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Everyday Greene & Greene

This online slide show is a supplement to the article in the November 2008 issue of Popular Woodworking, the third installment of a three-part series on the work designed by architects Charles and Henry Greene and manufactured by Peter and John Hall.

Many of these photos show rooms and details that have not previously been published. All photographs copyright David Mathias unless otherwise noted.

Back issues containing the printed articles are available on the Popular Woodworking web site. Look in the article index for August, October and November 2008 for links to earlier slide shows, and to purchase back issues.



The entry doors of the Blacker house hint at the grandeur within. The doors seen here are reproductions -- the originals were removed when the house was pillaged by a previous owner. They now reside in the Dallas Museum of Art.

BY David Mathias

November 2008



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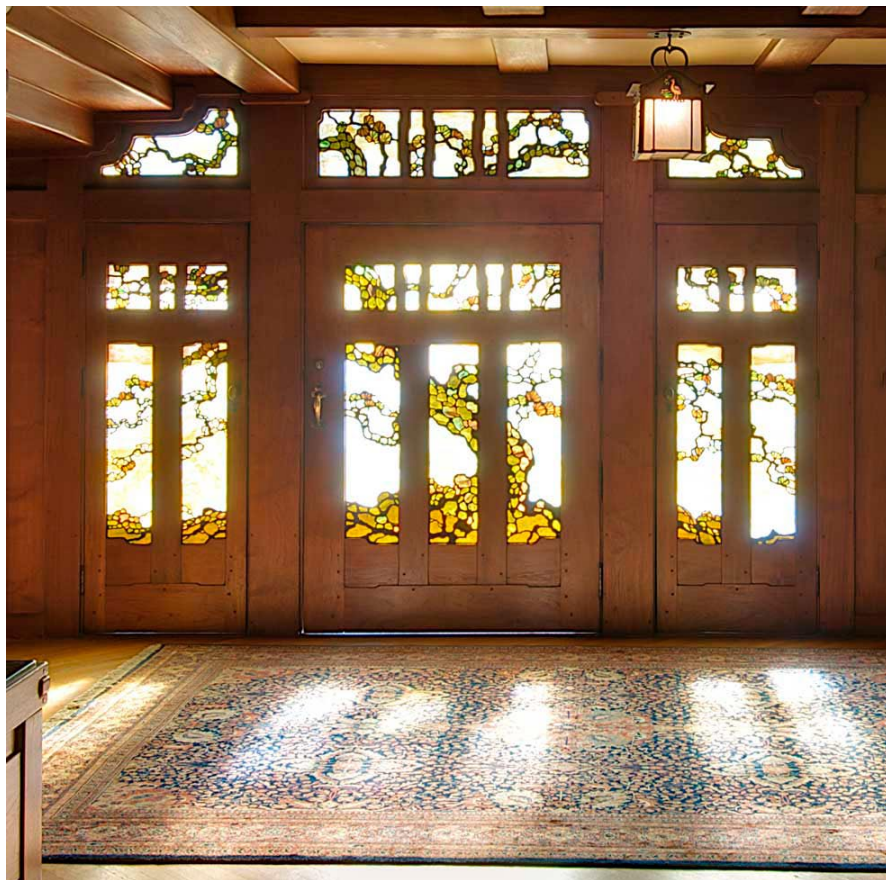
The Freeman Ford house is beautiful but simpler than the Blacker house. This interior door leads from the entry hall to the living room. The art glass continues the motif of the entry door.

BY David Mathias

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Perhaps the most impressive entry of any Greene & Greene home, the doors for the Gamble house are stunning. Glass is layered to achieve just the right color and luminance..

BY David Mathias

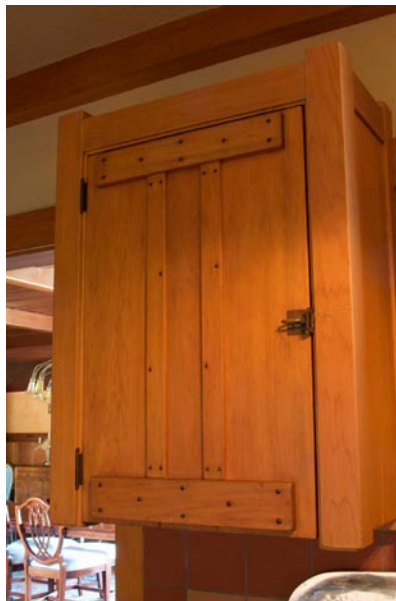
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This closet door in a back hall of the Jennie Reeve house (1903-4) is obviously quite simple. What's impressive is to see entire sheets of plans dedicated to doors. Every door in each house was designed for its location.



This cabinet is from the butler's pantry in the Freeman Ford house. Board and batten cabinets were quite common in Greene & Greene homes. Note the latch to keep the door closed during earthquakes.



The Greens lavished attention on elements that would rarely be seen by well-to-do homeowners. This door leads from the kitchen to the basement stair. The entry hall can be seen in the background but a pocket door in the

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The Halsted house was rather modest when built though the Greenes made several alterations and additions over the years. Here we see the attention paid a portal from the living room to a hallway accessing the kitchen.



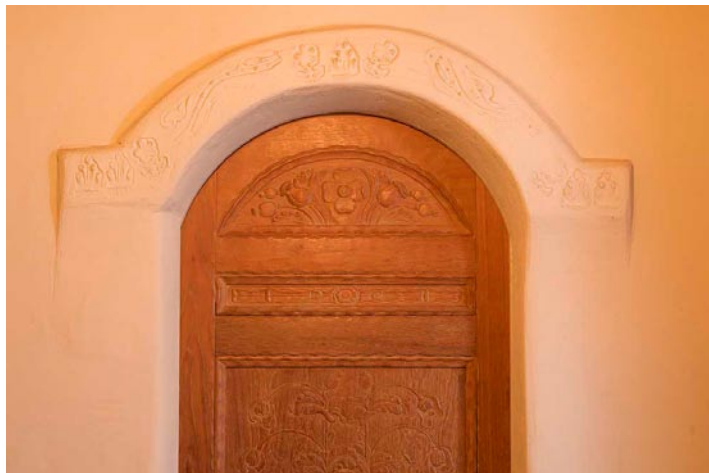
Built to take a licking and keep on ticking. Stacking butt hinges was a common practice for the Greenes. This stack helps support the substantial living room doors in the Thorsen house.

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Charles spent the later years of his life tinkering in and on his studio in Carmel. It was a never-finished canvas. Charles carved all of the doors himself. It's said that he would put his children on his shoulders and let them stamp the wet plaster of the door frames.



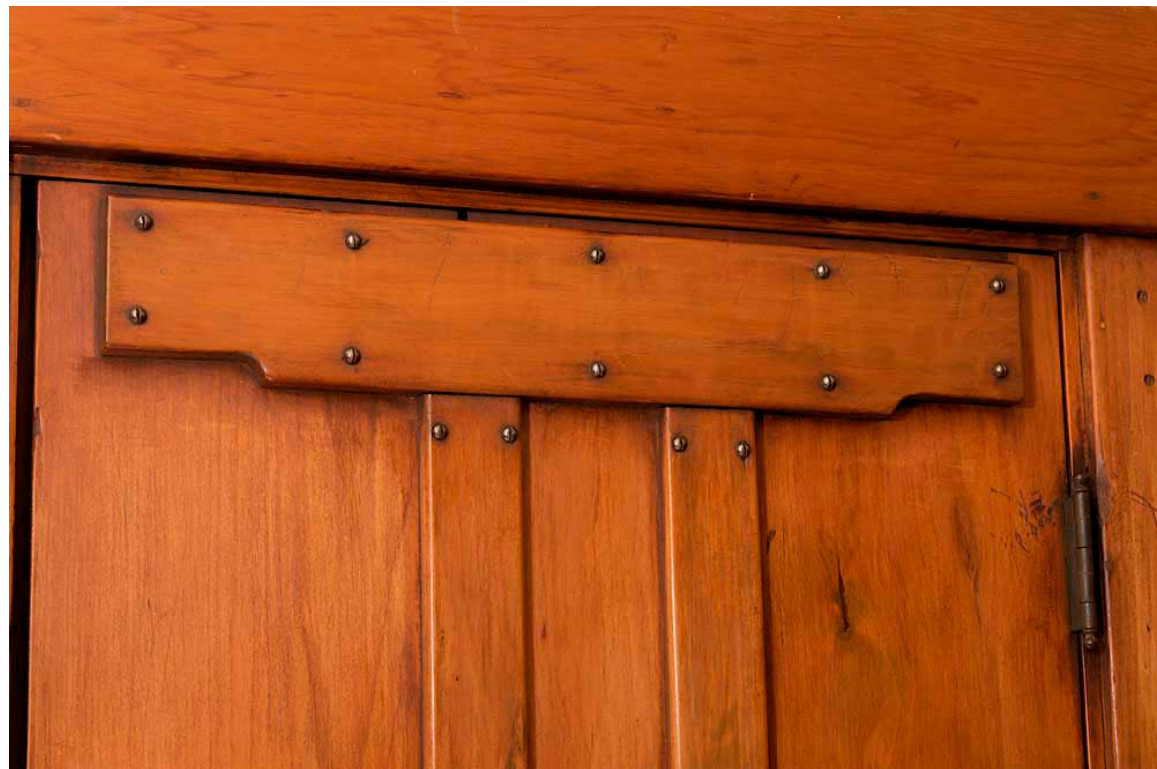
The Gamble house kitchen hasn't changed much in 100 years. Likely state of the art for it's time, it now appears quaint. Note the flowers in bloom in the yard in March. The wonders of Southern California.

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In this detail from a cabinet door in the Caroline DeForest house, we see that the screw slots are still aligned after more than 100 years. Woe unto the first person to destroy that harmony.