

Durban Art Deco Society

Art Deco Ships

Sunday 29 May, 2022

A talk by **David Hughes**, at The Durban Maritime Museum, about some of the great ocean liners of the last century

Conte Biancamano

Built in Scotland for the Lloyd Sabaudo company of Genoa. Launched in 1925. Two steam turbines, two propellers and two funnels – reached a speed of 20 knots. Passengers: 180 1st Class; 220 2nd Class; 390 Economic & 2660 3rd Class. At the start of WW2 she was seized by the USA and converted to a troop ship carrying 7000. In 1947 she was refitted in Italy, becoming Italy's premier ocean liner. Parts of this ship, including the bridge, are preserved in the Leonardo da Vinci Museum in Milan.



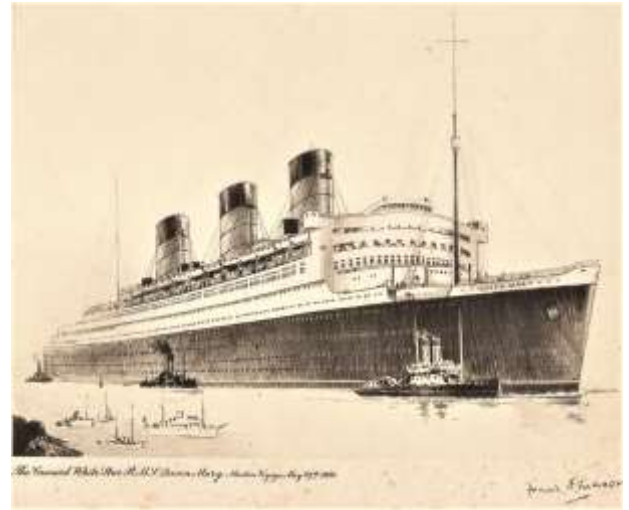
Normandie

A French liner of over 60 000 tons, launched in 1935 – winner of the Blue Riband for speed 29.98 knots. 1 972 passengers (848 1st Class; 670 Tourist; 454 3rd Class). The main dining room was done in hammered glass, bronze and Lalique – 3 floors high. The Winter Garden included exotic birds in cages, sprays of water and live greenery. The main lounge was decorated with glass panels by Dupas and featured the largest Aubusson carpet afloat. Each first class cabin was done in a totally different décor, resulting in 400 different concepts and themes.



Queen Mary

Built in Scotland and launched in 1934. Sailed primarily the North Atlantic Ocean from 1936-1967 for the Cunard-White Star line. Held the Blue Riband speed record 1938-1952. Converted to a troop ship for WW2. Dominated the transatlantic passenger service together with the QE2 until jet travel became significant in the 1950's. Retired from service in 1967 and was moored at Long Beach, California as a tourist attraction featuring restaurants, a museum and an hotel. The Art Deco interiors are enhanced by fifty different highly-decorative and luxurious woods with intricate marquetry and carving.



And overlooking the harbour....

Broadwindsor

WC Moffatt & W Hirst, 1935



"Strong vertical design bands which come out from the entrance hall and sweep up across the façade, terminating in two winged allegorical beasts outlined against the sky. These ... contrast dramatically with the quiet pattern of horizontal bands and industrial windows." (Adams & Brusse)

Willern Court

WB Barbour 1937



"A *Style Moderne* building. It clearly shows the horizontal and vertical bands as well as the curved windows characteristic of this style. There are nautical references in the coloured glass windows incorporated in the curved walls near the entrance." (Adams & Brusse)

Victoria Mansions

N Sercombe 1933



Strong vertical bands, draw one's attention upwards. Art Deco motifs include eagles, winged lions and fish. The first floor has arcuated windows. Above the entrance there is a glazed tile panel depicting a Union Castle mail ship sailing into the harbour

Quadrant House

AA Ritchie McKinlay 1929-1934



Berea Style. Prominent central bay with a shell motif. Hierarchical play of hipped pavilion roofs. Series of Spanish frames to the windows and veranda openings. Restoration has been sympathetic, keeping intact the major external characteristics. (Radford)