

Hewn and Hammered

All about Craftsman, Mission and Prairie art, architecture and design.

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Japanese Gardens in the US



The United States includes a number of first-rate public and private Japanese gardens, some being the cause and others the result of the immense importance that Japanese formalism has had upon American landscape and architectural design, most visibly in the Arts & Crafts Movement and more recently in certain contemporary styles.

One recent addition is the University of Illinois at Springfield's [new garden](#); other highlights throughout this country include the very small but well-designed Japanese garden in Ashland, Oregon's [Lithia Park](#) and another, larger in scale, in [Portland](#); San Francisco's [Japanese Tea Garden](#) and [Anderson Japanese Gardens](#) in Rockford IL.

Spokane, Washington's [Nishinomiya Garden](#) is particularly photogenic. Saratoga, California is home to [Hakone Gardens](#), the oldest Japanese estate in the Western Hemisphere - the bamboo forests at this eighteen-acre preserve are as impressive as they are enormous. The University of Arkansas' sprawling [Garvan Woodland Gardens](#) includes the Japanese-inspired Garden of the Pine Wind. San Diego's [Japanese Friendship Garden](#)'s tea house is in operation most weekends, and the koi in their pond are some of the oldest in North America. The [Asticou Azalea Garden](#), on the property of the Asticou Inn in Northeast Harbor, Maine, is particularly attractive when its New England backdrop is in the throes of Autumn's blazing reds and golds. The [Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens](#) in Delray Beach, Florida, includes not only a very pleasant garden but a museum of Japanese, Japanese-American and other related artwork, both classical and contemporary. Van Nuys, California is home to [Suiho En](#), a Japanese water and fragrance garden, noted as one of the most authentic in the US. Also in the greater Los Angeles area, San Marino's [Huntington Gardens](#) includes a large pleasant Japanese garden as a small part

of its acreage.

Canada also includes three of the most impressive Japanese gardens in North America: the [Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden](#), the [Nitobe Memorial Garden](#) on the University of British Columbia campus, and the Japanese garden at [Butchart Gardens](#) in Vancouver.

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May 27, 2008 in [garden & landscape](#) | [Permalink](#) | [comments \(1\)](#) | [trackback \(0\)](#)

buyer beware: deception in the antiques trade

A [very interesting article](#) in today's New York Times explores the apparently shadowy world of antique dealers and restorers. Apparently this reputation-destroying article is the result of a bit of a [war of attrition](#) among big-name antiques business insiders:

[Michael Smith](#), a prominent decorator in Los Angeles, was staggered when a friend called from London in early April with the news: [John Hobbs](#), a London antiques dealer known for superb English and Continental furniture, stratospheric prices and wealthy American clients, had been accused by his longtime restorer of selling fakes.

Mr. Smith said he was panicked at the thought that two very expensive mahogany chests of drawers he acquired for a California financier in September — described on the invoice as a fine pair of English commodes, circa 1830 — might not be worth anything close to what he had paid.

His fears might have been justified. Detailed workshop records and photographs provided by Dennis Buggins, Mr. Hobbs's restorer for 21 years, indicate that Mr. Smith's commodes were designed and fabricated between 2004 and 2006, using materials plundered from several old wardrobes and a linen press. The cost, Mr. Buggins said, was about \$55,000. The asking price was 365,000 pounds (\$736,000 at the time), a retail markup of more than 1,000 percent, although Mr. Smith managed to pay \$450,000.

May 21, 2008 in [furniture](#) | [Permalink](#) | [comments \(0\)](#) | [trackback \(0\)](#)

Arts & Crafts Tours

Elaine Ellis' firm, [Arts & Crafts Tours](#), produces specialty-crafted tours - led by world-renowned experts in the field - of private homes, gardens, exhibitions, collections and sites important to the Arts & Crafts Movement. Currently in development are a few tours of the United States, specifically to Cranbrook and in the New York City region, to visit work by the architecture Bertram Goodhue.

Arts & Crafts Tours offers highly individualized tours to sites and countries where the best of this work still exists and where new work is being created. We look at the past to help us understand the present - and we would like to have you join us. Take a short virtual tour through our site and then we hope you'll take a real tour.

While most of our programs are offered through museums, art, craft and architectural organizations and institutions, we are always happy to prepare an itinerary for individual travelers and we are happy to work with small groups (6 - 12 people) to plan and arrange tours specifically designed to satisfy specific interests.

May 19, 2008 in [travel](#) | [Permalink](#) | [comments \(0\)](#) | [trackback \(0\)](#)

apologies for light posts this week

Sorry for the light posts this week. Had a small heart attack and am back from the hospital with stents in and lots of new medications. As a result I may not get back to the usual Hewn & Hammered schedule for another week. Sorry.

May 14, 2008 in [site news](#) | [Permalink](#) | [comments \(12\)](#) | [trackback \(0\)](#)

Chicago Arts & Crafts Show, May 17 & 18

Longtime reader David Ford of [Ford Craftsman Studios](#) reminds us of the upcoming third annual [Chicago Arts & Crafts Show](#), this coming weekend - May 17 and 18. Dozens of dealers will be present at the show, which is held at Concordia University in River Forest. Two workshops - one on stenciling and the other entitled "Light and Color: The Essentials of the Craftsman Home" will be offered for a small fee; admission to the show itself is \$7.

May 12, 2008 in [exhibits / events](#) | [Permalink](#) | [comments \(0\)](#) | [trackback \(0\)](#)

events this month

- now through August 10: [Gustav Stickley: The Enlightened Home](#) - Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown NY.
- May 10: [7th Annual Home & Garden Tour](#), Los Altos CA - \$40 per person to tour many of the area's most historically important and aesthetically impressive Arts & Crafts era homes. Like everything else in Los Altos, it's overpriced, but the houses should be impressive.
- May 17: [Wright Plus Housewalk](#) - get a rare look at interiors of several private homes designed by FLW at this 34th annual benefit event.
- May 17 & 18: [10th Annual Colorado Arts & Crafts Society Show & Sale](#) - exhibitors will show off antiques and contemporary furniture, textiles, metal and ceramic work. Golden, Colorado; \$10 per person.
- May 17 & 18: [Portland Bungalow Show](#) - vendors, lectures, demonstrations (including one on window repair). Portland, OR; \$7 per person, extra charge for lectures.
- May 18: [Museums of the Arroyo Day](#) - free admission to the Gamble House, Lummis House, Southwest Museum of the American Indian, Heritage Square Museum, and more; Pasadena, CA.

May 09, 2008 in [exhibits / events](#) | [Permalink](#) | [comments \(0\)](#) | [trackback \(0\)](#)

Avery Pottery & Tileworks, Seagrove NC

Husband and wife [Blaine and Laura Avery](#) are ceramic artists in Seagrove, North Carolina, just 45 minutes south of Greensboro. Strongly influenced by the Arts & Crafts Movement and the organic forms of Art Nouveau, their [urns, plates and teapots](#) are reminiscent of the shapes of Grueby and Roseville. Both potters frequently rely on both natural clay tones and the blues and greens so popular in A & C; the colors are especially vivid in their [tile work](#).

Their [shop](#) is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and they have regular kiln openings each spring and fall.



May 07, 2008 in [ceramics](#) | [Permalink](#) | [comments \(1\)](#) | [trackback \(0\)](#)

James Mattson Coppercraft



[James Mattson](#) fell in love with the idea of making his own light fixtures when he saw a picture of a 1910 Limbert copper, mica and oak lamp. After building a similar lamp for himself, he learned the fundamentals of [etching copper](#) from an ancient Popular Mechanics article, and kept at it until his hand was sure. Today, he makes absolutely beautiful [chandeliers](#), [table](#) and [floor](#) lamps, [lanterns](#) and [sconces](#), [switchplates](#), and other [bits and pieces](#) (and a few larger-scale commissions) all of it in stunning etched copper, hand-made art glass, mica and oak, and all of it of his own design.

May 02, 2008 in [metalwork](#) | [Permalink](#) | [comments \(1\)](#) | [trackback \(0\)](#)

foreclosure heat maps from hotpads.com

[Hotpads.com](#) presents various types of housing maps, including those that cost out buying vs. renting over time in certain areas. One new feature of the site is a [heatmap showing foreclosures](#), with most large cities nationwide represented. I didn't find any on my street, but there's a whole cluster - four at the same corner - just a block away, which leads me to be rather suspicious of the map - being that all four listings are for the same house. It's a neat tool, but take the data with a very large grain of salt.

Additionally, to get more detailed info, you need a free trial or paid subscription to RealtyTrac - at least you did for every property I looked at. Not sure if this is just a come-on for RealtyTrac or that was just a coincidence. Still, it's an interesting way to look at how some folks (and by folks I mean both brokers and buyers) greed and bad judgment is costing us all a hell of a lot of the equity we've built up over the last decade.

April 30, 2008 in [neighborhoods](#) | [Permalink](#) | [comments \(0\)](#) | [trackback \(0\)](#)

Pasadena Architectural Salvage

I've mentioned this company before, but I just took a few minutes to browse the online inventory on the Pasadena Architectural Salvage [website](#) and man do I wish I could jet down to LA to take a look at their shop. Great stained [glass panels & windows](#), [doors](#) (both interior and exterior), [unique fixtures](#), and all manner of [trim](#) and [hardware](#)!

April 28, 2008 in [for sale](#) | [Permalink](#) | [comments \(1\)](#) | [trackback \(0\)](#)