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Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

COTTAGESGARDENS.COM | OCTOBER 2019



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CONTRIBUTORS

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COREY DAMEN JENKINS

With offices in Detroit and New York City, Corey Damen Jenkins is a nationally acclaimed interior designer. His talent was recently showcased at the 2019 Kips Bay Decorator Show House. Taking cues from runway fashion, Jenkins masterfully blends luxurious materials, rich colors and layered patterns. About working with the homeowners' existing furnishings in "Repeat Performance" (page 98), Jenkins notes, "Sometimes just changing the fabric and finish can completely 'remix' a piece of furniture into something fresh and new."



CARLETON VARNEY

Carleton Varney is one of the world's best-known interior designers with an impressive portfolio of clients and projects. As president of the legendary Dorothy Draper & Co., he has designed the interiors of celebrity homes and posh hotels nationwide. His 40-plus years of work at Grand Hotel is chronicled in his latest book, *Rooms to Remember*, excerpted on page 92. Of his adventurous style, Varney says, "People tend to become conservative as they get older. They lose the freedom of being a child with a paint box. I don't ever want to lose that freedom."



VICENTE WOLF

For more than 45 years, New York-based interior designer Vicente Wolf has fueled his soul as a designer, photographer, art collector, author and world traveler. His interiors incorporate a globally referenced aesthetic mixed with modern décor. The Victorian home featured in "Modern Vintage" (page 74) was in need of updating to address the needs of a modern family. Wolf says, "I made certain to maintain elements of the past throughout the interior and exterior, while achieving a fresh, young take." Wolf participated in this year's Kips Bay Decorator Show House and is the recipient of the 2013 HC&G Innovator award.

—Mary Fitzgerald



JENKINS: BRAD ZIEGLER; VARNEY: COURTESY OF CARLETON VARNEY; WOLF: JULIEN CARPAIL

Rooms to Remember

A DESIGNER'S TOUR OF MACKINAC ISLAND'S GRAND HOTEL

BY CARLETON VARNEY

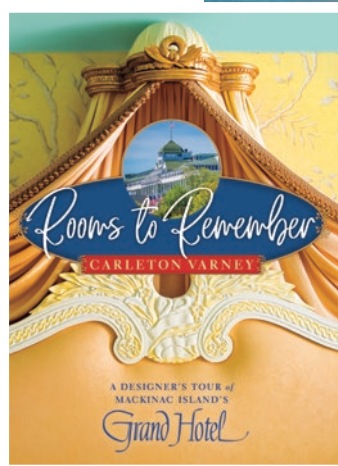
THERE ARE ALL TYPES OF HOTELS, resorts, boatels, and motels that offer comfort and entertainment to the weary traveler. I grew up in the 1950s, when the motels were often groupings of cabins, and we would dine in elongated one-story facilities. Today, hotels and motor inns can be nice resorts, with a television in every room (but thankfully no coin-operated massaging beds).

Now, there are "grand hotels" all over the world, but none are so personal as Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. I began decorating the hotel and its outer buildings more than 40 years ago. The rooms have been designed to reflect the timeline of a bygone era. Some honor people who have a special connection to the island or the hotel. There is even a Carleton Varney suite! It's filled with my favorite colors, wallcoverings, fabrics, personal mementos, and of course, Staffordshire dog collectibles.

The Grand's architecture, with its white columns and famous veranda, is classic. When I thought about redesigning the guest suites, I thought of Mount Vernon, of Monticello, of the White House—so presidential. My dream was to put all (or at least some) of the presidents under one roof, design-wise. Lincoln came first, Jefferson second, and then a third—a two-bedroom suite called Apartment of the President of the United States. Each year I add ephemera—be it photographs, artworks, or other pieces that I happen across that relate to the room.

My life has been filled with color and beauty, and I am honored to have been the artist allowed to paint the Grand Hotel canvas. And now for your tour of this Queen of the Great Lakes. Enjoy, and come back often.

Excerpted from Rooms to Remember (Shannongrove Press, 2019). Reprinted with permission. All images courtesy of Dorothy Draper & Company, Inc. Renderings by Ernest Fox. Aerial photograph by Michel Arnaud.



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Queen Of The Great Lakes Each year, guests flock to Mackinac Island to experience the Grand Hotel's beauty. The longest porch in America greets every one of them, along with the gardens and the many suites and guest rooms, with no two alike. See Resources.

Jacqueline Kennedy Suite



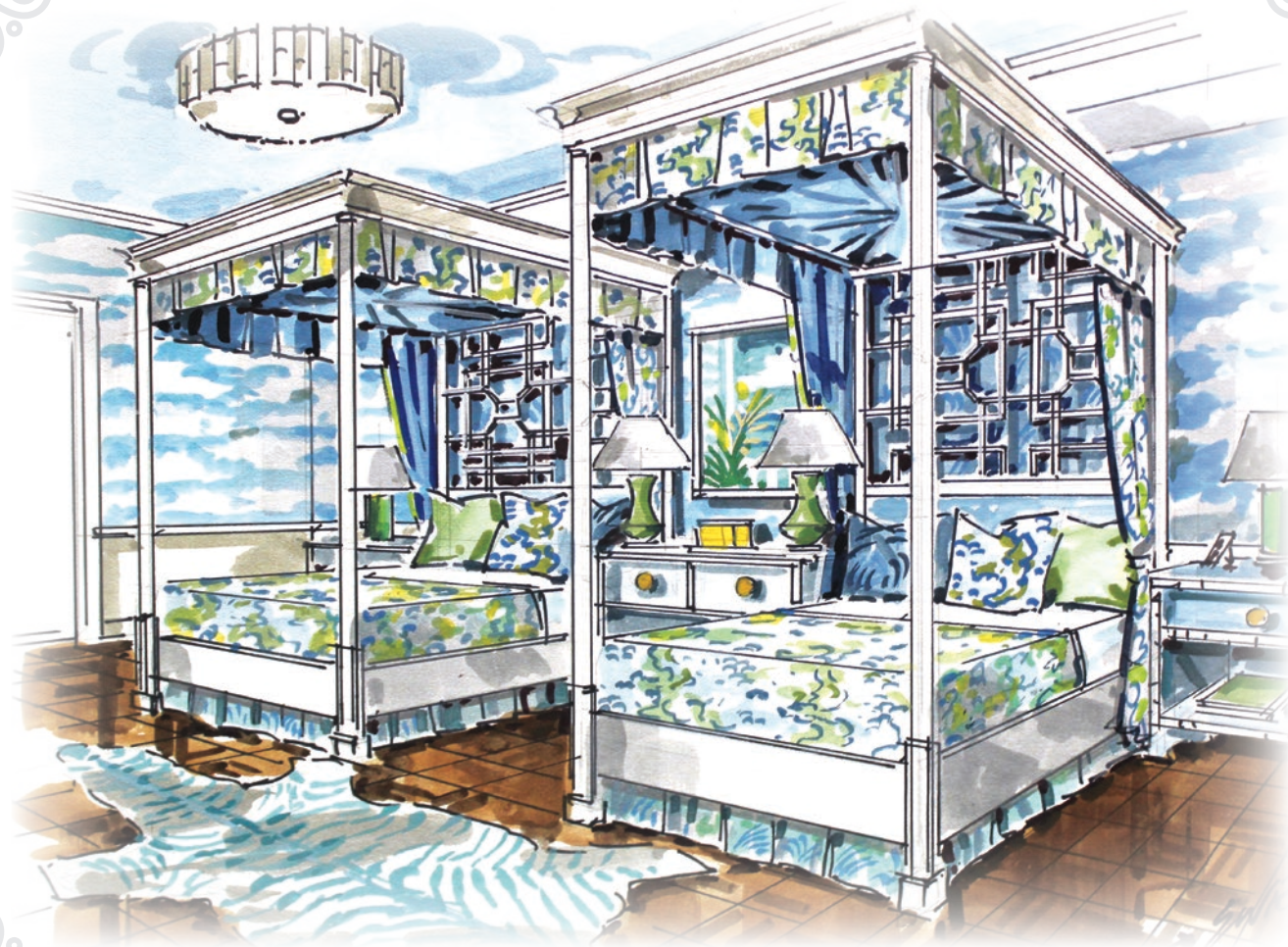
THE JACQUELINE KENNEDY SUITE INCLUDES walls covered in gold-on-gold silk damask and a gold eagle on navy blue wall-to-wall carpeting. It features a pale blue painted bed with gold trim; on the sides of the bed are prie-dieux for saying prayers. Aqua and gilt mirrors hang over demilune consoles, which give a feeling of refined elegance to this setting looking out over the Great Lakes. Jacqueline and John were avid sailors on the Cape Cod waters, and here on Mackinac they surely would have enjoyed the many races that are part of the island's heritage and history.

The fabrics used in the Jacqueline Kennedy Suite are soft blues on white silk and fine cotton. We have since reupholstered the suite's sofa in Jasper Peony. The lighting includes a crystal chandelier and a pair of crystal girandoles that sit on the bedside tables. The portrait of Jacqueline painted by Aaron Shikler that hangs in the White House is one to be admired. While ours is a reproduction, it remains a very special part of the environment. *See Resources.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHEL ARNAUD



Cupola Suites



ATOP THE HOTEL ON THE FOURTH FLOOR, Grand Hotel has added what are called the Cupola Suites, each with a parlor and bedroom, and the option of an adjoining second room, should a family need a two-bedroom accommodation. Each suite in this series has a different scheme—one has a nautical on-the-water-front concept; another is an island in the Caribbean; and yet another seems decorated in the clouds. The Cupola Suite project is planned for completion in the 2019 season, featuring four new bedrooms and two parlors; all have views of the Great Lakes, and are popular and comfortable in all seasons. Once the addition is finished, the exterior roofline will resemble the hotel's original architecture from the late 1800s, with dormers lining the entire roof.

The parlors of the suites have raised dining areas, and the bedrooms have conversation spaces with sofa seating. A mix of design and decorating styles and fabrics are present, from Big Fish in royal blue to Dorothy's Garden with its green leaf background. *See Resources.*

COURTESY GRAND HOTEL

Musser Suite



UPON ITS OPENING, THE MUSSER SUITE—with aqua-blue painted wood-panel ceiling, aubergine-purple walls of a Delphine Damask silk, and plaid-like wall-to-wall carpeting in pinks, purples, and whites—was featured on the front page of the *Detroit Free Press*. The Delphine Damask also covers the sofa, with coordinating chintz on two armchairs at the fireplace. Four rococo panels hang behind the sofa, and two malachite side tables frame it. The focal point of the sitting room is a white fireplace, and a large Asian vase stands at the parlor entry.

The entry itself has dark green silk moiré upholstered walls and an ornate mirror. A large wet bar with white marble is perfectly situated to greet your visiting guests with drinks. The parquet flooring is crowned with a custom-designed carpet with a regal “M” for Musser (members of the Musser family have been guardians to the Queen of the Great Lakes for over one hundred years) surrounded by stirrups and riding helmets to represent Mackinac. *See Resources.*

KIM SARGENT OF SARGENT ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

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