



## General Elective Course: Historic Colours: A Look at True Colour Schemes

**Date:** Wednesday, June 23, 2010, 5:00 to 9:00 pm

**Location:** TBA, in Vancouver's West End near Mole Hill

**Instructor:** Donald Luxton, FRAIC, Principal, Donald Luxton & Associates Inc.

### Overview of the Course

Colour is an important part of older buildings both inside and outside. As tastes changed so did the paint colours on both residential and commercial buildings. Join us to learn about the history of colour in local buildings over the past century and current techniques used to investigate and analyze the colours of older buildings.

This course will be of interest to building contractors, renovators, planners, architects, engineers, interior designers, building managers and inspectors, realtors, members of heritage commissions, local government staff and property owners.

### Learning Objectives

This technical course offers the opportunity to:

- learn about the historic palette of older buildings in the Lower Mainland over the past century
- become more familiar with the tools and techniques of colour analysis and research
- gain practical tips on the selection of colours which building owners and designers face in updating older buildings and balancing the demands of contemporary needs, historical accuracy and environmentally-friendly materials

### Course Outline

Key aspects of this course:

- A practical analysis of the options which building owners and designers face in selecting paint colours for older buildings while balancing the demands of liveability, historical accuracy, future maintenance and environmentally-friendly paint products
- A focus on linking "principles and practice"; illustrating and translating the spirit of the "Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada" as they relate to the specifics of selecting paint colours

**5:00 – 5:10 pm**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**5:10 – 6:15 pm**

**Colours of Buildings in the Lower Mainland—1880 – 1980**

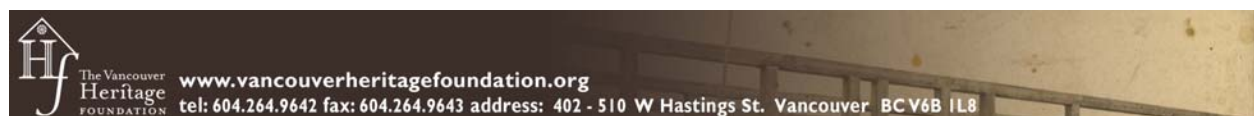
An historical overview of architectural design and the colours of buildings in southwest British Columbia

**6:15 – 6:30 pm**

**Tools of the Trade: What does one need in order to do a paint analysis?** Sample equipment will be available for this discussion

**6:30 – 7:00 pm**

**Break**



7:00 – 8:00 pm

**Walkabout and Examination of the Colours at Mole Hill and the surrounding area of Vancouver's West End Neighbourhood**

8:00 – 8:45 pm

**Undertaking a Paint Analysis to Discover Early Paint Schemes**

- examining the building fabric—to scrape or not to scrape?
- combining information from research and site investigations
- analyzing the findings
- selecting new paint colours
- the use of environmentally-friendly products
- learning from others: comparing buildings in the local area—previous Vancouver Heritage Foundation's True Colours Grant participants

8:45- 9:00 pm

**Questions and Discussion; Concluding Discussion and Course Evaluations**

### **Recommended Reference Materials for the Course (in progress)**

Batcheler, Penelope Hartshorne. "Paint Color Research and Restoration", *Technical Leaflet #15, American Association for State and Local History, History News*, Vol. 23, No. 10, October 1968.

Chase, Sara B. *Painting Historic Interiors*. Preservation Brief no. 28. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Heritage Preservation Services Division, Technical Preservation Services, 1992.

[www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/brief28.htm](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/brief28.htm)

Fram, Mark. *Well-Preserved: the Ontario Heritage Foundation's Manual of Principles and Practice for Architectural Conservation*. Erin, Ont.: The Boston Mills Press for the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Third revised edition, 2003.

Gilmore, Andrea. "Analyzing Paint Samples", in *Paint in America: The Colors of Historic Buildings*, ed. Roger W. Moss, Washington: D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1994.

Krotzer, Dorothy. "Architectural Finishes: Research and Analysis", Practice Points No. 6, Springfield, IL: Association for Preservation Technology, 2008. Originally published in Volume XXXIX, No. 2-3, *APT Bulletin, The Journal of Preservation Technology*.

Labine, Clem. "Selecting the Best Exterior Paint." *The Old House Journal*. Vol. 4, No. 7 (July 1976), pp. 1, 1011.

Moss, Roger, W. ed., *Paint in America: The Colors of Historic Buildings*, Washington: D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1994.

Moss, Roger W. *Century of Color: Exterior Decoration for American Buildings, 1829-1920*, American Life Foundation, Watkins Glen, New York, 1981.

Sherwin-Williams. *Heritage Colors: Authentic Exterior Colors of American Buildings, 1820-1920* American Life Foundation, Watkins Glen, New York, 1981.

Weeks, Kay, D. and David W. Look, AIA, "Exterior Paint Problems on Historic Woodwork and Siding", Preservation Brief 10, Washington, D.C. National Park Service, September 1982

Welsh Color and Conservation, Inc. *Paintpamphlet: A Guide for Investigating and Sampling Historic Paints and Wallpapers for Analysis of Original Colors*. Bryn Mawr, PA, January 2008.

[www.oldhouseweb.com](http://www.oldhouseweb.com)

"Special Issue: Exterior Painting." *The Old House Journal*. Vol. 4, No. 4 (April 1981), pp. 7194.

Vancouver Heritage Foundation Historic Paint Colour Palette—Benjamin Moore Paints.