



# Royal Borough of Greenwich

## Eltham Palace and Gardens



Immerse yourself in 1930s Art Deco decadence at Eltham Palace, one of the most enchanting visitor attractions in London. Built by the wealthy Courtauld family next to the remains of Eltham Palace, childhood home of Henry VIII, it's among the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in England.

The stunning entrance hall, marvellous panelled dining room, luxurious bathroom, and the magnificent medieval Great Hall, are just some of the highlights.

And with its beautiful gardens, and plenty of places for a picnic, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Full of wonderful surprises, Eltham Palace is the perfect choice for a great day out in South London.

### **DON'T MISS**

- The elegant Art Deco entrance hall
- The family lemur's sleeping quarters
- Virginia Courtauld's indulgent gold-plated bathroom


### **PRICES**

Adult

£9.60 (From 29 March £9.90)

Child (5-15 years)

£5.80 (From 29 March £5.90)

Concession 

£8.60 (From 29 March £8.90)

Family (2 Adults, 3 children)

£25.00 (From 29 March £25.70)

[Overseas Visitor Pass](#)

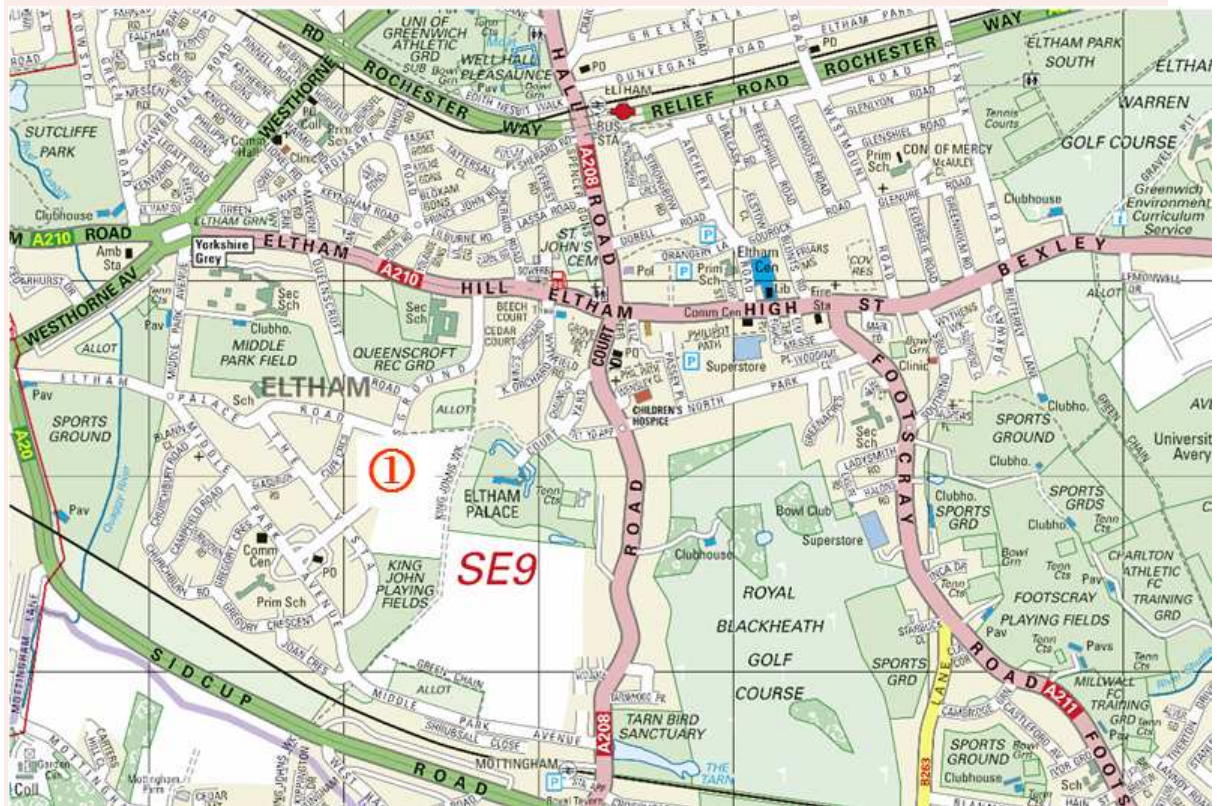
Available

- **Further Pricing Details**

Garden Only: Adult £6.00, Concession £5.40, Child £3.60

## 29 March - 2 November 2013

<b>Monday</b>	10:00 - 17:00
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 - 17:00
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 - 17:00
<b>Thursday</b>	Closed
<b>Friday</b>	Closed
<b>Saturday</b>	Closed
<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 - 17:00



### 1 Eltham Palace

#### Train Access

Eltham and Mottingham, both 1/2 mile

## Eltham Palace: A Deco Delight



While researching *RR* and looking for examples of Deco Greco interiors, I came across the sensationally jazzy [Eltham Palace](#) (pronounced El - tem). Located a convenient short train ride from London, this is a stately home unlike any other and well worth the trip.

Virginia and Stephen Courtauld, the swelligant couple in the portrait above with their lemur Mah-Jongg, purchased the medieval palace in the 1930s and set out to build a high style modern residence with the most up-to-date domestic technology AND conserve the remains of the 15th century Great Hall constructed by Edward IV.

Stephen was an heir to the vast family fortune based on the manufacturing of rayon and Ginie was a vivacious Italian with a tattoo of a snake on her ankle. Together they were lovers of the arts, animals, and architecture.

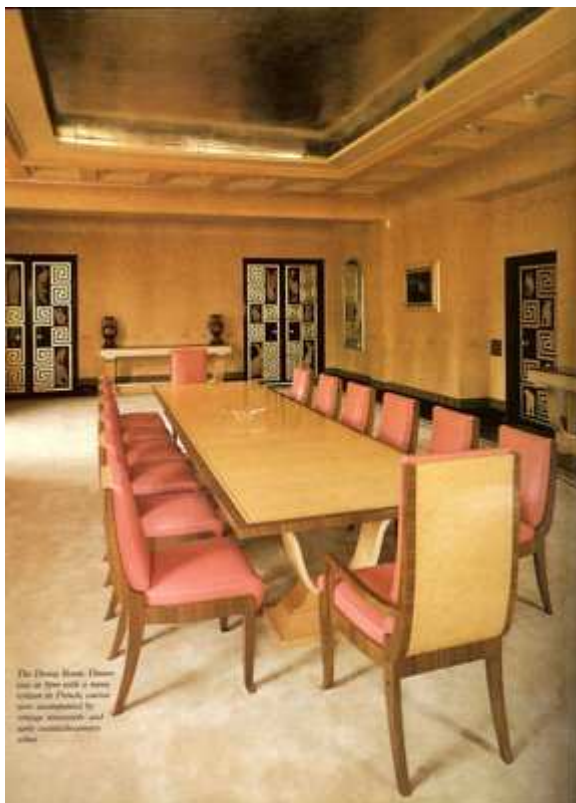
Upon entering the house, there is a gentlemen and ladies cloakroom to the left and right - just as if one had arrived at a trendy *boite de nuit*. Once visitors disposed of their sables and minks, they entered what English Heritage now calls the Entrance Hall, but Phenomenally Chic Cocktail Party Room may be a more apt description.





The Australian blackbean-veneered walls are inlaid by Swedish artist Rolf Engstromer with a Roman and Viking soldier standing sentry by the door along with with the Cortaulds' favorite buildings from across Europe. Replicas of the original round Marian Dorn carpet and furniture by Engstromer complete the swanky setting.

The dining room adjoins....



where we see the imprint of Italian decorator Peter Malacrida who invoked here the Deco Greco interior I included in *RR*.

Down a hallway is Stephen's handsome library....



The "Indian mahogany" paneling was ingeniously designed as vertically sliding shutters to accommodate Stephen's collection of watercolors and other topographical works.



Stephen abhorred the telephone so he made sure that this one - which only made internal calls - could be concealed.



Upstairs is Virginia's spectacular bedroom...



and her ensuite bath....



complete with gold-plated taps. The scent of gardenias - Ginie's fave - perfumed the air. Stephen's bedroom, by contrast, is much smaller and far less grand.



Jonggy's quarters are also on the second (or first floor for my British readers) floor. A bamboo ladder down to the floor below gave the Cortauld's beloved lemur freedom to move about and bamboo forest scenes were sensitively painted by a Miss G E Whinfield.



One of the highlights of the visit is the Venetian guest suite



so-called after the 1780's Venetian paneling that was incorporated into the scheme. Today it is set up as a screening room where visitors can watch delightful home movies of the Cortauld's with their friends and exotic pets.

Afterwards, enjoy the stunning gardens where you are invited to picnic, and by all means explore the gift shop which has many divinely Deco items including my favorite tea towel ever