

Examining and Assessing the Evidence – Responsible Restoration

While several buildings on the estate have been preserved, much of the restoration work since 2006 has focused on Thomas and Olive Plant's mansion Lucknow, which is being carefully returned to its original appearance, both inside and out.

To recreate the Plants' life at Lucknow, the restoration team relies on various historical sources like photographs, news articles, furniture receipts, and even memoirs of the Plants' household staff. Sometimes, when evidence is lacking, meticulous research and educated guesswork are the only options. For example, no known photographs or descriptions of the Castle's bedroom furnishings exist. To guide these restoration projects, the team conducts careful studies of furnishing records from other great estates, and examines interior decorating guides and magazines from the era.

*Bedroom interior design featured in *The House in Good Taste*, by Elsie de Wolfe, 1913.*



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MAUVE CHINTZ IN A DULL-GREEN ROOM



Investigate!

Which of these historical sources would you find helpful in restoring the Castle? Examine the item and consider what it might reveal about how the Castle looked, how it was furnished, or what the Plants' life was like there in the 1910s and 1920s. How credible is this source, in your opinion?