



SALISBURY CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE

A Celebration of the Art & Design of the Automobile

Automobiles, Architecture, Artistry and Awe:
Celebrating the Exceptional at the Salisbury Concours d'Elegance



The finest Concours d'Elegance automobiles are distinctive among 20th Century cultural icons in their unique blend of ethereal physical beauty and pure muscular functionality. They represent the pinnacle of the machine as a work of art, the place where a variety of seemingly disparate disciplines — design, modeling, testing, physics, engineering, metallurgy, chemistry, manufacture, maintenance — all come together to produce something far greater and more inspirational than the sum of their parts.

When most people travel to see inspirational works of art in any idiom, they expect to find them displayed in equally inspirational settings. Grand museums, beautiful gardens, elegant libraries, intimate galleries and glorious theaters enhance the experience of art, providing context, perspective and physical backdrops fully worthy of the grandeur displayed in the foreground.

Among America's great annual automobile exhibitions, the Salisbury Concours d'Elegance offers an unrivaled opportunity to experience these grand cars as they deserve to be seen, framed

by stately oaks, tucked against formal English gardens, and poised before one of America's architectural and artistic treasures: Carl and Edith Weeks' extraordinary Salisbury House.



Carl Weeks was a chemist and pharmacist who created an international business empire based in Des Moines through his pioneering work in the commercial cosmetics industry. He and his wife, Edith, built Salisbury House at the height of the Roaring Twenties, inspired by their visits to King's House in Salisbury, England. They were also art and book collectors of exceptional taste and refinement, and most of their collections remain in the house today.



The 42-room estate integrates elements from three centuries of European architectural tradition: the distinctive arches of the Tudor era, the soaring lines of Gothic cathedrals and castles, and the elegant sumptuousness of the post-Puritan Carolean era. It is also a pioneering sustainable structure, built with many features from demolished homes, roads, barns, shipping crates and out-buildings, many of them centuries old. Salisbury House's Great Hall features roof timbers from the White Hart Inn in England, where Shakespeare is believed to have watched his own plays being performed, and the estate's roof slates and gutters once graced Admiral Lord Nelson's family home.

Like a classic car, though, Salisbury House truly achieves greatness not just because of what is visible on the outside, but also because of what lies within: fine art, books, decorative art, historic documents, antique and musical instrument collections of international significance. The Salisbury House collections have been regularly recognized as exceptional and significant by appraisers, peers in the museum field, rare book librarians and collectors, and prominent media outlets, including two appearances on PBS's *Antiques Roadshow*.



The books and art that Carl and Edith Weeks collected provide a rich repository for the study of world culture in all of its myriad, diverse forms, and demonstrates their commitment to promoting and empowering a literate, engaged citizenry. Signed books and documents by the likes of Abraham Lincoln, Ernest Hemingway, James Joyce, Charles Dickens, Queen Elizabeth I, Joseph Smith, D.H. Lawrence and many others tangibly bring history to life at Salisbury House in ways that few historic attractions can offer.

The walls, mantels and alcoves at Salisbury House are graced with an exceptional and diverse collection of fine and decorative arts, acquired via the Weekses' worldwide travels in search of unique and beautiful items. Carl and Edith's support of then-contemporary artists such as Joseph Stella Lillian Genth boosted their careers significantly, and their works still hang in the hallways at Salisbury House.

In summary, Salisbury House offers unparalleled depth and breadth of experience for its visitors, with tangible, accessible teaching opportunities in architecture, art, literature, horticulture, music, history, cultural anthropology, entrepreneurship and sustainability. Carl and Edith Weeks built their home and collections with an eye toward future generations, and the nonprofit Salisbury House Foundation now works in their honor and memory to keep these treasures available and accessible to the public.



The Salisbury Concours d'Elegance celebrates a full spectrum of visionary artistic and engineering endeavor. The juxtaposition of the estate, the grounds and the marvelous machines at the heart of this special day make it a truly exceptional event, and one not to be missed.

We look forward to welcoming you here on September 9, 2012!