

ADDENDA

Sir Charles Allom

Sir Charles Carrick Allom (1865–1947) was a British interior decorator, furniture designer, architect, and businessman whose work helped define the English revival of eighteenth-century decorative style. He became one of the most sought-after designers of the early twentieth century, working for royalty, aristocratic families, and wealthy American collectors while leading the influential firm **White, Allom & Co.**

Career highlights

Allom studied at the **Royal College of Art** and furthered his education in France and Italy before co-founding **White, Allom & Co.** His approach emphasised *classical proportion*, *historical authenticity*, and *high-quality craftsmanship* at a time when many clients were moving away from heavily ornamented Victorian interiors. He became known for sourcing period architectural elements and furnishings from across Europe and integrating them into restored or newly designed interiors.

Royal and international commissions

Allom's reputation reached its peak when he was entrusted with work on the interiors of **Buckingham Palace** during renovations to the East Front in the early 1910s, an achievement that contributed to his knighthood in 1913. Beyond Britain, he established offices in Montreal and New York, collaborating with art dealer Joseph Duveen on some of America's grandest Gilded Age residences, including the Frick mansion, Lynnewood Hall, Whitemarsh Hall, Ardrossan, and work associated with William Randolph Hearst's St Donat's Castle.

Design legacy

Allom specialized in interiors inspired by the *Georgian* and *French eighteenth-century* traditions. Rather than simply reproducing historic rooms, he combined authentic antiques, custom furniture, architectural detailing, and decorative arts into cohesive interiors that appealed to elite collectors. His work influenced luxury residential design on both sides of the Atlantic and helped popularize historically informed interior decoration during the first half of the twentieth century.

Other activities and personal life

During both World Wars, White, Allom & Co. redirected part of its manufacturing capacity toward wartime production, including explosive shells. Outside design, Allom was an accomplished sportsman who served as President of the Boat Racing Association and Rear-Commodore of the Royal London Yacht Club. He was born in London to architect Arthur Thomas Allom, married Laura Ann Tatham in 1888, and died in 1947.