



Penrose House

A legacy of Spencer & Julie Penrose

1661 Mesa Avenue, Colorado Springs CO 80906 · 719 577-7000

Penrose House

Welcome to El Pomar Foundation's Penrose House.

For a century this landmark building at the base of Cheyenne Mountain has served Colorado with the power to convene and inspire.

Built as a single-family residence in 1910, the home was purchased by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1916. In the hands of the entrepreneur and his benevolent wife, the home became a gathering spot where important business was conducted and visions were transformed into reality.

After her husband died, Julie donated the home to the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati in recognition of their importance in the community and the care they provided Spencer during his final years. For nearly five decades, the Sisters operated the home as a spiritual retreat center.

In 1992, El Pomar Foundation, the charitable foundation established by the Penroses, purchased the home and transformed it into an education and conference center for nonprofit organizations.

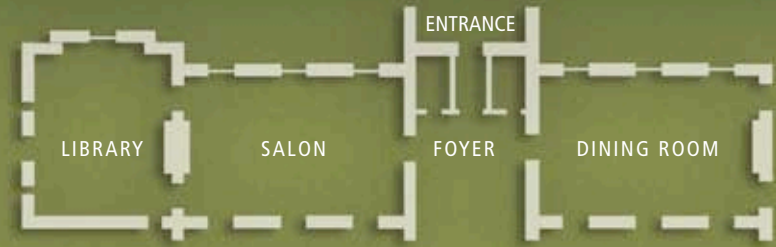


- Penrose House sits on land that was once an apple orchard. The home was originally called El Pomar—Spanish for “the orchard.”
- The original home was just one story. The Penroses added the second and third stories.
- Penrose House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.

The legacy of Spencer and Julie Penrose...

...comes alive in the formal spaces of Penrose House.

Come explore the foyer, dining room, salon and library in this self-guided tour.



Penrose House Main Floor

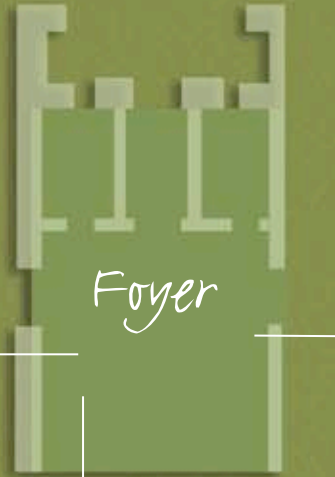
Aeolian Organ

This rare organ, still in working order, features 2,800 pipes. The Penroses had the instrument installed in the early 1920s. A trained organist still plays on special occasions.



Marble Tile

When the Penroses moved into the home in 1916, they installed Belgian black and Vermont Corona marble tiles to match the flooring in the main dining room.



Foyer

Ceiling Decorations

These mesh-backed lace grills in the foyer and the salon hide the organ's pipes and allow the sound to travel to different rooms of the house.

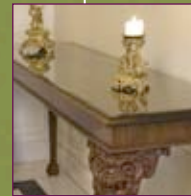


Crystal Chandelier

The light from this hand-crafted, crystal chandelier comes from real candles. Penrose House lore suggests that Spencer gave it to Julie on the couple's 15th wedding anniversary.



Dining Room



Dining Table

This is the dining table that Spencer and Julie Penrose used to entertain. It has ten leaves and measures 27 feet. The two side tables in the dining room also belonged to the Penroses.



Mantle When the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati owned the house from 1944-1992, they turned the salon into a chapel and removed the fireplace mantle. When El Pomar Foundation acquired the home years later, the same person who had once salvaged the mantle returned it to El Pomar. It was reassembled almost seamlessly, except for the one visible crack.



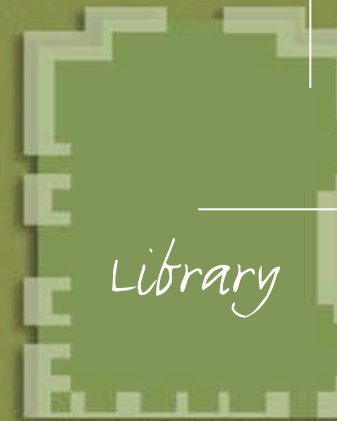
Original Paintings In keeping with El Pomar's mission to support Colorado, much of the artwork throughout Penrose House features original pieces created by Colorado artists. This piece, called "Lost In The Past," was created by contemporary Denver artist Gary Steffen in 1992.



Salon Tapestries The two religious-themed tapestries that flank the entrance to the salon once belonged to the Penroses and are part of a set of eight created by Flemish artist Martin Reymbouts in 1495. Today, they are on loan to El Pomar Foundation from the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.



Secret Doors Two of the bookcases in the library served double-duty for Spencer Penrose, a strong opponent of Prohibition. Each bookcase opens to reveal a secret wine cellar.



Woodwork All of the woodwork in the library was hand-carved by a German artist who lived with the Penroses for a year.



Law Books These rare law books belonged to Henry McAllister, Jr., Spencer Penrose's lawyer and one of El Pomar's first trustees.

Penrose House Conference Center

El Pomar Foundation established Penrose House with a mission to provide a place for nonprofit organizations to gather, discuss issues, and discover innovative solutions to challenges facing their organizations and constituents.

The Penrose House meeting facilities are available free-of-charge to any nonprofit organization or government agency. Penrose House is not intended to host the routine or regularly scheduled activities of nonprofit organizations, but instead is offered as a venue for strategic meetings and conferences. Many nonprofits find it an ideal location for long-term planning, cross-organizational interaction and in-depth professional development.

The historical setting complemented by modern amenities make Penrose House an ideal venue for organizations looking to chart their own, one-of-a-kind legacies.

Please visit www.elpomar.org for more information or to reserve meeting space.



- Eight rooms and meeting spaces accommodate groups up to 75.
- First floor meeting rooms are named and decorated with meaningful artwork to celebrate places or people of significance to the Penroses or El Pomar Foundation.
- Penrose House has welcomed numerous dignitaries, including President George H. W. Bush, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

El Pomar... A Foundation for Colorado

Spencer and Julie Penrose exhibited a never-ending zest for life. They spread their enthusiasm liberally, advocating for the arts and the underprivileged with equal passion. When they established El Pomar Foundation in 1937, with a fortune accumulated through mining and then through relentless promotion of Colorado Springs, their hope was to create a legacy that would inspire the same spirit of creativity they brought to their lives and their philanthropy. Above all, the natives of Philadelphia (Spencer) and Detroit (Julie) left a gift that would forever benefit the place they loved and came to call home: Colorado.



- El Pomar's mission: enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.
- In addition to making grants to nonprofits throughout Colorado, El Pomar operates programs geared toward leadership and community development.
- Since 1937, El Pomar's contributions through grants and programs total approximately half a billion dollars.

El Pomar Foundation Legacy Properties

Please visit these additional Penrose legacy properties operated by El Pomar Foundation and open to the public year-round.

Will Rogers shrine of the sun

The Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun is the final resting place of Spencer and Julie Penrose and a fitting tribute to their contribution to the city of Colorado Springs. The majestic structure stands 8,000 feet above sea level, offering a spectacular view of the entire Pikes Peak region. The Shrine can be accessed by way of the Russell Tutt Scenic Highway, which passes through Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

For more information call 719-578-5367.



El Pomar Carriage Museum

Spencer and Julie Penrose were enthusiastic collectors of unique carriages, race cars and automobiles. Their collection is on display at the El Pomar Foundation Carriage Museum, where you will find 31 horse-drawn carriages, five motorized carriages and a 1928 Cadillac limousine. A featured exhibit highlights the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb, the race created by Spencer Penrose in 1916 that continues today. The Carriage Museum is located at 11 Lake Circle, Colorado Springs. Admission is free of charge. **For more information call 719-577-7065.**

To learn more about El Pomar Foundation, visit elpomar.org.