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# THE DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST

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## *Preservation and Sustainability: the Stewardship of our Architectural Heritage*

by Charles Belson, AIA

A lecture sponsored by the Cleveland Circle of the Decorative Arts Trust, April 2011

President of Belson Design Architects and a Vice President of the Cleveland Circle of the Decorative Arts Trust, Mr. Belson will discuss the developing trend that links sustainability and preservation as a model for the environmentally responsive renewal of our architectural heritage. Topics will include how Oberlin's *Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies*, built in 2001, influenced Mr. Belson's renovation of *Skenandoa House* at Hamilton College, which became the first historic structure in New York State to be LEED certified (2006). Mr. Belson will review how preservation and sustainable design reinforce each other in his study for Case Western Reserve University that examines the potential transformation of Temple Tifereth Israel into the *Milton and Tamar Maltz Center for the Performing Arts*. He will also outline the types of sustainable design initiatives that may be applicable for many Cleveland area historic houses, based on ideas developed in 2003 for his "new old house" located in the Gates Mills historic district.

Mr. Belson's work as an architect has received an Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a number of Merit Awards from the American Institute of Architects, and LEED Gold and Silver certifications from the US Green Building Council. His work as the site architect for The American University in Cairo *Giza Expedition* was published in *Giza Mastabas Volume 5*, Museum of Fine Arts Press, Boston, 1994. With Yale curators Charles Montgomery and Patricia Kane, Mr. Belson participated in the design of the Yale/Colonial Williamsburg exhibition, *A New Way to Look at Old Silver*, the Yale/Victoria & Albert exhibition, *American Art: 1750-1800, Towards Independence*, and the Yale exhibition, *200 Years of American Seating Furniture*. Mr. Belson was a member of the awards jury for the 2011 *Celebration of Preservation* sponsored jointly by the Cleveland Restoration Society and AIA Cleveland. He received his B.A. in Art History from Yale University, and was awarded a fellowship from the Historic Deerfield Foundation for the study of American art. Mr. Belson received his M.Arch. from Harvard University.