



Some are teachers like Paul Hadley, retired art teacher and designer of the Indiana state flag, who taught Mark the nuances of watercolor, and in fourth grade, Miss Saylor. Mark said, “When I was nine, I had a teacher called Miss Saylor who was sympathetic towards my obsession with houses; she and I would sit and draw houses while everyone else was busy with jack-o’-lanterns or pilgrims or Easter bunnies and the like. She taught me the difference between Victorian, Georgian, and Greek revival styles, what a New England salt box was, what was Italianate. I learned to draw the Williamsburg houses I so admired, and those Charles Addams gloomy mansions with mansard roofs and huge bay windows—and always, always those inside shutters. Shutters were an obsession. When I got older, and was allowed to refinish some old shutters for my tiny bedroom, I immediately considered myself a decorator.”

Another door was opened for Mark by neighbors. In *Design Times* October 1997, he remembered, “In 1950

I met some people, the Ramseys, who were building a big modern house in my town where there was nothing modern at all, and I kind of plagued them. They had Durer and Carl Larsson prints on their walls and subscribed to a marvelous magazine called *Architectural Forum*. I loved it so much that they gave me a subscription for Christmas. Frank Lloyd Wright was building the big Unitarian Church in Madison, Wisconsin; Mies van der Rohe had just finished the Farnsworth house in Chicago. That magazine arriving every month with those stupefyingly wonderful things in it and my aunt’s attic filled with old *House & Garden* magazines made me yearn to get away and see so many things.”

Coming to his rescue when he was fourteen was an invitation from family friends who had just moved to Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. Knowing his interests, they asked Mark to come for a weekend to see the famous sights in Philadelphia and an outstanding decorative arts museum nearby that had been assembled by a DuPont.

*This is Mark’s sketch of the principal reception/drawing room in Gracie Mansion, the official residence of New York City’s Mayor. Mark decorated the room during the Koch administration.*