**While supplies last*

Neighborhood Forum

Catherine Morley & Christine Votava

Join us as we kick off of the Fall season at our Neighborhood Forum meeting featuring our neighborhood school, Horace Mann Elementary (held in the auditorium, Obispo at Mariquita). Mark Thursday at 7pm on September 20 on your calendar. Doors open at 6:45 PM for socializing and refreshments.

A G E N D A

- Welcome and Neighborhood of the year award honor
- Report from City Council Offices
- Public Safety Report
- BHNA Slate of Officers 2008
- Guest Speaker: Jon Meyer
- Questions and Answers
- Save the date: Winter's Neighborhood Forum, 1-17-08

We are fortunate to have a local school where our children can walk to school with friends, attend after school events and parents can have a role in their child's education without needing to drive out of the area.

As guest speakers, we will have representatives from the PTO, teachers and administrators. Jon Meyer who is the vice president of the Long Beach Unified School District, will speak on plans for



Fun In The Sun! Horace Mann Recreation Supervisor Amy Hanley and Students enjoy another beautiful day during the Summer Recreation Program. The BHNA donated a goody basket filled with snacks and craft supplies to the students.

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the school, upcoming programs, and answer our questions.

As you may have noticed, we are experiencing a Baby Boom in Bluff Heights. Baby carriages and strollers are frequently spotted on our neighborhood sidewalks. In a few years these children will soon need to attend school. Is our school ready for them? This is an issue all of us. Not just



Jon Meyer

Continued on page 3

Bluff Heights wins national recognition!

Dale Maul & John Thomas

It seems we always have great news to report as part of our Presidents' message and this edition is no exception!

In May, we attended the Neighborhood USA (NUSA) Conference in Baton Rouge Louisiana. BHNA was one of sixteen finalists for the Neighborhood of the Year award from NUSA. BHNA was nominated in part due to our successful programs and projects completed in 2006. The category BHNA was placed in was Projects and Programs and BHNA was awarded 2nd prize! The prize included a wonderful plaque and a check in the amount of \$250.

While receiving the 2nd prize was a great honor, being selected a nominee out of many neighborhood associations throughout the country was the real prize! The Board is very proud of our accomplishments and, thanks to your continued support and volunteering, BHNA will continue to grow and meet the needs of our residents.

One of the

responsibilities we have as Co-Presidents is to develop a slate of officers to serve on the Board in 2008. We have been speaking to many of you who have expressed interest in serving as a Board member or a committee member. While some Board members have agreed to return and serve another year, a few will be moving on after serving the BHNA with distinction and honor. We will celebrate their accomplishments at our Neighborhood Forum as well. We will be presenting a slate for your consideration and approval at our September 20th Neighborhood Forum. While some of you may not be interested in serving as a Board member, we are always looking for residents who

would like to be a part of one of our many active committees. If you would like to join a committee or help out occasionally with events, please contact BHNA and let us know. We sincerely appreciate all the support and recognition BHNA

receives from our residents, but we are only successful in meeting our needs due to YOUR participation. Your continued support via membership dues, attending our events, and volunteering to help out is strategic to our ongoing success and meeting the needs of the Bluff Heights neighborhood!

We want to express our sincere thanks to the July 4th Committee for another successful Block Party celebration! Many BHNA residents and friends enjoyed great food, fun and games, entertainment, and wonderful raffle prizes. The big hit of the event is always the Pooch and Pram Parade and this year we had vintage cars

and bicycles on display which was a surprise for all those attending the party. A Big thank you goes to the Vista residents who are willing to share their block with the entire BHNA. We also want to thank the many businesses that donated items for the silent auction, food, and in kind items...we couldn't do it without their contributions!

Please remember to attend the next Neighborhood Forum on Thursday, September 20th! ♦



The Certificate of Commendation from the Vice Mayor



Congratulations from our State Senator, Alan Lowenthal



Council Member, Suja Lowenthal, recognizes Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association's contributions

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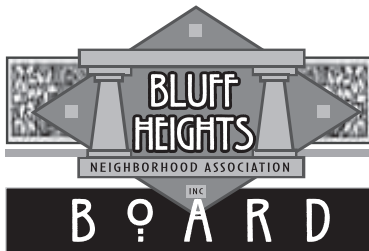
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- Co-President.....John Thomas**
- Vice President.....Catherine Morley**
- Treasurer.....Christine Votava**
- Secretary.....Gary Ostrowski**
- Board Member.....Ron Bird**
- Board Member.....Barbara McPherson**
- Board Member.....Lee McCabe**
- Board Member.....Rachael McCabe**
- Board Member.....Dennis Snyder**

The board stands through 1-4-08

Next Three Community Meetings:

- September 20, 2007
- January 17, 2008
- April 17, 2008

Next Three Board Meetings:

- October 4, 2007
- November 1, 2007
- December 6, 2007

Meeting focus is Horace Mann

Continued from page one

parents need to be concerned about it. A good neighborhood school increases property values, encourages less absentee ownership and retains families, creating a more desirable place to live. Historically, schools have been the heart of American communities. When a school anchors a neighborhood both the students and the residents benefit.

The Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association is committed to assisting Horace Mann School to provide volunteers and support for extra curricular activities. Our Objectives...

- To support Students, Parents, Teachers and Administration at Horace Mann Elementary through Neighborhood Volunteerism, Financing of School Projects and Field Trips, and Fundraising Efforts for Academic Related Activities.
- To Beautify the Campus to Create Beautiful Recreational-Educational Facilities for the Students, as well as Providing Aesthetic Value to the Surrounding Neighborhood
- To Create Positive Awareness within Bluff Heights and Long Beach, Showcasing the Unique and Dynamic Character of the School, and to Encourage Local Parents and

Community Members to become involved with Horace Mann Elementary. Join with us to work together to achieve these goals. ♦

FREE T-SHIRTS!

Catherine Morley

Thanks to the generosity of Frank and Johane Ginipro and the creative design skill of Dennis Snyder we now have our own Bluff Heights "Designer" T-shirts.



The t-shirts are free -while they last

Frank and Johane, long time Bluff Heights neighbors and supporters, offered to provide the shirts for fund raising and promotional opportunities. Dennis Snyder, our talented professional graphic designer, supplied the design. To quote Frank, "My thought behind these shirts is to build community identity through wearing shirts in and around our community or by using the shirts to increase meeting attendance". A limited supply will be given "free" at our Fall Forum.

Thank you Frank, Johane, and Dennis. These shirts will be collector items. ♦

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- ♦ *Join! See application on the back page*
- ♦ *Attend a Board Meeting*
- ♦ **Run for the board (contact us by 9-18-07)**
- ♦ *Join a committee*
- ♦ *Advertise in our newsletter*
- ♦ *Submit an article in our newsletter*

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(E-mail) info@bluffheights.org

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BLUFF HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Albert

LOCAL TREASURE SEEKS PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

HISTORY & UPDATE OF THE BIXBY PARK BAND SHELL

Catherine Morley

To write of the history and future of the Bixby Band Shell is almost impossible without incorporating it along with Bixby Park, as their significance in the development of Long Beach is most certainly entwined.

The Band Shell was built in 1927 in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, which was popular at that time for recreational public buildings. It is located in Bixby Park between Cherry and Junipero, where the park is divided by 1st. Street. The main building is constructed of hand made cement pressed brick with a red Granada tile roof.

Originally, there were adjoining pergolas on each side, which are now gone. The decorative/ornamental grill work on the windows, amber cathedral glass and round decorative gable window, pendulum glass lamp and carved Philippine mahogany 7' double main doors have amazingly survived the benign neglect and

vandalism throughout the years

Although it is known as a band shell, the building was actually built as a Speakers Stand to be used for community events, public speaking and pageants, as well as municipal band concerts. Locations for public speaking and gatherings were a necessary part of life in the early 1900's. It was a venue for communication of local news, opinions and events. Of course, newspapers provided information and radio was available, but certainly nowhere near the technology we are familiar with today.

The famous State Picnics held at the park were attended by thousands of transplanted Midwesterners from Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio. This gave them the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends, reminiscing about the "old days" in their home state. Thus Long Beach gained the nickname of "Iowa by the Sea."

Imagine voting for President of the United States and never knowing what the candidates looked like or being able to hear their voices. Presidential candidate Herbert Hoover solved that problem when on August 17, 1928, he spoke to a crowd of over 5,000 at the Bixby Park Speakers Stand. To quote an article in the Press Telegram of that day: "Following a tremendous ovation at City



A newspaper account of the event ran August 17, 1928

Hall in Los Angeles, where he addressed a great crowd and won boisterous applause by whole hearted endorsement of the Boulder Dam project, Herbert Hoover is enroute to Long Beach, due to arrive at 3:00 this afternoon. Here the streets were jammed early in the afternoon with motorists and pedestrians, awaiting the opportunity to extend him welcome. Lines of automobiles all but blocked every available highway in Long Beach headed for Bixby Park."

Eventually the State Picnics lost attendance, and radio, TV and the Internet replaced the need for public speaking locations. The park remained active for family picnics, soccer games, and recreational activities. The band shell lost its popularity except for skate borders and the pottery classes held in a back room addition.

In February 2005 winds and rain from a winter storm toppled a large tree in the park crushing most of the structure. Fearful the building may be deemed un-repairable neighborhood residents and activists pushed for restoration. Fortunately, the city parks department agreed with that assessment. An engineering firm was commissioned by the city to prepare construction drawings

Continued on next page



This archive photo shows the halcyon days of the Bixby Park Speakers Stand

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and cost estimates for the restoration.

The delay is now in obtaining the necessary assessment of significance required to obtain federal funding, as per the National Historical Preservation Act, to assist with the cost of the restoration. An outside consultant has been hired by the city to provide this documentation. Once the building has been identified as eligible for national recognition, the approval process will begin. This is not to be confused with city landmark status which is not required to receive the funding. After this report is completed, there will be many levels of approval and hurdles to overcome including ADA considerations, environmental impact and approval from the State Historic Preservation Office.

So, as the saying goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day," and apparently the restoration of the Bixby Band Shell/Speaker Stand won't be either. But, let's keep the faith that eventually this important city icon will again be the location of a municipal band concert, and perhaps another presidential candidate will again speak from its stage. ◆



The Bixby Park Band Shell suffered major damage in 2005 and cost estimates for the restoration.

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Gas Station Face Lift

John Thomas

BHNA would like to express our sincere appreciation to the owners of Ocean Gas at Broadway and Temple. Co-President John Thomas began to work with the owners two years ago to look at the general state of the gas station, pump islands, canopy, signage and lighting. Many neighborhood organizations would simply turn many of these issues over to the City's Code Enforcement Department for enforcement and prosecution. The BHNA Board decided that we would engage the owners and seek voluntary compliance and partner with them to achieve a face lift and to address operational related matters.

We are very pleased that, with this approach, many of the concerns raised to the owners of the gas station have been addressed and the gas station is looking much better. A new paint job with better colors consistent with our neighborhood, many signs removed, lighting redirected to avoid intrusion into adjacent residential structures and new landscaping have been completed.

Still to come will be repainting the flag pole, resurfacing the parkways and more landscaping.

The Board and area residents are proud of our neighborhood businesses and always seek to build and sustain positive relationships with them. This ongoing success story is yet another example that with simple conversation, patience and a friendly "neighborly" philosophy, we can achieve great things and enhance relationships with our friends and neighbors and business partners! ♦



Ocean Gas is an example of a business that cares about how it fits into an historic district

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4TH OF JULY, 2007 BLOCK PARTY: REVEL WITHOUT A PAUSE!

Dennis Snyder & photography by Chris Launi

Once again Independence day exploded on Vista with the BHNA's rollicking block party and it was a real crowd pleaser. The streamer cannons streaked over the opening ceremonies kicking off a day of non-stop fun. Here's a rundown of the events: The Silent Auction; The Bubble Gum Blowing Contest, The Classic Bike Show; The Patriotic Pooch Parade; The Dunk Tank; The Neighborhood Potluck; Music and Dancing; The Chili Contest; The Cakewalk; The Water Balloon Toss; Princess Laff-a-lot Face Painting; Watermelon Eating Contest; Limbo Contest and the Opportunity Drawing.

Continued on next page



Suja Lowenthal takes a spin around the festivities



Angelic dogs strut their stuff



"Mom, no more watermelon!"



The popular chili contest and it's discerning judges



Uncle Sam leads the Patriotic Pooch and Pram Parade

THANKS!

In addition to the committee members, here's to all the businesses and members of the community whose donations helped make the block party so successful:

- Art Deco Dimensions
- B & B Hardware
- Babcock & Cooke
- Belmont Pets & LaunderPet
- Breathe
- Bungalow Marcasso
- Chris Zawalski Construction
- Coffee Cup Café
- Elan Collection
- Gallaghers Pub & Grill
- Gary De Long -3rd District Council
- Gary Ostrowski -wine
- Heavenly Scents Aromatherapy
- Hot Java
- House of Madame Jo Jo
- Iguana Import Gallery
- La Parolaccia Osteria
- Lashers Restaurant
- Library A Coffee House
- The Lubery
- Merry's
- Naples Rib Co
- Paradise Piano Bar & Restaurant
- Paws & Claws Pet Grooming
- Petco
- Portfolio Coffee House
- Richard on Vista (Bike & Car show)
- Star of Siam
- Suja Lowenthal -2nd District Council
- Surya Gallerie
- Suzanne Ridley
- Syndicate House of Hair
- Tribune Entertainment
- Two Bees
- Van's Hardware
- Warehouse 1333
- Whiskers

And all our wonderful volunteers!



Fountain of joy: one cool customer



The bike show and old glory on a perfect day in the sun



Suzanne Ridley kicks off Opening Ceremonies



Well that takes the cake! (Cake Walk participants)



To dunk or not to dunk, that is the question... OKAY, DUNK HER!

New this year was the vintage car show displaying classic vehicles of yesteryear. After the door prizes had all been awarded the neighborhood prepared for the firework show over the majestic Queen Mary as seen from our bluffs.

We received a front page mention in the Long Beach Press Telegram on July 5.

WINE EVENT: NEIGHBORS HAVE GOOD TASTE

Rachael McCabe

Many thanks to Wine Crush owners, Marcus and Tracie Crawshaw for hosting BHNA members and guests on June 13, 2007 for a Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association Wine Tasting! It was a wonderful evening of food, wine and



Lou Ann and Dale are in high spirits this evening



Emily, Gina and Paula shmooz with the neighbors



Wine Crush owners, Tracie & Marcus imbibe with Lee & Christine



Decisions, decisions...a cab or a merlot?

conversation with our Bluff Heights neighbors and friends. Thank you to our new BHNA members, and please contact Lee McCabe if you are interested in becoming a BHNA member at info@bluffheights.org ♦

UPCOMING EVENTS

John Thomas

BOARD ELECTIONS SEPT. 20

The BHNA Board is please to announce the proposed slate of officers for 2008. These positions will be voted on at our upcoming Neighborhood Forum on September 20, 2007 (see cover story.) We wish to express our appreciation to those Board Members who have served & look forward to the incoming Board Members.

If you are interested in serving on the Board in any officer seat or as a Board Member, please contact Co-Presidents John Thomas or Dale Maul at Bluffheights.org. before September 18.

- President.....John Thomas
- Vice President.....Catherine Morley
- Treasurer.....Dale Maul
- Secretary.....Barbara McPherson
- Ron Bird.....Board Member
- Christine Votava.....Board Member

HORACE MANN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Christine Votava

It's easier than you think to spend some quality time with the kids. Teachers and staff at Horace Mann are looking to our fabulous neighborhood residents to volunteer to help in a multitude of ways.

BECOME A HORACE MANN VIP!

(Horace Mann Classroom Volunteer)
Teachers at Mann would love your help in the following areas:

- Helping with Math Homework
- Helping with Reading Homework
- Grading Papers
- Back to School Night Volunteers
- After School Book Sales
- Computer Tutors
- Making Copies/Administrative
- Physical Fitness/Sports Education
- Mentoring Students

Visit our website: www.bluffheights.org. Follow the links to the Horace Mann VIP page. Download and complete the requirements, then turn the paperwork into the VIP coordinator. Be sure to ask how long it will take to coordinate!

HORACE MANN HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP!

December 4th, 2007. The holidays are almost upon us! Donate your craft projects to our Holiday Gift Boutique! Or, come and shop! For More Information, Contact: Amy Hanley at (562) 714-9739 ♦

How to set up a Neighborhood Watch Program

From the Long Beach Police Department Web site

Over 40 million crimes are committed every year and the number continues to increase. There cannot be a law enforcement officer on every corner, so citizen involvement is crucial to combat this social crisis. By cooperating with each other and the Police, people can help fight crime in their communities in the most effective way—before it begins. The Neighborhood Watch Program is an opportunity to be acquainted with the people who share your neighborhood. The program consists of four core meetings. The core meetings are:

- Introduction/Meet Your Police
- Home Security
- Personal Safety
- Emergency Communications

These meetings have been designed to give your group the maximum benefit from the Neighborhood Watch Program

and should be scheduled in the order in which they appear. You are encouraged to schedule additional meetings through the Neighborhood Watch Program after you have completed the four core meetings.

All core meetings should be scheduled through the Long Beach Police Department's Community Relations Division. Please allow two weeks advance notice to ensure the availability of a speaker. All meetings will last approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes and are generally scheduled Monday through Thursday, on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. As staffing permits, Saturday meetings and meetings in Spanish and Khmer can also be accommodated. Should your group have a special request, please notify us in advance and we will make every effort to accommodate you.

Neighborhood Watch groups are requested to host a minimum of two meetings per year. However, they are encouraged to continue their participation beyond the four core meetings by hosting monthly meetings. Please contact the Neighborhood Watch Office at this email: pd_communityrelations@longbeach.gov, to schedule your meetings and to obtain additional speakers from the Long Beach Police Department or other city resources.

For more information or to receive a Neighborhood Watch starter packet, please call the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Nicole Avalos, at (562) 570-7229 ♦

Important Phone Numbers

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
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| Police Non-Emergency | 435-6711 |
| Airport Noise Abatement..... | 570-2678 |
| Animal Control | 570-PETS |
| Apartment Watch | 570-7160 |
| Business Watch | 570-7274 |
| BHNA..... | 439-BHNA |
| Bob Foster (Mayor)..... | 570-6801 |
| City of L.B. Info. | 570-6555 |
| City Council (District 3)..... | 570-6310 |
| Code Enforcement | 570-CODE |
| Fire Prevention | 570-2560 |
| Gang Hotline | (866)426-4847 |
| Gary DeLong (Dist.3)..... | 570-6300 |
| Gas Emergency | 570-2140 |
| Graffiti Hot Line..... | 570-2773 |
| Hate Crimes/Human Dignity..... | 570.6948 |
| Health Department..... | 570-4000 |
| Housing Rehabilitation Loans.... | 570-6808 |
| Narcotics Tip Line | 570-7125 |
| Neighborhood Watch | 570-7229 |
| Noise Abatement | 570-4126 |
| Public Works..... | 570-6383 |
| Sidewalk Hotline | 570-6264 |
| Shopping Cart Hotline..... | (800)252-4613 |
| Special Refuse Pick-ups | 570-2876 |
| Street Lights..... | 983-2000 |
| Street Potholes Hotline..... | 570-3259 |
| Suja Lowenthal (Dist.2)..... | 570-6684 |
| Street Sweeping | 570-2890 |
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| Community Hospital..... | 498-1000 |

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IN THE PRAIRIE STYLE

Christine Votava

The Prairie Style of Architecture was part of the Arts and Crafts movement, born during the turn of the last century out of the need for change from the fussy, confining spaces so predominant in the Victorian architecture of the time.

The Prairie School began unofficially in Chicago in 1897, inspired by the work of architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. Louis Sullivan's writings and informal lectures promoted a creative, individualistic approach to architecture not tied to a style, but rather to a way of thinking about building and buildings. Sullivan promoted the Prairie Style as "Modern Architecture for a Democratic American Society."

Frank Lloyd Wright said: "We of the Middle West are living on the prairie. The prairie has a beauty of its own and we should recognize and accentuate this natural beauty, its quiet level." With an emphasis on fitting architecture into the environment, it is not surprising to find that Prairie houses are built low to the ground with simple, horizontal lines, flat roofs with broad overhangs and open interior spaces.

Other hallmark features of the Prairie Style include suppressed, heavy-set chimneys, solid craftsmanship and discipline in the use of ornament. Many Prairie Style bungalows and houses feature sheltering overhangs, low terraces and out-reaching walls sequestering private gardens.

Rooms were often divided by leaded glass panels. Furniture was either built-in or specially designed. The first Prairie houses were usually plaster with wood trim or sided with horizontal board and batten. Later Prairie homes used concrete block.

Many prominent architects designed Prairie homes and the style was popularized by pattern books. The popular American Foursquare style, sometimes called the Prairie Box, shared many features with the Prairie style.

Interestingly, the Prairie School was the first American architectural effort to be taken seriously in Europe, though it was short lived as a style here in the United States. It flourished from around 1900 until the beginning of the First World War, when it lost out to the fashion for Colonial Revival styles.

"THE GOOD BUILDING IS NOT ONE THAT HURTS THE LANDSCAPE BUT ONE WHICH MAKES THE LANDSCAPE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN IT WAS BEFORE THE BUILDING WAS BUILT" - FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

In 1935, during the USA depression, Frank Lloyd Wright developed a simplified version of Prairie architecture called Usonian. Wright believed these stripped-down houses represented the democratic ideals of the United States. Bluff Heights is lucky to have several examples of this uniquely American style of architecture. ♦

PRAIRIE STYLE IN BLUFF HEIGHTS

PRAIRIE STYLE ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

- * SWEEPING HORIZONTAL LINES
- * RIBBON WINDOW WITH DETAILING
- * BROAD OVERHANG EAVES
- * HOUSE IS LONG AND LOW TO GROUND
- * SECOND FLOOR PORCH
- * WOOD BANDING FOR THIRTYRST EFFECT
- * PROJECTING FRONT WITH RIBBON DETAIL



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P R E S E R V A T I O N

THE WELL LIVED INTERIOR

& R E S T O R A T I O N

Kevin Doherty

On my street alone there were 50 kids! During the height of the baby boom this city was alive with children everywhere. In every neighborhood you could find friends to play ball with, ride bikes, go for a swim or just relax on the front lawn to trade cards or play board games. We were an active bunch, slim and a bit ragged around the edges, sporting patched pants and well-worn t-shirts, always up and ready for mischief. That's why they preferred us outdoors – parents, I mean.

Once in a blue moon I got invited indoors to play, have dinner, or a sleep over at a friend's house. Those occasions remain sharp in my memory and I think the budding designer in me took special delight in pondering the curious interiors that my friend's parents assembled. Many were unplanned assemblages of discount specials and odd hand me downs, but others had real character ranging from high end European décor to Rustic Cowboy or Mid-Century Modern. In those days, living rooms were usually off limits to us. It was an odd but fashionable practice designed to keep the living room as a sort of showplace while the rest of the house reflected the real life of the family. One family went so far as to cover all their furniture in clear plastic wrap, a practice that left me standing at the living room threshold feeling somewhat puzzled.

THE PATINA OF AGE

Ours was the well-lived interior, sans plastic covers and always open to family and friends of all ages. We had an eclectic mix of colonial styles and oriental rugs

popular in the North East from whence my parents came. Dad was a playwright so there were lots of bookcases in our home and old periodicals were strewn about. In all the homes I've experienced



Renaissance man, William Morris (1834-1896)

as a child and as an adult, the ones that have impressed me most are those that were highly personalized, well designed and revealed the unmistakable patina of a family who were actively using their interior space. So how are personalized interiors created and how do they remain attractive and functional to owners and visitors alike?

EXPAND MORRISONIAN IDEALS

Arts and Crafts icon, William Morris suggested that we have in our homes only that which we deem to be truly beautiful. It is a noble idea but one that bears expansion in the name of practicality and 21st century living. Taking for

granted that your interior space is of both aesthetic and practical importance to you, I suggest that you design or augment it with furnishings that are beautiful and well made as Morris would suggest, but also make sure that your choices are highly personal and practical given your family's lifestyle needs. As you choose furnishings, measure the available space to avoid over crowding, and downsize your possessions whenever you can in your not-so-big-house. Assemble it with an eclectic eye rather than feeling you need to envision it as a period statement. Opt for hard wood floors as opposed to wall- to -wall carpet and then grace them with versatile hand made Persian rugs. Soften harsh overhead lighting with dimmers and add warm shaded reading level lamps for ambience. Remember to conceal audio-visual equipment in cabinets. Opt for simple window coverings that offer privacy yet retain an open airy feeling that accents the architecture. As you bring new items into your closets, get rid of others to keep available storage space accessible.

YOUR HOME BECOMES YOU

Ignore the staged interiors found in magazines. They exist only to sell products and with few exceptions have little to do with a personalized, functional interior. Architectural quality books represent a better bet for idea gathering and learning tools. Embrace that which excites the full scope of your sensual and practical awareness. Blend the two needs and you'll have achieved a hat trick that the best of designers hope to accomplish with their clients. You'll love your home all the more and your home will so positively be you! ♦

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