



## **“Private Classical Paris”**

Sponsored by

Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America

Arranged by

Pamela Huntington Darling  
Exclusive Cultural Travel Programs

**Sunday, September 12 – Saturday, September 18, 2010**



In view of the success of the “Private Classical Paris” tour in 2008 and 2009, offering exceptional access to France’s emblematic sites of the finest in classical architecture and decorative arts, we are pleased to invite you to attend an exclusive 6-day, 6-night program of unrivaled private visits and receptions with their prominent hosts and experts, to take place during the world-renowned fine arts and antiques fair, the “Biennale des Antiquaires”.

During six extraordinary days, “Private Classical Paris” will offer participants exemplary, behind-the-scenes visits to sites representing the most significant examples of French classical architecture, designed by François Mansart, Louis Le Vau, Antoine Lepautre, Jules Hardouin Mansart, Jacques-Ange Gabriel, and Claude-Nicolas Ledoux; as well as outstanding private residences—all boasting the finest in decorative arts.

Guests will enjoy private access to ambassadorial residences, to renowned French institutions, to private residences and châteaux of distinction owned by members of the French nobility and private art collectors, many inaccessible to the public, housing the highest level of décor, rare and extensive collections of artwork, led by knowledgeable experts, as well as private receptions and dinners at remarkable residences with the proprietors.

Participants will reside at the sister hotels that are next to each other, located in the aristocratic area of Saint-Germain-des-Près, both favourite hotels of interior designers: Double occupancy Superior Rooms: Hotel Saint Vincent; 5, rue du Pré aux Clercs; 75007 Paris; [www.hotelsdufaubourgsaintgermain.com](http://www.hotelsdufaubourgsaintgermain.com) . Single occupancy Deluxe Rooms: Hotel Lenox Saint Germain; 9, rue de l’Université; 75007 Paris; next to Hotel Saint Vincent; [www.hotelparislenoxsaintgermain.com](http://www.hotelparislenoxsaintgermain.com) . The rooms in both hotels are very nicely furnished, spacious and have marble bathrooms. You can visualize them on the websites.

To assure the participants full enjoyment of this significant program and to recuperate from transatlantic travel, we suggest arrival a day in advance. Extra nights at the hotel can be arranged for you at negotiated rates.

The program is limited to 18 participants (12 participants minimum). Reservations will be treated according to the reception date of participant registration.

We look forward to welcoming you in Paris for this exclusive and memorable program!

## “Private Classical Paris”

The renown of Paris in architectural, intellectual and artistic matters began in the 12<sup>th</sup> century when the Capetian kings made it the capital of the Kingdom of France. However, the particularly large number of Classical works of architecture in France has their origins with the influence of the Italian Renaissance in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Numerous residential, civic, and religious structures built between the late 15<sup>th</sup> century and the early 17<sup>th</sup> century evolved a uniquely French form of Classicism that became known as the French Renaissance. This style of Classical architecture in France incorporated the greco-roman influences of the Italian Renaissance with Gothic traditions in subtle but important ways. Paris’s hôtel particuliers and the numerous chateaux surrounding the city, such as Maisons at Maisons-Laffitte, Versailles, and Vaux le Vicomte are representative of the intense and diverse influence of Classical architecture in and near the city.

The garden-chateau relationship also became important during these centuries, leading to the great collaborations of architects with landscape architects, such as Louis Le Vau with André Le Nôtre. This garden-to-residence relationship can be seen in its earlier incarnations in many of the hôtels particuliers in the Marais, the Jardins Tuileries, Vaux le Vicomte, reaching its pinnacle at Versailles.

By the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, French Classical architecture influenced building styles both in Europe and in North America. President Thomas Jefferson used French classical architecture as a model, and famous American architects, such as Richard Morris Hunt and Louis Sullivan, studied at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

### Tour Highlights

#### \* Private Architectural tour to the Marais with Dr. Michael Herrman, Architect, Prix de Rome

For those participants arriving in Paris before Sunday morning, we offer an extra visit—a walking tour in the Marais, with architectural historian Michael Herrman. Our tour will begin with the Cour Carré of the Louvre, examining its development from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century until its enlargement by Louis XIV, including its eastern façade by Claude Perrault that has influenced buildings throughout the world. We will examine the largest surviving fragment of Phippe Auguste’s 12<sup>th</sup> century wall that once defined the edge of the Marais. The adjacent Hôtel de Sens, the oldest hôtel particulier in the Marais, end of the Medieval period, illustrates the pre-Classical style of Parisian 15<sup>th</sup>-century architecture. We will visit the classical Hôtel de Sully, passing through its courtyards to enter the Place des Vosges, the heart of the aristocratic Marais. We will continue to the Hôtel Carnavalet, examining its façade and two courtyards, whose construction involved Jules-Hardouin Mansart and includes with relief work by Jean Goujon.



#### \* Private, Behind-the-Scenes Visit to Château de Maisons, architect François Mansart



We will be welcomed by the Château’s director and expert guide who will lead us on a behind-the-scenes visit after closing hours. Château de Maisons in Maisons-Laffitte, designed by François Mansart, built between 1632 and 1646, was the precursor to and the inspiration of Château Vaux le Vicomte and Château de Versailles. The chateau remains one of the finest examples of French Classical architecture, one of the most significant buildings in the history of European architecture, and one of the most handsome buildings in the world.

#### \* Dinner Reception at the Residence of the Editor of Edward Andrew Zega & Bernd H. Dams

We will be welcomed for a dinner reception by Catherine Cormery, editor, at her residence in the historic Gallimard family’s hotel particulier on the Left Bank, with Andrew Zega and Bernd Dams and a private viewing of their works. We will discover watercolor masterpieces of these foremost architects and artists, their limited editions, including "An Architectural Abecedario," and “Versailles”, as well as their latest collection of porcelain. Institutions priding Zega and Dams works include, among others, the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, the New-York Historical Society, Princeton University, and the Avery Architectural Library of Columbia University and the Morgan Library.



**\* Private Visit: Residence of the Ambassador of Germany, Hôtel de Beauharnais, one of the most emblematic residences in France**



We will be guided on a memorable visit of the Hôtel by Dr. Ulrich Leben, historian, and member of the Hôtel de Beauharnais scientific restoration committee. Anyone who has the privilege of visiting Hôtel de Beauharnais will remember the experience forever. Featured in magazine articles on historical homes of outstanding interest, it is truly one of Europe's astounding jewels. It is exceptional for its opulence, its superbly preserved, pure Empire interior decoration, furniture and works of art that have come down to us unchanged.

Hôtel de Beauharnais was purchased in 1803 by the son of Josephine, Eugene de Beauharnais, adopted by Napoleon and titled Prince of Venice and Viceroy of Italy. The Hotel de Beauharnais remains one of the only completely preserved historical residences of the period in the world. This is an unrivaled experience.

**\* Château de Versailles – closed to the public on this day – Behind-the-Scenes Architectural & Decorative Arts Visit with the Château's Senior Architect**

Closed to the public, we will enjoy a private, behind-the-scenes visit with Arnaud Amelot, Senior Architect, Château de Versailles. Thanks to the French government, corporate and individual funding, restoration work has recently been accomplished on a major scale.

We will discover the recently restored work of the three master architects of Versailles, Louis Le Vau, Jules Hardouin



Mansart, and Ange-Jacques Gabriel, including the reconstruction of Louis XIV's Royal Entrance Gate, the Royal Chapel, the Royal Opéra, created for the marriage of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette, reopened in 2009 after three years of restoration, the Hall of Mirrors, and the latest restored rooms of the Private Apartments of the King, including King Louis XVI's wardrobe room and his private study with its outstanding carved wall panels. The luxurious detail using three shades of gold on carved paneling is symbolic of the extraordinary splendor of Chateau of Versailles, renowned as the "museum of the finest boiseries in the world". We will also discover the recently restored rooms of the Queen's Private Apartments, including the Queen's Cabinet de la Méridienne and the Cabinet de Toilette. This will definitely be a feast for the eyes!



**\* Dinner Reception at Private Residence with Curators of the Louvre Museum**

We will be welcomed by our hosts to their residence in the family's 17th century hôtel particulier for a convivial dinner reception with guests, curators of the Louvre Museum. Avid friends of the United States, our host, a former auctioneer, and our hostess, a judge, are collectors of ancient books, manuscripts, architectural drawings of the development of Paris, paintings, and remarkable fans dating from the 17th century. During cocktails, we will view Paris from the rooftop. Our hostess is also a remarkable cook!

**\* Private Visit to the Palais de la Légion d'Honneur and to the Musée de la Légion d'Honneur**

We will be welcomed by General Jean-François Collot d'Escury, Cabinet Director of the Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor, for a private visit with the expert guide to this historic palace and the museum, housing the ultimate in architecture, decor, artwork, and medals of utmost distinction and rare beauty.

Built by the architect Pierre Rousseau between 1782 and 1787, the Hôtel de Salm became the headquarters of the Legion of Honor in 1804, founded by Emperor Napoleon. Destroyed by fire under the Paris Commune in 1871, the Palace of the Legion of Honor was later reconstructed. The palace houses, in its superb reception rooms and rotunda overlooking the Seine, the ultimate in Napoleonic splendor and majesty. The National Order of the Legion of Honor, founded by Napoleon in 1802, recognizing eminent service to the state, is the highest honor in France.



Thomas Jefferson incorporated some of the architectural plans of this palace for Monticello. The San Francisco Museum Palace of the Legion of Honor is a replica of this building.

**\* Private Visit to Château de Vaux le Vicomte, architect Louis Le Vau**



We will be personally greeted by the proprietor, Count Patrice de Vogüe, and conducted on a private visit with the Count and his expert guide, of this renowned Château and its marvelous gardens, precursor of the Château de Versailles.

Designed by Louis Le Vau, 1656-1661, the Château de Vaux le Vicomte was the most influential construction of its time. Le Vau, Le Nôtre, the landscape designer, and Le Brun, the painter-decorator, worked together to construct a uniquely harmonious and complementary whole. The central interior salon rises to the full height of the house under an oval dome. The formal garden is a balanced composition of gravel walkways, water basins, canals, and planting beds edged with clipped hedges. To enjoy an admirable view of the estate, we will be invited by the Count to the rooftop. Before returning to Paris, we will enjoy tea at the "Écureuil".



**\* Private Visit to the Institut de France with members of the Institute, architect Le Vau**



We will have the honor of being received by Arnaud d'Hauterives, Secrétaire perpétuel de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts, and conducted by Jean-Pierre Babelon, Member of the Institut, and renowned expert of Classical architecture, on an exceptional, behind-the-scenes visit of the Institut de France.

Designed by Louis Le Vau in 1663-1664, architect of Versailles in 1662, the Institut was constructed using funds bequeathed by Cardinal Mazarin. Located across the Seine from the Louvre, it occupies the former site of the Nêsle gate and tower, which was part of the medieval wall of Paris. The Institut is famous for its cupola and its semicircular flanking buildings, as well as its vast library. The Institut houses five académies, of which the most famous is the Académie Française, whose 40 members are known as the "Immortals", considered the "holy of holies" of French intellectual life.

We will have the exceptional privilege of visiting the private quarters of the "Immortals", never open to the public, their conference room and library, and Mazarin's extraordinary library with its rare books which will be opened for us by the director of the library.

**\* Private Visit to Hôtel Lambert, Residence of Prince Hamad al-Thani, architect, Louis le Vau**

In 2007, Hotel Lambert was sold by the proprietors, the Rothschild family, to Prince Hamad al-Thani, brother of the Emir de Qatar, for 80 million Euros. The restoration work is estimated at 60 million Euros.



Thanks to the proprietor, we will visit the restoration work in progress with Denis Laval, Chief Curator of France's Historical Monuments and Heritage. In no other aristocratic private mansion has so much architectural and decorative genius been achieved. Located on Ile Saint Louis, Hôtel Lambert was built in 1640 by Louis le Vau, who later designed part of Château de Versailles. Its interior was decorated by France's greatest 17th-century artists Eustache le Sueur and Charles Le Brun, including the galerie d'Hercule and the smaller Cabinet des Muses. They are also famed for painting Château de Versailles' Hall of Mirrors.

Since its origins, this landmark has been residence of aristocrats, among them Polish Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski, Baron and Baroness Guy de Rothschild, Baron Alexis de Rede. Voltaire, Chopin, Delacroix, Hemingway, Helena Rubenstein. Literary salons and extravagant bals were a tradition at Lambert.

**\* Private Visit to the Residence of Count and Countess Hubert d'Ornano, Renowned Collectors**



Private visit with the internationally renowned proprietors, owners of the cosmetic group Sisley, at their admirable Parisian residence located on the Left Bank, home to a unique, brilliantly eclectic collection of art. Of interest, Countess d'Ornano is a descendant of Polish nobility, with direct ties to Napoleon.

The Ornano residence is remarkable for its luxurious appointments and collections combining antique works of art with those of contemporary artists. In a majestic decor of Louis XV carved wall panels, Polish and French art complement each other. There is a marriage of magnificent

furniture and art from the 18<sup>th</sup> century with important pieces of Contemporary Art and décor, including unique pieces by Polish sculptor Bronislaw Kryzytof, Claude Lalanne, Jean-François Fourtou, sculptor Mitoraj, artist Gromada, and French sculptor Georges Jeanclos. One of the most theatrical rooms is the bedroom, created by the famed interior designer Henri Samuel, as well as the library and dressing room. Guests will enjoy refreshments with the hosts during the visit.

**\* Private Visit to the Ministère de la Marine, Hôtel de la Marine, architect Ange-Jacques Gabriel**



We will have the rare opportunity to visit the Hôtel de la Marine, the Ministry of the Navy, designed by Ange-Jacques Gabriel, Chief Architect of the King. Our visit will be conducted by Denis Laval, Chief Curator of France's Historical Monuments and Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Communication, laureate of the National Museum in Washington. We will visit the gilded hall and the splendid galleries, with interior decors achieved by the architect Jacques Gondouin, representing the evolution of taste in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We will also enjoy the views from the balconies on the Place de la Concorde and across to the Left Bank.

Commenced in 1754 and completed in 1763, the building housed the storerooms for the royal furnishings (*mobilier de la couronne*), with luxurious apartments for the *intendant*. Since the French Revolution in 1789, the palace houses the Ministry of the Navy. Louis XVI and Benjamin Franklin signed the Treaty of Friendship and Trade between France and the 13 independent States of America in the adjacent building.

**\* Private Visit & Reception at the Apartment of Mademoiselle Coco Chanel**



We will be welcomed for this exclusive visit by France de Malval, in charge of VIP relations. Decorated in exquisite taste by Mademoiselle Chanel, a historic splendor, rarely opened even to Chanel's most important clients, Denise Dubois will guide us through the discovery of this highly exclusive residence and relate its history, the choices in Mademoiselle Chanel's décor, which has inspired the decoration of their renowned Joaillerie on the famed place Vendôme, and the elites who were invited into

Mademoiselle Chanel's most confidential realm. We will also view some of the latest Haute Couture creations and be invited for a Verre d'Amitié in the private lounge, designed by Karl Lagerfeld. This will be a marvelous and memorable experience!



**\* Luncheon at the Cercle de l'Union Interalliée**

Guests will enjoy luncheon in the private setting of the Cercle de l'Union Interalliée, one of the oldest and most exclusive private clubs in France. The Cercle is located in an historic mansion adjacent to the residences of the American and British Ambassadors, on the prestigious faubourg Saint-Honoré, referred to as "embassy row". Luncheon will take place in the elegant and handsomely appointed "State Dining Room", redecorated by interior designer Juan Pablo Molyneux, overlooking one of the most beautiful private gardens in Paris. Or, weather permitting, guests will have luncheon in the gardens.



Cercle de l'Union Interalliée, the Inter-Allied Club, was founded in 1917 under the auspices of Marshal Foch, when the United States became involved in the Great War, to serve as a residence for allied officers coming through Paris and a place to socialize. Today, the Cercle is the meeting place of diplomats, distinguished foreigners and French citizens perpetuating the traditions of culture and refinement.

**\* Private Visit to the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts**

We will be welcomed by Véronique Rabin le Gall, Director of International Relations, who will take us on a private tour of this historic, renowned institution. Bruno Girveau, Chief Curator of Historical Monuments, specialized in the architecture of the School's marvellous buildings, will join us for an architectural tour, including the recent restoration of the stunning Palais des Etudes.



Between 1860 and 1940 over 500 Americans studied architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Many became renowned architects in America, including Richard Morris Hunt, H. H. Richardson and his protege, Charles McKim, John M. Carrère and Thomas Hastings, thus spawning the Beaux Arts architectural movement in the U.S.

We will also visit the Chapelle des Petits Augustins, originally built for Marguerite of Valois and later a museum of French medieval sculpture, created by Alexandre Lenoir during the French Revolution, redesigned by Felix Duban in the 19th century as a dépôt for casts and replicas after Italian and French masterpieces. Closed to the public, this is a wonderful opportunity to see one of Paris's hidden treasures.

**\* Private Visit to Fondation de Coubertin and Luncheon**

We will be specially welcomed by Gilles de Navacelle, President of the Fondation de Coubertin, for a private visit followed by a convivial luncheon. For its unique and outstanding quality of craftsmanship, the Foundation and its *Ateliers Saint Jacques* received the 2010 ICA&CA Arthur Ross Award.

The non-profit Fondation, dedicated to the preservation and advancement of traditional crafts, was created 50 years ago by Yvonne de Coubertin. This unique institution spreads over the vast Coubertin estate in Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse.

Hidden in the estate's park are massive workshops where 120 of Europe's finest artisans, including 30 young Fellows, work with wood, metal, stone, and bronze.

By the exceptional projects carried out under the supervision of highly qualified craftsmen, the Fondation offers a privileged setting for professional training and transmission of unique *savoir-faire*.

The works of the Fondation de Coubertin can be admired in Versailles, Paris, Mont St Michel as well as in United States, the Middle East, Western and Eastern Europe Russia and Asia. The most significant recent project is the recreation of the Royal Gate of Versailles, destroyed during the Revolution. Currently in France, the stone workshop is replacing the dome of Saint Sulpice Church in Paris, and the wood workshop is completing the panel wood restoration for the new Ralph Lauren store on boulevard Saint Germain.



**\* Private visit to Petit Trianon, the Pavillon Français, the Théâtre de la Reine, and the Hamlet of Marie-Antoinette, with Bertrand Rondot, Curator**



With Bertrand Rondot, Curator, we will discover the Domaine de Marie-Antoinette. We will enjoy a private visit of the Petit Trianon, including rooms not open to the public, and the Pavillon Français, both reopened in 2008 after a year of restoration. Ange-Jacques Gabriel's best-known accomplishment, the Petit Trianon—designed for Madame de Pompadour in 1761—is one of several extraordinary works he erected for the court. It is considered among the most remarkable buildings in France.

In 1774, Louis XVI gave the Petit Trianon to Marie-Antoinette, who spent more time there than at the palace. It was her personal retreat at Versailles and one of the few places where she could express herself and her individual taste and style. The architecture and the décor of Marie-Antoinette's prized refuge are absolutely sublime. Through the decorative arts, paintings and sculptures that adorn the Petit Trianon, one gains an understanding of the real style of the queen, her true personality, and her influence in setting the fashion of the period.



We will also visit the queen's Chapel and the Théâtre de la Reine. We will then proceed to the charming English garden and the Hamlet, the queen's idea of a farm, where we will have the special opportunity of visiting the interior of some of the queen's amusing "fabriques".

**\* Farewell Dinner Reception at the Hôtel du Duc de Gesvres, architect Antoine Lepautre**



This is a perfect way to culminate in grandeur this significant program of privileged visits exemplifying the highest level of classical architecture, artwork and décor.

We will be received at the residence of Joseph Achkar and Michel Charrière, classical architects and interior designers, for an exclusive dinner reception at the marvellous Hôtel du Duc de Gesvres, designed by Classical architect Antoine Lepautre, the only residence in Paris to have an original "cabinet de miroirs", which, after six years of painstaking work and research, the proprietors have splendidly restored and brilliantly decorated in its "jus naturel".

Besides the Hôtel de Beauvais in the Marais, headquarters of the Council of State, Hôtel du Duc de Gesvres is the only private mansion designed by Antoine Lepautre that remains in Paris. This will truly be a highlight of our program and a most convivial and unforgettable evening!

**Tour Price:** \$6,000 per person based on double occupancy; \$600 single supplement applies; \$5,250 without hotel; based on an exchange rate of \$1.30/1 Euro; on a minimum of 12 participants (maximum 18 participants); plus a tax-deductible \$300 donation to ICA&CA.

**Rate includes:** 6 days of private visits and receptions; 6 nights of accommodation in a 3-star luxury boutique hotel; all breakfasts, all luncheons, cocktail receptions, and 3 dinners in private residences; costs involved in the program, transport to and from events during the tour, all private visits, historian, etc.

**For more information and to reserve, please email or call Pamela Huntington Darling at your earliest convenience.** Email: [pdarling@eventsofprestige.com](mailto:pdarling@eventsofprestige.com) . Tel.: Paris: 011 33 1 45 67 62 81.

**To assure availability, please reserve before June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Reservations will be treated according to the reception date of participant registration.

*Due to the exceptional character of certain private visits and receptions proposed in this program, to which access is highly exclusive, if a venue is cancelled by the host, it will be replaced by a visit or reception of equal quality, and guests will be immediately notified.*