



Norland Historic Estate

Restoration

Lethbridge, AB

The historic landmark known as the Daniel Mansion, also called 'The Norland' by the Owner in 1910, has undergone many renovations and additions over the years.

Charles Roland Daniel and his family arrived in Lethbridge in 1905. In 1907, land was purchased outside the city limits (east of the Dominion Experimental Farm), and construction on the three-storey mansion began and was to be completed in 1910. It was a mail-order house, built using plans from a Lumberman's catalogue. The lumber was pre-cut, numbered, and shipped by railway to the dairy farm to be assembled. The design included new innovations at that time including generated power supply, indoor plumbing, and a built-in vacuum system. It served the Daniel's and their family for several years.

After passing through a few owners, it was purchased by Al and Karen Fritz in the early 1990s to be used as their residence and to offer boardroom space for Alvin Reinhard Fritz Architect Inc. (ARFAi). The years of various owners and neglect were apparent, and a consuming restoration project was undertaken to bring it back to its former glory years.

Great care and attention was applied, ensuring the historic details of the residence were accurately reflected in the final form. Restoration of the heavily corbelled brick chimneys was undertaken by Fritz himself as his formal trade skills included extensive masonry experience. Other restored features include the front verandah detailing, column bases, and interior structural work.



Greek Revival Architecture

Alvin Fritz attended the University of Munich in West Germany for a year to study Heritage Conservation on scholarship after his architectural studies. This expertise enabled ARFAi to preserve and restore the history of the original house design.

An assessment of the Corinthian Order was the first undertaking. With his heritage background, he recognized the accuracy and authenticity of all the characteristics of the Corinthian Order integrated into this Greek revival residence. Fritz recognized any renovation or addition to such an exemplary specimen must be equally accurate and authentic.

Of particular interest in the Corinthian Order is the capital. The Roman writer Vitruvius recorded that the Corinthian Order had been designed by Callimachus, a Greek architect and sculptor. Callimachus was inspired by a basket that had been left on the grave site of a young girl. The basket, filled with toys, had been placed on her grave with a square tile placed on top as a covering. Noteworthy was the pattern created by an acanthus plant and its distinctive, deeply cut leaves which had grown through the woven basket. Callimachus' interpretation of the basket design in the capital of the Corinthian Order has been a perpetual and continually active design since its inception in 425 BC.

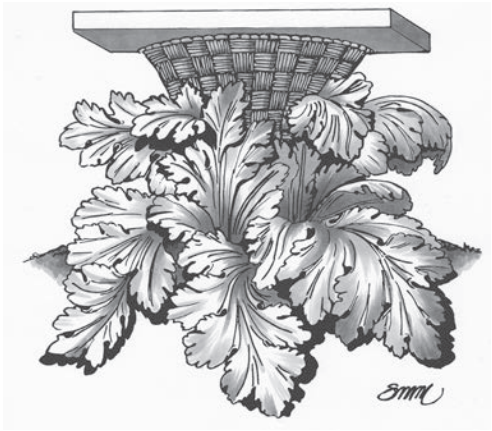
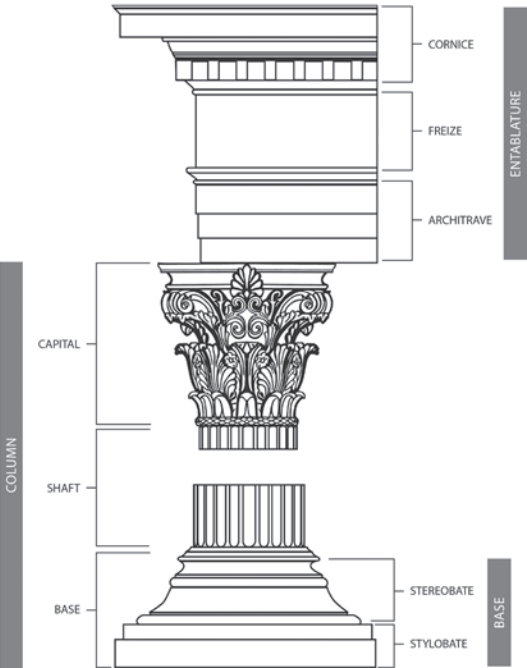


Image by Al Fritz.
This Norland detail reflects an accurate understanding of the introduction of an acanthas leaf column in the Corinthian Order
Drawing and Diagram illustrated by Sheri Macardy

CORINTHIAN ORDER







Luxury Bed and Breakfast

The mansion was converted into a luxury bed and breakfast, conference and event facility in 2007. As a popular site for outdoor summer weddings, a luxury washroom facility was added to accommodate the unique 300 person gala event tent. In time, the swimming pool room was transformed into a premier event ballroom for additional events.





Premier Event Venue

During the first decade at the Norland, the architectural environment was dedicated to raising the family and to expanding the ever-growing Architectural practice. As the family grew and moved on, the many bedrooms needed to find new uses and the Norland Bed and Breakfast was established. The Norland became a popular destination in Southern Alberta with renowned guests from around the world. Among the guest list was the family of Christopher Nolan while scenes were being filmed for the movie 'Interstellar.'

A large tent was added to the facility to accommodate events and wedding receptions. The Norland's reputation grew to establish it as a premier wedding destination venue in Western Canada.

The continued growth of the facilities' renown eventually led to a comprehensive renovation of the facilities and grounds.

The estate was sold to Marci Stickel in 2017 who is propelling the wedding and events venue forward to the next level.

