

Special Edition 2013-2014

# SOCIETY

DESTINATION  
PARIS *bonjour!*

DREXEL'S  
AMAZING  
URBAN  
CENTER

PHILADELPHIA  
FILE

ELITE SPORTING  
GRAND PRIX  
SOCCER  
POLO

And More!~

TOUR  
COCO  
CHANEL'S  
FAMOUS  
APARTMENT

PHILANTHROPIST  
MEDIA  
PERSONALITY

Guest Editor  
Tells All!

INTERNATIONAL  
SET



# CONTRIBUTORS

## CONTRIBUTOR/PUBLISHER

*Christian S. Dougherty*

Enjoy the issue and check out my interview with Maria Papadakis.



## CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

*Anne Scardino*

Writer/design consultant Anne Scardino takes us to Philadelphia and Drexel University's new URBN Center Complex, home to the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts and Design. The new hip \$80 million glass and steel complex allows for collaborative learning in the fields of interior design, graphic design, architecture, music industry, and digital media.

Scardino, a self-professed francophile, also takes us to Paris, where she writes about her first-hand experience of visiting Coco Chanel's apartment on a trip with the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art.



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## GUEST EDITOR/ COVER MODEL

*Maria Papadakis on Jade*

Drexel graduate and Philadelphia media personality shares her beginnings and future plans.

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## PHILADELPHIA FRANCOPHILE TOURS **PARIS** WITH VIP ACCESS

Article and Photos by  
Anne Scardino *Contributing Editor*

When the email from the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art hit my inbox last spring with the subject line of “Private Paris & Beyond,” I quickly opened it. The eight-day September trip to the city of light was promoted as an “exclusive cultural program of private visits and receptions closed to the public” during the world-renowned antique fair, “Biennale des Antiquaires.” But it wasn’t until my eyes glanced further down my computer screen to the tour highlights and landed on a classic picture of Coco Chanel that the deal was sealed. My posture became more pronounced and my eyes grew larger as I read, “Private Visit & Reception at the Apartment of Mademoiselle Coco Chanel.” That did it; there was no question I would be going on the trip. I was thrilled at the opportunity to glimpse into the private space of such a public person, where very few have had the opportunity.

Twenty-one of us from around the world, including two close friends, embarked upon Paris where

we met our extraordinary consultant and organizer of exclusive cultural tours, Pamela Huntington Darling, and settled in at the charming left bank St. Germain Hotel Duc de Saint Simon. The location was great, with just a two-block walk to the main intersection of St. Germain-de-Pres and Rue de Bac. We would meet daily and be driven about in a very comfortable mid-size Mercedes bus with Pamela keeping us abreast of what we were about to see, and with whom we were about to meet. Everywhere we went, whether it was to the Institute de France where we had a private visit and tour followed by lunch with members of the Academie des Beaux-Arts, including the Perpetual Secretary’s cabinet director, Jean-Louis Goubin, or dined at the oldest and most exclusive private club in all of France, the Cercle de l’Union, with the President of the Cercle, Denis de Kergorlay, also President of the French Heritage Society, we were treated like royalty. I had the unique pleasure of being seated next to both men, and the opportunity to hear about their backgrounds and their current positions was something I never would have been able to do if it weren’t for the tour.

A private visit to the Chateau de Vaux le Vicomte (most gorgeous foyer I have ever seen) and to Fontainebleau with architect, historian and illustrator Bernd Dams, as well as a behind-the-scenes visit of Versailles with Bertrand Rondot, Curator





of Furniture and Art, where we had the opportunity to view private restored rooms not open to the public, were a few highlights of the trip.

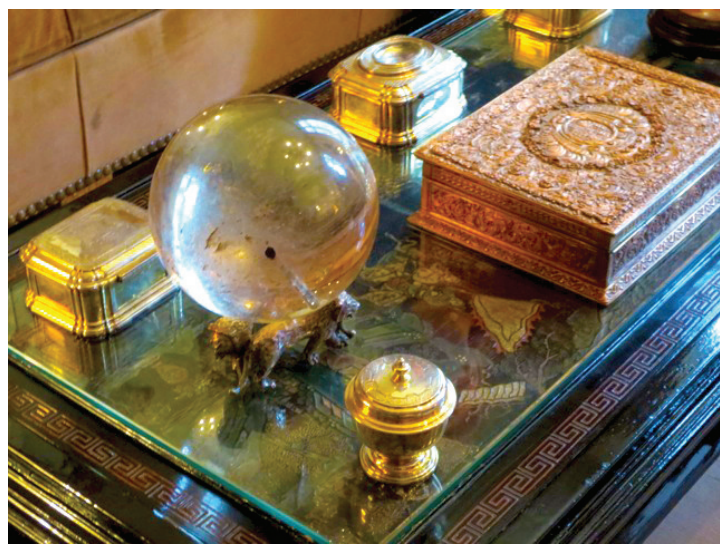
There was an amazing trip to Chantilly with a private tour of Chateau de Chantilly with Vice-President Frederic Nancel of American Friends of Chantilly, as well as Chief Curator Nicole Garner. There we toured the Cabinet des Livres, which houses a collection of rare books and manuscripts.

An incredible day included a visit to the Foundation de Coubertin in Saint-Remy-les-Chevreuse where young Fellows' artisans forge ornamental special-ordered iron gates and railings. If the gates of Versailles need to be repaired, the foundation handles it. At the time of our visit, they were working on new iron gates for an expansion of the Lauduree store (macaroon fame) on the Champs Elysees. We got to talk to a young woman who was one of their Fellows, and heard her first-hand account of working and living at Coubertin. An impressive lunch followed in the dining room where everyone eats, altogether, at the same time, everyday.

Evenings were delightful, where we dined at private residences. One of particular note was a 17th century residence with an extensive art collection, where I sang tunes from "A Chorus Line" with celebrated pianist Jay Gottlieb as he tickled the ivories. I had to pinch myself.

Finally the day came when I got to visit the place that was the impetus for the entire trip. The morning of the visit to Coco Chanel's apartment was glorious, and people were bustling around the city, going about their business. As we were walking from our bus, we turned the corner to Rue Cambon and saw the famous Chanel sign hanging at residence 31. Many of the women from our group were dressed a bit more stylish that day, one woman having prepared in great fervor (according to her husband).

Entering the residence, we were greeted by Chanel's





# PARIS

director of VIP relations, who lead us on our tour. We began by visiting a reception-type living room with the infamous winding mirrored staircase, where Ms. Chanel could view her models and the reaction to their wears by potential buyers. Then it was on to her apartment, complete with her intimate collection of mirrors, animal objects, chandeliers (she believed in their healing power), exotic tables and Chinese screens, as well as gilded boxes and lots of lion-related objects, her favorite, being a Leo. Everything she collected had to do with her goals of prosperity, love, luck, money and health.

Particularly interesting was the fact that Ms. Chanel didn't sleep in her apartment, but instead kept an apartment at her beloved Ritz, located across the street. The apartment at Rue Cambon was just for work and entertaining. I loved her style, being a fan of guesthouses, where one can have privacy when visiting someone's home.





It was incredible to walk through the residence of a self-made icon, after having been shipped off to an orphanage by her father when her mother died at the age of six. Incredible that her sewing of black-and-white colored material with the nuns would eventually make her the most famous world-renowned designer.

The trip was amazing, and there were many other places we visited that were all significant, but one free night was especially memorable. My friends and I love the Four Seasons George Cinq and make a point to visit whenever we are in Paris, so we didn't want to leave without going there. Anyone

who has had the pleasure of seeing the hotel knows its beauty, particularly the bar/salon area to the left of the lobby (to the right is a very masculine bar and to the left of the bar/salon area is the exclusive restaurant "Cinq"). The



evening could not have begun on a higher note, because as we were walking in and getting settled at our table the piano player was playing "Philadelphia Freedom." I felt right at home.



# DREXEL UNIVERSITY'S URBN CENTER

PHILADELPHIA, PA

*A blueprint for creativity: outside, inside, and from within*

If there was ever an example of creativity coming full circle, it's Drexel University's 143,000 square-foot URBN Center, where structure, spatial design, and an exuberant dean come together to meet the challenge of educating students in the cutting-edge fields of design, architecture, and music.

The new digs for the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design were transformed at a hefty \$80 million price tag by the Minneapolis-based firm of Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, LTD and is now the super-cool home for 12 of the College's 18 undergraduate and six graduate programs, where collaborative disciplines come together both physically and academically.

This mezzanine-leveled glass and steel marvel, open 24/7, allows for lots of light, movable walls, and a place where students and faculty work side by side in programs including interior design, graphic design, architecture, music industry, and digital media.

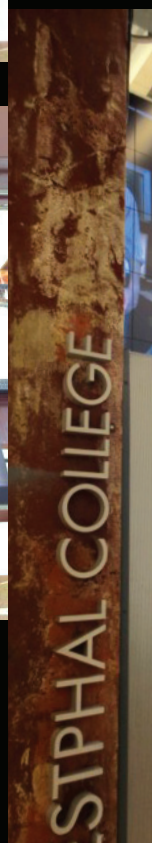
Examples of student-created projects are shown upon entering the lobby, where an ever-changing 16-foot media screen of videos and graphics greets you. Students can be seen in the nearby glass-walled classrooms engaged in pattern making, sewing, and the fitting of live models, in preparation for their yearly fashion show.

Of particular interest is the inspiring Drexel Historic Costume Collection, under the care of curator Clare Sauro, where clothing from 1757 to the present is kept under temperature-controlled conditions, allowing students to see first hand what was worn throughout the years.

The URBN Center Complex consists of two buildings, with the 3,500 square-foot URBN Center Annex located

directly behind the URBN Center. The Annex includes the Leonard Pearlstein Gallery, a black box theater, and a 125-seat screening room for student and community productions.

Westphal College is reaching out to future students as well, with its two-week summer programs for high school students interested in architecture, fashion design and merchandising, interior design, as well as careers in the music industry, where talented students





live on campus and are taught by Drexel faculty. But creative ideas start at the top, and this is no better illustrated than by the former President of Production for Miramax Films, Dean Allen Sabinson, who has held senior positions at A&E, TNT, ABC, ICM, NBC and Showtime.

While at A&E, Sabinson was senior vice president of programming, adding numerous documentary and musical specials to the cable channel's line up.

Drexel's charismatic president, John Fry, however, is doing more than just building incredible new spaces, although the face of Market Street has changed dramatically over the last three years, ever since he replaced the former president, Constantine Papakakis. President Fry has kept his mission, as stated in his 2010 inaugural address, of engaging students with the community, providing neighborhood partnerships and involvement with the public school system, as well as providing a home buying program for Drexel faculty and staff.

US News & World Report has named Drexel University to its "Up and Coming List" for the fifth consecutive year.



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