This year’s inaugural *The House Beautiful* lecture series explores 20th-century tastemakers whose work promoted the idea that life could be improved through artful design of everyday objects.

The lectures will take place in Evergreen’s Bakst Theatre, followed by a book signing and lightly catered reception.

**Liz O’Brien**  
March 26

**Ultramodern Samuel Marx: Architect, Designer, Art Collector**

Art expert and dealer Liz O’Brien is a leading force in rediscovering the work of many mid-century designers, and is widely regarded as one of the foremost experts in the field. She became interested in the work of American architect Samuel Marx more than 10 years ago when she began exhibiting his work at her Fifth Avenue gallery in New York. Although Marx was born at the end of the 19th century, he had the eye of a modernist—as an architect, furniture designer, connoisseur, and collector. “Rooms designed by Samuel A. Marx have so satisfying a feeling of oneness that it’s frequently hard to say where the architecture ends and the furniture begins,” said *House Beautiful* in 1948. O’Brien will discuss many of Marx’s undiscovered projects, as well as his range of furniture designs.

**James B. Garrison**  
April 23

**Mastering Tradition: The Residential Architecture of John Russell Pope**

John Russell Pope designed several hundred buildings and monuments, including over 100 houses, from a series of jewel-like mausoleums to vast estates with integrated ensembles of living, work, and leisure buildings. Architect James B. Garrison takes as his starting point several of Pope’s key residential projects in Baltimore and Washington to show how these relate to his better known public works. Garrison has over 20 years of experience in architecture and historic preservation, including research and restoration work on many National Historic Landmark structures. In addition to his architectural practice, he writes and lectures extensively on the history and architecture of southeastern Pennsylvania, where he lives on the Main Line.

**James Archer Abbott**  
May 28

**Fit for a King: The Furniture and Design of Maison Jansen**

Maison Jansen was the most celebrated decorating firm in the world throughout the 20th century, with a client list that included the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, the Shah and Shahbanou of Iran, and President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy. The firm designed custom furnishings for interiors that celebrated its signature aesthetic—a heady combination of Bourbon historicism combined with Hollywood-style glamour. Evergreen curator and independent author James Archer Abbott will talk about his recently published books *Jansen* and *Jansen Furniture*, and present highlights of some of the firm’s most alluring commissions. Abbott has previously held the positions of curator of the Woodrow Wilson House in Washington, and curator of decorative arts at the Baltimore Museum of Art.
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