

TOUR DETAILS

On May 29 and 30, Memorial Day weekend, the Charlotte Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America will join with the Beaux Arts Alliance to host a spectacular weekend touring historic buildings of Asheville and magnificent Biltmore Estate.

Saturday afternoon, our group will board a motor coach in Biltmore Village for guided tour of some of Asheville's architectural gems. The city's architectural heritage is rich with work by nationally revered architects Richard Morris Hunt, Rafael Guastavino and Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, along with noted North Carolina architects Richard Sharp Smith and Douglas D. Ellington. Smith, born in England, came to Asheville to represent R. M. Hunt during the construction of Biltmore, and stayed to help define what we know today as "that Asheville look." Ellington, a native of Clayton, NC, came to Asheville in 1926 and is best remembered for his Art Deco contributions to the cityscape.

Buildings we'll visit by these architects include:

- Hunt's All Souls Episcopal Cathedral
- Guastavino and Smith's Basilica of St. Lawrence
- Goodhue's Trinity Episcopal Church
- Smith's St. Mathias Episcopal Church
- Ellington's Asheville City Building

Other stops will include:

- Biltmore Village
- Grove Arcade
- Grove Park Inn (time permitting)

Sunday will be devoted to George Washington Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate. The Estate's 250-room mansion was designed by Richard Morris Hunt and was modeled on the country houses of the French Renaissance. When completed in 1895, Biltmore House was surrounded by 125,000 acres of land. The vast estate's forests, gardens, formal terraces, miles of trails and winding drives were all parts of Frederick Law Olmsted's brilliant landscape plan. Today, surrounded by nearly 8,000 acres, including 75 acres of gardens, Biltmore House remains "America's greatest country house" and

Biltmore Estate, winner of the 2005 Arthur Ross Award for Stewardship, is one of our finest National Historic Sites.

Our day at Biltmore will begin with a "Legacy of the Land Tour" to acquaint our group with the scope and history of the massive estate.

Following that guided motor coach tour of the Estate, we'll embark on a guided walking tour of Biltmore's magnificent gardens.

After seeing the gardens, there will be free time to explore the house and grounds on your own, eat a leisurely lunch, visit the winery, shop or simply relax in the Estate's gorgeous surroundings.

Later in the day, after the Estate has closed its gates to tourists, we'll be led on an exclusive guided tour of Biltmore House. A similar tour was the highlight of the Charlotte Chapter's visit to Biltmore Estate four years ago.

The tour of the house will culminate in the Stable Courtyard with a wine reception honoring our friends with the Beaux Arts Alliance.

Following the reception, we'll conclude our day at Biltmore Estate with a fine, three-course dinner at the Stable Cafe Loft.

The \$240 cost for ICA&CA members (\$280 for non-members) covers the guided tour of Asheville, all Biltmore Estate admissions and tour fees, wine reception and three-course dinner. Overnight accommodations and transportation other than the event tours are the responsibility of each participant and are not included in the price of this event. However Asheville, a major tourist destination, has numerous lodging options from the Mobil Travel Guide Four Star Inn on Biltmore Estate to quaint B&Bs--several in homes by Richard Sharp Smith--and many hotels and motels.