

Understanding the Castle's Unique Design

Lucknow, Castle in the Clouds, 2016.



J. Williams Beal,
1919. *Technology
Review*, Volume 21.

The identity of the Castle's architect was long forgotten, until recently, when researchers uncovered a 1924 real estate advertisement indicating that the Boston firm of J. Williams Beal & Sons had designed the estate buildings. A journal was also located at the Hanover Historical Society (Massachusetts), in which Mrs. Beal had documented her husband's business trips to Moultonborough when visiting with Thomas Plant.

Working in the trendy Arts and Crafts aesthetic, Beal incorporated natural elements at Lucknow wherever possible to make the buildings blend with their surroundings, "in harmony with nature" as Plant would later write. The mansion and stables were veneered with native stone and topped with terra cotta clay roof tiles. The two gatehouses were faced with river and field stones, probably collected on site.

Exposed timbers on all buildings were of New England white oak and featured intricate hand-chiseled scalloping on all sides. These hand hewn details were defining features at Lucknow. The intentional embrace of hand craftsmanship in both practice and appearance were critical elements of arts and crafts design.

Did You Know?....

The Arts and Crafts movement blossomed in England in the nineteenth century, soon catching on in the United States and influencing the design of jewelry, pottery, textiles, metalwork, and architecture, among other things.

A reaction to industrialism and mechanization, the Arts and Crafts movement celebrated hand craftsmanship and design heritage. The English movement celebrated the Gothic and vernacular building styles of the British Middle Ages, while in New England, architects mixed English traditions with regional colonial styles, as well as other building heritages from around the world.