

# Bringing Back Lucknow's Bedrooms



*Reproduction wallpaper for Lucknow's master bedroom.*

*Lucknow's master bedroom after restoration, 2018.*



The master bedroom at Lucknow was fully restored in 2016. Although we don't have any photographs or written descriptions that document what the bedroom looked like during Thomas and Olive's residence, examining the room for original wallpaper and paint turned up some helpful clues. When the modern wallpaper was removed for investigation, remnants of two different vintage wallpapers were found attached to the bare plaster walls. The restoration team's historic wallpaper expert determined which of the two patterns was the original wall covering – a neutral, tan colored paper with gray-brown pin stripes and vines. This pattern was very similar in color and style to other samples found throughout the master suite (in the dressing rooms for example) – this coordination of wallpaper designs throughout the suite provided further evidence that this was the original, as chosen by Thomas and Olive for their master bedroom.

The restoration team recovered a large enough sample to have scanned and then digitally printed – this reproduction wallpaper was installed in 2016. Original paint samples found on the woodwork were also matched. New carpeting, bedspreads, and drapes were chosen – these coordinate with the wallpaper Thomas and Olive selected, and represent patterns and colors that would have been popular choices for 1914 (according to interior decorating guides from that time).

The restoration team hopes that careful investigation of the walls and woodwork in the North Tower's two guest bedrooms will yield similar results when restoration work begins in 2019.



## Investigate!

Examine the photographs of rooms and interior decorating color schemes from the 1910s and 1920s below; then compare them to the wallpaper samples found in Lucknow's rooms. Can you guess which of the recovered Lucknow wallpaper patterns date to the 1910s and 1920s, and which might be later?