

Three Newport Mansions of the Gilded Age

arch: a curved structure supporting weight of material over an open space

Baroque: a style dominating European art and architecture throughout the 17th century. It was a dynamic theatrical style that blended realism, illusion and ornate forms to achieve its' effects. A popular Baroque painting type was illusionist ceiling decoration designed to merge with the elaborate molding and carved cornices surrounding them

bracket: a supporting piece of stone, wood or metal projecting from a wall

capitol: the top element of a pillar or column

classical: a term used to describe perfection of form and emphasis on harmony and unity, based on Greek and Roman architecture

column: a round upright post used to bear weight. A half column or engaged column is attached to a wall and does not bear weight and used mainly for decoration

cornice: the top section of an entablature or decorative molding, projecting along the top of a building

dumbwaiter: a small elevator used for moving food and tableware between the floors of a building

emphasis: a principle of design that stresses one element to attract the viewer's attention

frieze: a decorative horizontal band usually attached to the upper end of a wall

gold leaf : gold beaten into a thin sheet and used to gild or cover a surface with gold. It is a traditional method for creating a gold metallic effect

molding: a narrow strip used for finishing decorated walls and other structures. Molding may be flat, round or highly decorated

monumental: a style that gives the impression of grandeur of form, nobility and enduring significance

motif : a unit repeated in a visual rhythm or theme

neoclassic: a 19th century French art style that revived the ideals of ancient Greek and Roman art using classical forms and symmetry

ormolu: gilded bronze or brass used as decoration. Used chiefly for lighting mounts, ornament on furniture, clock faces, and chandeliers. It is also a transparent reddish orange varnish used to give luster to a surface gilded with gold leaf

object d' arte: a term applied to all sorts of decorative and precious articles such as porcelains, metalwork and curios

patina: a film or incrustation usually green that forms on copper and bronze after a certain amount of weathering

relief: a type of sculpture which forms project from a background and usually attached to a wall

Renaissance: the revival of classic attitude toward human physical beauty

rococo: a style of art and interior design in the 18th century. Smaller scale, curvilinear and delicate detail are characteristics of the style especially in furniture design. Love and romance were dominant themes in painting and sculpture

sotto in su: in a ceiling painting, extreme foreshortening of figures and scenes are drawn so that the figures appear to be suspended in space rather than contained within a picture plane

stucco: a plaster used as a finishing and protective coating on walls. A fine surface and stone-like durability can be obtained on flat and decorative molded surfaces

tapestry: a textile wall hanging that is woven, painted and embroidered with decorative designs or colorful scenes

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