



Chestnut Hill Local

(/)

Saturday, March 30, 2024

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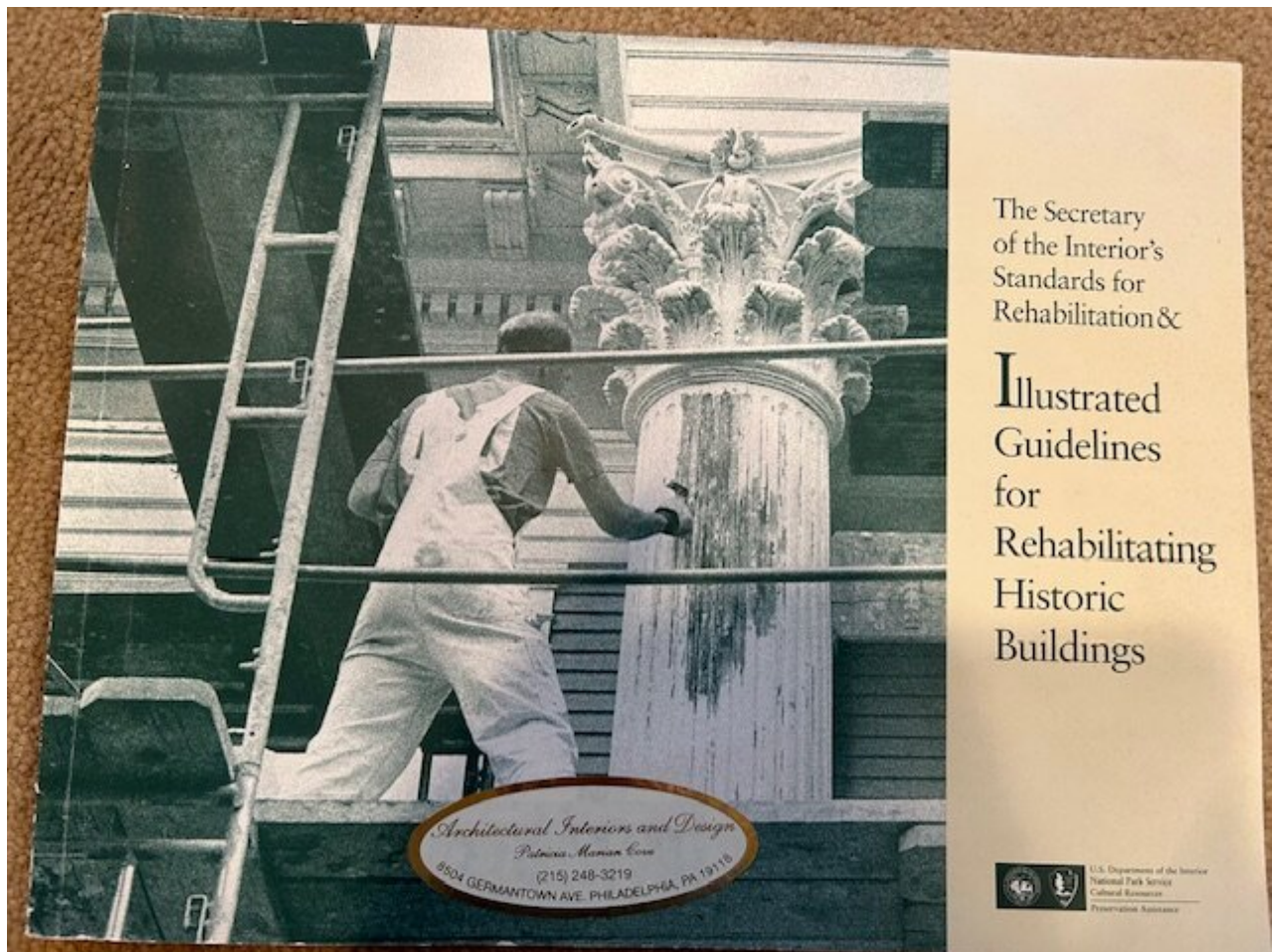
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BY DESIGN

When sleuthing helps you care for your historic home



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The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings is an important resource for historic homeowners.

Posted Thursday, March 14, 2024 12:00 am

by Patricia Cove

Philadelphia is a city of historical importance. Many smaller communities within the city have received National Historic District status. Homeowners take great pride in their historic residences and work to preserve their character and integrity.

Maintaining a home's historic significance takes time, patience and often a lot of research. There are specific characteristics of older buildings that are extremely important to their original appearance. These play very important roles in maintaining the integrity and authenticity of a building's significance.

Understanding a term like "true divided lights," for example, will maintain the appropriate appearance of replacement windows. Researching slate vs. asphalt vs. standing seam will help you decide what roof is most appropriate. Deteriorating shutters may need to be replaced, restored, or removed. It's important to determine whether paint colors are original or just a combination someone liked in 1970. Restoring a historic building requires serious consideration of these questions.

When it comes to the interior, choosing the best designs can become even more challenging. The trends of decades past that encouraged obscuring, or even worse, removing interior architectural features have gone the way of drop ceilings. Today, an interior that still contains rich architectural detail like deep moldings, paneling, plasterwork, exposed beams, and original fireplace mantels captures the interest of those who appreciate the craftsmanship and historical reference these features represent. Owners of such buildings spend much time studying the significance of these details and learning how to incorporate them into their interior designs.

Interior designers and architects are often versed in the various architectural styles inherent to specific periods. They can confirm that the interior elements coincide with the architectural style of the house. If the building has not been previously renovated, the interior trims, doors, cabinetry, and architectural detail should match the exterior architectural style. Even if a piece of trim or woodwork has been damaged, some companies specialize in reproducing important design elements. This enables the owner to maintain the style that will be critical to the integrity of the building and ensure its authentic character.

There are also companies that can identify paint layers or wallpapers that have been painted over. They can reproduce historic patterns and colors that were on the walls 200 years ago. They can also identify and date the wood on an original random-width floor. Businesses can replace a missing cabinet hinge from the 1700s.

Although owning a historic home may seem daunting, it is the care and maintenance of such buildings that create the atmosphere many of us choose to live in. The desire to learn about and understand the elements that make up historic architecture keeps the character of our National Historic District in place.

Patricia Cove is the principal of Architectural Interiors and Design in Chestnut Hill. She can be reached through her website: patriciacove.com.

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU

[The historic character of our neighborhood is a design ... \(/stories/the-historic-character-of-our-neighborhood-is-a-design-all-its-own,31644\)](#)

[Sometimes you need a contractor who can say 'no' \(/stories/sometimes-you-need-a-contractor-who-can-say-no,31545\)](#)

[When sleuthing helps you care for your historic home \(/stories/when-sleuthing-helps-you-care-for-your-historic-home,31459\)](#)

Some budget-friendly ideas to decorate your home (/stories/some-budget-friendly-ideas-to-decorate-your-home,31378)

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LOCAL CALENDAR

<p>Fri, Apr 12 @4:30pm</p> <p>Decibel Metal & Beer Fest...</p> <p>Sat, Mar 30 @7:30pm</p> <p>SANCTUARY Sound Bath Saturdays</p> <p>Practice Yoga Co-op</p> <p>Sat, Mar 30 @6:00pm</p> <p>Live Music with Aaron Quarterman</p> <p>Chestnut Hill Brewery Company</p> <p>Sat, Mar 30 @8:30pm</p> <p>A Cabaret To Save Philadelphia From Climate Change</p> <p>FringeArts</p>	<p>Thu, Apr 18 @7:30pm</p> <p>Silas Stewart Sextet</p>	<p>Thu, Apr 04 @3:00pm</p> <p>Build-It! Club</p>
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All Events (https://chestnuthilllocal.com/events/) Add Event (https://hub.cityspark.com/event/submission/ChestnutHil utm_medium=internal&utm_source=widget&utm_campaign=ev)



THE LATEST



Josephine Bonitatibus, 101 (/stories/josephine-bonitatibus-101,31655)

Josephine Bonitatibus, 101, passed away on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, in her daughter’s home in Erdenheim surrounded by loved ones. She was born May 6, 1922, the sixth of seven ...

(/stories/josephine-bonitatibus-101,31655)



Joan Levy Coale (/stories/joan-levy-coale,31654)

Joan Levy Coale, adored mother and grandmother; lover of the arts and the Wissahickon, and resident of Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill for nearly 100 years, died peacefully at home on February 25th, aged ...

(/stories/joan-levy-coale,31654)



Alexa Kane (nee Charbonneau) (/stories/alexa-kane-nee-charbonneau,31653)

Alexa Kane (nee Charbonneau), 89, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, passed away on March 25, 2024, in the presence of her loving children. Alexa was born of the late Exilda (Pelletier) and Arthur ...

(/stories/alexa-kane-nee-charbonneau,31653)



Mar 28, 2024 issue (/stories/mar-28-2024-issue,31652)

(/stories/mar-28-2024-issue,31652)



'From Womb to Womanhood' through March 31 (/stories/from-womb-to-womanhood-through-march-31,31651)

(/stories/from-womb-to-womanhood-through-march-31,31651)



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