



Streamlines *November 29, 2016*

King of Jazz **American Film Institute** **Saturday, December 3**

The American Film Institute will present a special showing of the freshly restored film classic *King of Jazz* Saturday December 3, 2016 at the AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Road in Silver Spring. The presentation will be hosted by authors David Pierce and James Layton, who recently completed a comprehensive book about the film, *King of Jazz: Paul Whiteman's Technicolor Revue*.



Bandleader Paul Whiteman - the biggest name in American popular music in 1930 - leads this lavish Technicolor music and comedy revue, featuring star players John Boles, Laura LaPlante, Jeanette Loff and a young Bing Crosby, singing in the Rhythm Boys trio. The film makes for a fascinating curio: strained humor, a giant rotating stage, a bizarre animated sequence (by Walter Lantz, later of Woody Woodpecker fame) and the elephant in the room of race; the musicians are exclusively white.

Watch the movie trailer on YouTube https://youtu.be/f3hLWSxHk_U

The screening will be at 1:20 PM.

[Tickets](#)

Join us at the Tastee Diner after the film for a late lunch and discussion. The Tastee Diner is at 8601 Cameron St, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Preservation Alert Atomic Physics Observatory

A New Local Deco Discovery That is Also Endangered

We learned recently of a fine Art Deco structure hidden in plain sight near Rock Creek Park in northwest Washington: The Atomic Physics Observatory on the Carnegie Institution of Washington campus on Broad Branch Road, NW. Constructed in 1937, the now-abandoned architectural structure housed a Van de Graaff particle accelerator, also known as an atom smasher. Though many such structures were built during the heyday of nuclear physics research in the 1930's, only a handful remain in the United States.



Brief History & Significance

The Observatory was an addition to the Carnegie Institution's research campus founded at the turn of the 20th when the location was quite rural. By the time the Observatory was constructed, the surrounding Chevy Chase residential neighborhood had become well-established. While the structure would have been perfectly serviceable without an architectural enclosure, the Institution thought it best to be a good neighbor and called on prominent local architect Edward Burton Corning to design an aesthetically pleasing exterior. Mr. Corning was conversant in several architectural styles and was responsible for many residences, commercial and civic buildings in the Washington area, including our favorite WTOP Radio Transmitter Station in Wheaton, Maryland.

At roughly 40' in diameter and over 55' tall, the cylindrical domed structure looks much an observatory for viewing stars, but there is no telescope inside. Rather, the accelerator housed inside resembles a large ice cream cone, with a single "scoop" on top that forms the dome. Basically, the spherical dome (the "scoop") on top was used to generate large electrical charges that were then funneled vertically down the inverted "cone" and aimed at atoms in a chamber just below the ground. The Observatory's first experiments involved such notable physicists as Neils Bohr and Enrico Fermi. Work at the facility contributed to the development of the atomic bomb during the Manhattan Project the following decade. The Observatory continued to be used for experiments well into the 1960's but has sat idle since the 1970's.

Mr. Corning's elegant architectural enclosure takes the form of a beige brick cylinder and features interesting vertical pilasters formed with angled bricks, large glass block panels and a nice complement of stone trim. The prominent dome was originally covered with heat reflective aluminum paint, but is now painted white. While no longer in use, the structure is in relatively good condition and is fully intact.



In Danger of Being Lost

Our friends with the DC Preservation League got wind of the structure's endangerment through their regular review of the District's list of demolition permits. Sadly, the Carnegie Institution is no longer interested in maintaining the structure and filed for a demolition permit earlier this autumn. Thankfully, the League's Landmarks Committee took notice, discovered what was at risk, and in very short order put together a very thorough and thoughtful Landmark Designation Nomination. A hearing with the District's Historic Preservation Review Board is set for December 15th, at which time it is expected that the Board will rule on Landmark designation for this significant structure.

How You Can Help

We hope you will take a few minutes to support the Landmark Designation of the Observatory. Not only is it of merit for its fine Art Deco exterior, but it is also important to our history as well. Brief letters of support can be submitted to The Historic Preservation Review Board or you can testify at the hearing. Please act quickly: the hearing is scheduled for December 15th. The property name and address are Carnegie Institution of Washington, Atomic Physics Observatory, 5241 Broad Branch Road, NW, and the case number is 17-01.

Comments on a case pending before HPRB and materials intended for distribution to individual Board members should be addressed to the Chair. HPRB members prefer to receive advance copies of written comments and documents submitted for their monthly meeting, so materials intended for advance distribution to HPRB members must be received by HPO before noon on the Thursday one week before the HPRB meeting [December 8th, in this case]. For brief comments of no more than two pages, one original copy is acceptable.

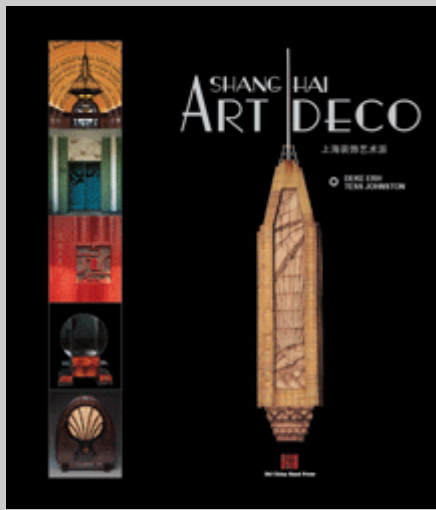
Letters and other materials may be submitted by email to tohistoric.preservation@dc.gov, by fax to (202) 442-7638, or by regular mail or hand delivery to the HPO office at the following address.

Chair
Historic Preservation Review Board
1100 4th Street, SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024

If you wish to testify at the meeting, you may do so by coming early and filling out a card.

For inquiries, please contact HPO staff at (202) 442-7600, or send an email to historic.preservation@dc.gov

Registration Now Open!
December 13, 2016
Shanghai Deco with Tess Johnston



Join us for an evening of fun and discovery to kick off the holiday season. We have lined up noted author and expert on western-influenced architecture in Shanghai Tess Johnston. Tess conducted tours as part of the World Congress held in Shanghai in 2015 and gave a lecture to a sellout crowd of the New York Art Deco Society last year. Tess has repatriated back to the States and her home here in Washington and she has graciously agreed to be our speaker for this evening event.

When: Tuesday evening, December 13th
Reception with light fare: 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Illustrated lecture: 7:30 - 8:30 PM

Where: First Congregational United Church of Christ, 945 G St., NW, Washington, DC

We have secured the Church's Community Room for the evening. It is a very nice facility regularly used by outside groups, including the Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. The site is convenient to Metro and there is reasonably priced garage parking nearby.

Access

Metro: The Church is a short walk from the Gallery Place / China Town Metro Station served by the Red, Yellow & Green Lines.

Parking: There is paid parking in the garage off of G Place on the back side of the building. There is an evening rate of \$10 that is good from 5:00 pm until 11:00 pm closing.

A Bit More about the Speaker

Tess Johnston first came to Shanghai in 1981 to work at the American Consulate General and in 1996, after over thirty years in the diplomatic service, she retired and stayed on to research, write, and lecture. She and her co-author, Shanghai photographer Deke Erh, have published 25 books, including fifteen volumes on Western architecture and the expatriate experience in old China.

Tess's original interest in Art Deco architecture expanded exponentially after viewing the myriad and stunning buildings of Bombay and

Shanghai. Her research combined with the splendid photographs of her co-author Deke Erh then evolved in 2006 into a coffee-table volume, *Shanghai Art Deco*, which rapidly sold out and is now a collector's item. Their final joint effort completed the series of their twenty-plus books, the major volumes covering Western architecture and lifestyles in old China.

Tess is a native of Virginia and her academic background includes an M.A. from the University of Virginia, where she subsequently taught. She has lived abroad for more than half a century, including seven years in Germany (both east and west) and more than 40 in Asia, including 33 in Shanghai and seven in Vietnam (1967-74).

Thanks to her extensive library of old books and historical documents, Tess also serves as a consultant on matters pertaining to the Western presence in old Shanghai. She is also a valuable research resource for visiting scholars and former residents seeking to trace their Shanghai roots. Now back in Washington, DC, Tess continues her research, writing, lecturing and, we hope, a friend and ADSW.

[Register](#)

Pierre Chareau Exhibit Opens at Jewish Museum in New York

If you find yourself in New York over the holidays, don't miss the first ever exhibition on the works of French designer and architect Pierre Chareau (1883-1950) at the Jewish Museum.



Showcasing rare furniture, lighting fixtures, and interiors, as well as designs for the extraordinary Maison de Verre, the glass house completed in Paris in 1932, the exhibition brings together over 180 rarely-seen works from major public and private collections in Europe and the United States.

Pierre Chareau rose from modest beginnings in Bordeaux to become one of the most sought-after designers in France. Creating custom furniture and interiors for a distinguished clientele that included leading figures of the French-Jewish intelligentsia, Chareau balanced the opulence of traditional French decorative arts with interior designs that were elegant, functional, and in sync with the requirements of modern life. His innovative furniture, veneered in rare woods with occasional touches of exotic materials, had clean profiles and movable parts that appealed to the sensibilities of the progressive bourgeoisie.



Pierre Chareau: Modern Architecture and Design proposes a fresh look at the internationally recognized designer and examines his work in the Parisian cultural context between the wars to highlight his circle of influential patrons, engagement with the period's foremost artists, and designs for the film industry. Together with his wife Dollie, Chareau was an active patron of the arts, and the exhibition reunites several pieces from their collection of paintings, sculptures, and drawings by significant artists such as Piet Mondrian, Amedeo Modigliani, Jacques Lipchitz, and Max Ernst.



The exhibition also addresses Chareau's life and work in the New York area, after he left Paris during the German occupation of the city, including the house he designed for Robert Motherwell in 1947 in East Hampton, Long Island.

The Jewish Museum
1109 5th Ave at 92nd St
New York, NY 10128
212.423.3200
info@thejm.org

Photographs courtesy of Robert Bryan

Registration Opens Soon
World Congress on Art Deco -- Cleveland
Pre-Congress Tour -- Cincinnati
Pre-Congress Tour -- Detroit
Post-Congress Tour -- Pittsburgh
May 7 - 24, 2017

Cheers,

Jim Linz
Art Deco Society of Washington
703-568-3745