

University Resource Pack



Introduction to House Style

This year's house exhibition, House Style, focuses on the clothes, costumes and accessories associated with or inspired by Chatsworth over the past 500 years. The exhibition features a selection of historic items and many contemporary pieces that you will see as you make your way through the house. Initially conceived by Lady Burlington, Gucci is the principle sponsor of the event and the extraordinary collection has been curated by Hamish Bowles, the international editor-at-large for American Vogue, and designed by Patrick Kinmonth. As the house is very different to previous years, this pack is intended to guide you through the house and to highlight key themes and exhibits.

The Painted Hall

Crowning Glories: Traditions and Transgressions

This room offers a wonderful example of the relationship between the traditional and the contemporary pieces that the exhibition offers. As you can see, the Mistress of the Robes gown contrasts brilliantly with the Alexander McQueen dress worn by the Duke's niece, Stella Tenant. The difference between the two exhibits really emphasises the crucial role that fashion has played over generations of the Cavendish family as it has so clearly been influenced by a range of social, historical, cultural and political contexts. Located just behind the Mistress of the Robes Gown, is the Duke's Page Boy outfit worn to the 1953 Coronation. Other items in this room include the 19th Century lemon yellow livery jackets, and at the top of the stairs the off the shoulder peeress gown worn by the Duke's mother, Deborah Devonshire.

The Grotto

Masters of the Robe: The Order of the Garter

Continuing the theme of royalty and ceremony, the Knight of the Garter Robe is made from dark blue silk velvet with a Garter star emblem applique and embroidered gold and silk thread. The garter star emblem can also be seen on the ceiling of this room.

The various uniforms and ceremonial clothing demonstrate the accomplishments of Cavendish men through the generations.



Chapel Corridor

Timeline: Five Centuries of Fashion

On the left wall there is a tapestry of Chatsworth, this is thought to be the only contemporary Elizabethan portrayal of the house and is believed to have been created by Elizabeth Cavendish in the 16th Century. The cabinet on the right includes a variety of items from members of the family from over the last five hundred years.

Chapel

From Cradle to Grave: The Circle of Life

As the home of christenings, weddings and funerals, the Chapel has the theme *The Circle of Life*. The pieces in this room are made by a variety of designers: Franka, Helmut Lang and Calvin Klein to name but a few. The wedding dresses are central to this room as they are so wonderfully diverse, once again, demonstrating the individuality and innovation of each generation of the family. The earliest wedding dress by Mary Feeney dates back to 1963 and was worn by Lady Emma Cavendish (4) and the most recent dress by Francisco Costa for Calvin Klein Collection was worn by the Countess of Burlington in 2007 (6). The sculpture at the front of the Chapel by Damien Hirst depicts St Bartholomew. Installed in 2008, the statue is cast in gold-plated silver and is eight-foot tall.

Oak Room

Through a Glass Darkly: Gothick Revivals

The theme *Gothick Revivals* is inspired by the oak panelling in this room, which was introduced by the 6th Duke. The room features a variety of dark pieces worn by different members of the family to various events, fashion shows and collections. There is a wide range of designers featured in this room including: Hubert De Givenchy, Alexander McQueen, John Galiano, Balenciaga, Christopher Kane and Elsa Schiaparelli.



Great Chamber

Noble Spirits: Dressing up

Originally refurbished to welcome the Monarch, the Great Chamber is the first of many rooms that make up the State Apartments. This room represents ceremonial life at Royal Court and is therefore used in this exhibition as the introduction to The Devonshire House Ball, 1897. This was a themed allegorical and historical costume ball for which people wore specially made, extravagant and expensive costumes. As the historical figures were set before 1815 the costumes chosen were those such as Queen Guinevere and the Knights of the Round Table, Marie Antoinette and Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra. Royal families were invited from all over Europe to attend and their costumes were recorded by taking photographs. These images were then logged in an album that you will see displayed in this room; the figures in the centre of the room have been created using the original images.

State Drawing Room

Party of the Century: Power and Glory

The State Drawing Room includes seven outfits from The Devonshire House Ball. The Queen Zenobia dress, originally worn by the 8th duchess, is rather striking with its bold emerald green and gold colouring studded with jewels. Each of the costumes are elaborate with great detail and many of them were actually rather impractical to wear to a crowded ball.

The Dowager Duchess wore the Queen Zenobia dress for her 80th Birthday and commented that the dress was very heavy to wear!

State Music Room

Dressing to Impress: Power and Glory

The State Music Room includes a collection of magnificent outfits and rare and precious jewellery collected over centuries. The Gucci dress (1) in the entrance to this room was created especially for Lady Burlington and this exhibition. In the centre of the room there is a large portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, in which she is wearing a dress given to her by Elizabeth Cavendish. The dress just in front of the painting, by Vivienne Westwood (6), was inspired by the one in the portrait.

One of the key pieces in this room, located in the centre of the display is the Devonshire Parure (20): a set of jewellery made up of seven different pieces. It was one of the most celebrated pieces of Victorian jewellery and was particularly uncomfortable to wear (although all seven pieces wouldn't have been worn at the same time). The gold suit to the left of the display, by Christopher Kane (11), was worn by Stella Tennant for the 2012 Olympics ceremony.



State Bed Chamber

Fine and Dandy: The Compleat Gentleman

Focusing on male fashion, this room offers an interesting display of items many of which belonged to the 11th Duke. The most notable of his items are his personal motto sweaters and his well-loved tapestry slippers and tweed jacket. The Duke continued to patch up his slippers and jacket with whatever he could find rather than replace them! The mannequins hold military uniforms from the 19th and 20th centuries and the rose embroidered jacket belongs to the current Duke.



State Closet

Earthly Delights

The first dress on display here was made by entomologist and embroiderer Maria Sibylla Merian in the 17th Century and has never been on display before. The dress was requested for this exhibition as it perfectly reflects the theme of nature in this room. In the display cabinets there is a sample of the Dowager Duchess' collection of insect brooches, a hobby that was inherited by Stella Tennant. The embroidered pink silk satin evening dress was created for the Duchess by Gucci for this exhibition.

Old Master Drawings Cabinet

Behind the Masque: Indigo Jones

Created by Indigo Jones, the 17th century artist, architect and designer of masques, the costume designs on display in this room are particularly rare as they are the only designs found that were drawn and painted in watercolour. It is suggested that these designs were used to show dressmakers who would create the costumes.



South Sketch Gallery

Georgiana and the Enduring Century: Fashions Favourites

Influenced by French fashion, Duchess Georgiana was at the forefront of fashion in Georgian England. One of her signature looks was initially inspired by hairstyles in Paris, as she began wearing uncomfortable, high feathered coiffures after hearing of its popularity in France. Her innovative extravagant hairstyles bore much controversy however Georgiana's innovative taste and style did not falter and endured into the succeeding centuries. At the end of the gallery is the eye-catching sea green dress designed by John Galiano for Christian Dior. It was inspired by Georgiana and was worn by Stella Tennant for an American Vogue photo shoot in 2006. The four other outfits in the room were also worn by members of the family: Deborah Devonshire's striking blue Oscar de la Renta Ensemble, Lady Burlington's, Stella McCartney suit, the current Duchess' Ralph Lauren dress and Duchess Evelyn's Russell and Allen shepherdess dress with prominent gathering detail at the back.

West Sketch Gallery

Portrait of a Lady: A Gallery of Beauties

This gallery shows depictions of the Cavendish women through the centuries, showing great changes in portraiture and fashion. The space also features an outstanding selection of various hats from milliners such as Philip Treacy, Stephen Jones, Cosmo Jenks and Madame Vernier.

Sabine Room

On the Tweed: Country Life

The Chatsworth Tweed has an important role at Chatsworth as all family members are expected to wear this for game days. Each member of the family has worn Chatsworth tweed in their own style; Stella Tennant once turned up in a jumper and ripped jeans that you can see on display - another example of innovative fashion at Chatsworth.

DNA Wall

The DNA wall is a modern ceramic portrait of the current Duke and his family installed by the ceramic artist Jacob Van Der Beugell.

North Sketch Gallery

Straw: The Devonshire Colour

The Devonshire racing colours, 'Straw', are the oldest registered and date to the early 18th Century. As a result, both the colour and the material have been used by the family for clothing and accessories.

Library

Leafing Through: Works on Paper

In these three rooms alone, the library contains over 17,000 books covering a wide range of subjects, including Henry Cavendish's scientific book collection. On display is Stella Tennant's Hussein Chalayan dress and the hat made by Stephen Jones for her to wear when doing a poetry reading in the Scottish Highlands.



As you make your way through to the Great Dining Room you will pass a pink Christopher Kane Dress belonging to Lady Burlington, designed to evoke the leaves of a book.

Great Dining Room

Shall we go through? Dressing for Dinner

The late Duke and Duchess of Devonshire dressed for dinner in black tie every evening, a tradition that has only come to an end in recent years. The clothes in this room are here to represent this long enduring tradition of the Cavendish family and the pieces reflect not only changing styles but the very individual tastes and personalities of the family members. The fashion on display is from the 1950's onwards and amongst the many outstanding outfits in this room are the eye-catching, purple Vivienne Westwood dress (1); the Christine Thompson black silk dress worn by Deborah Devonshire with brooches reproduced from originals by C.W. Sellors (13); the silk velvet suit by A-Man Hing Cheong (18) and finally the pale pink, silk satin Christian Dior evening dress, again, worn by Deborah Devonshire (30). This dress was one of the first to be found by Lady Burlington in the search for items for the exhibition.

Please visit the New Gallery and #hatsworth on your way to the Sculpture Gallery and gift shop.