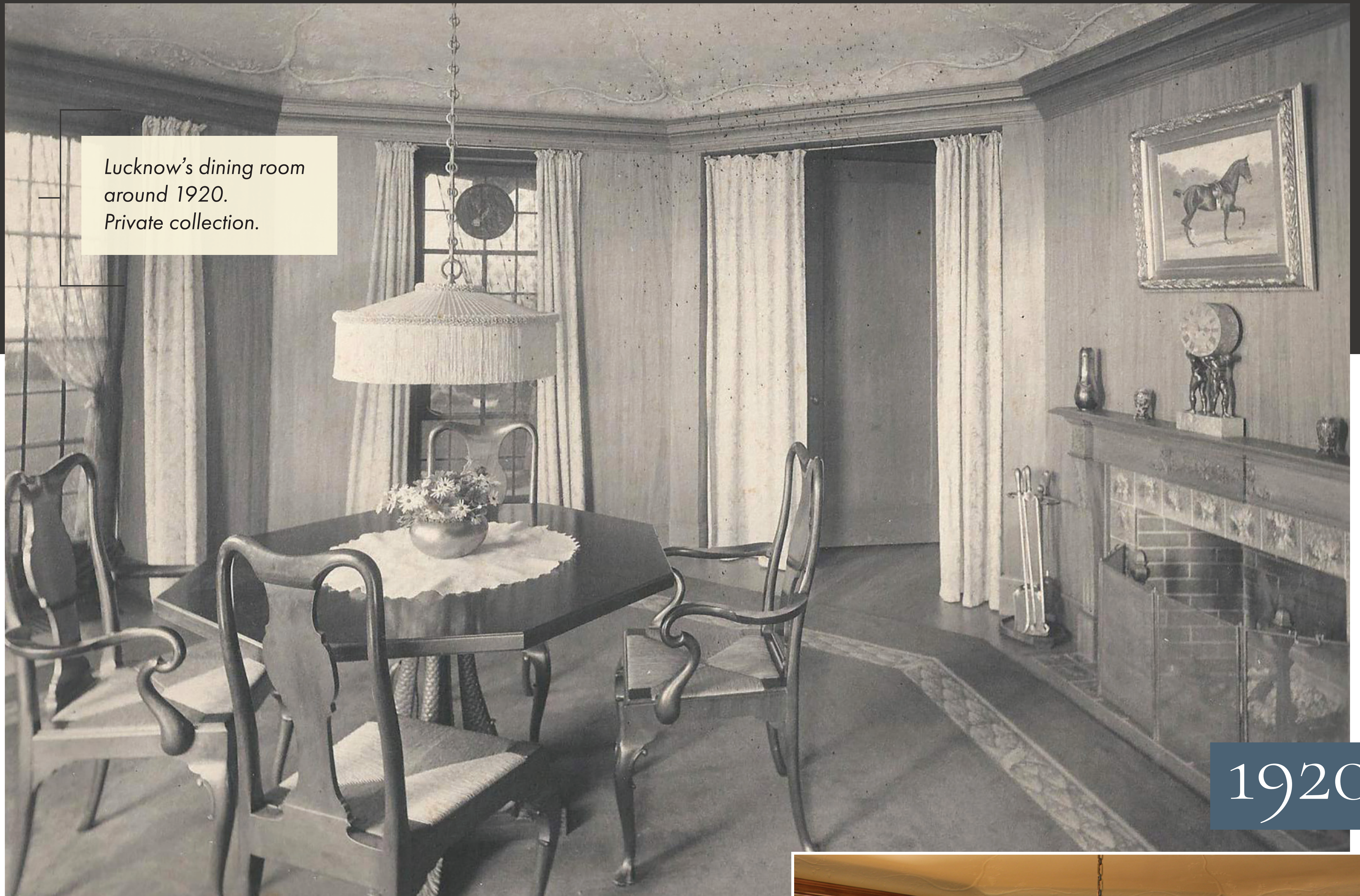


Dining Room Discoveries



Restoration of Lucknow's intimate dining room was a two year process beginning in 2015. The project started with the meticulous restoration of the original plaster ceiling. The mysteries of the ceiling's construction and original appearance were revealed as seven layers of paint were carefully removed. Previous theories were debunked – the ceiling plaster wasn't hand-carved by artisans lying on their backs on scaffolding; actually, over fifty separate pieces of ceiling were cast from molds, then were attached to the ceiling's wire lath. The plaster ceiling wasn't covered in canvas, and it wasn't originally painted blue, as previously thought. When the Plants dined in this space, the ceiling above them was simply painted beige.



In 2016, preservation carpenters restored several sections of damaged elm veneer paneling that make up the room's walls. Where the original elm panels could not be saved, they were replaced with a new elm panel, with a carefully chosen matching grain. Analysis of the original finish helped the restoration team select the replacement stain color. The same process was used to restore the finish on the original oak flooring.

The room's original walnut furniture was conserved and placed just as seen in photographs taken during the early 1920s, at the time the Plants were living at Lucknow and enjoying meals in their octagonal dining room.

*The dining room
after restoration, 2017.*