James Caughman Biography

Jim Caughman is the senior marketing executive for the Kohler Interiors Group, responsible for the Baker, McGuire, ANN SACKS, and Kallista brands. Other than serving as the Executive Director of the Washington Design Center for 3 years, he has spent his entire career with Baker and Kohler. While living in London for 3 years, he started Baker’s International Division and opened its first showroom outside of North America. He has also been intimately involved in Baker’s historical licensing programs with The Historic Charleston Foundation and The Stately Homes of England and has worked closely with Baker’s guest designers such as Barbara Barry, Thomas Pheasant, Jacques Garcia, Bill Sofield, Albert Hadley and others.

Jim has a B.A. in French Literature and an M.A. in Foreign Affairs and has studied 7 classical and modern languages as well as European and Asian cultural history. He is a member of the Luxury Marketing Council in New York and served on the American board of The British National Trust. He has also been designated a Distinguished Speaker by the American Society of Interior Designers.

Having a background in cultural history and an interest in classic luxury brands, Jim has spent his professional career articulating a brand story to interior design professionals and affluent consumers. Using his background in comparative cultural studies, he has lectured extensively on the history and development of furniture and decorative art.

The Modern Woman: Style & Taste in Early 20th Century France  Course 30123 (1 Hr)

This lecture explores the changing nature of women’s role in art and society in France during the first 3 decades of the 20th century and looks at their influence on modern art. Paris was the crucible in the development of experimentation and innovation and the sophisticated patrons and clientele of artists and designers demanded modern luxury in all facets of life. Women took advantage of changing social conditions and played a crucial role in this highly creative period. Among the protagonists in this compelling story are Sonia Delaunay, Marie Laurencin, Eileen Gray, Charlotte Perriand, Eugenia Errazuriz, Coco Chanel, Madeleine Vionnet and Elsa Schiaparelli. The work of these important and generative artists is timeless and still resonates strongly today.