In November 2023, Filoli was the setting for a historic diplomatic summit between President Biden and President Xi Jinping of China. Today, visitors are invited to walk in the footsteps of these world leaders and snap their own photos in Filoli’s historic House and Garden. While touring the House, visitors can view Filoli’s original guest book from the Bourn era which now includes signatures from both President Biden and President Xi on display, and make their own mark by signing our modern guest book.

Filoli’s founder arrived at the unusual name “Filoli” by combining the first two letters from the key words of his personal credo:

- Fight for a just cause.
- Love your Fellow Man.
- Live a Good Life.

Filoli Pronunciation Fī / Lō / Lê

YEAR CONSTRUCTED | YEAR OPENED TO THE PUBLIC
--- | ---
1917 | 1975

PROPERTY ACRES | HOUSE & GARDEN ACRES
--- | ---
654 | 16

86 Cañada Road, Woodside, CA 94062
filoli.org | 650.364.8300 | press@filoli.org
The world watched as President Xi’s car approached Filoli’s entry courtyard midmorning on November 15. President Biden stood waiting in Filoli’s portico, at the entrance of the 54,000-square-foot, 56-room house built in 1917. The two leaders greeted each other with a historic handshake and walked in through the front door.

Later in the day, President Biden held a press conference in the same room, where he stood in front of Filoli’s impressive fireplace, a scaled replica of one in Versailles’ Hercules Salon.

THE HOUSE COURTYARD

In a final photo-op, President Biden and President Xi walked through Filoli’s lush 16-acre garden. The two strolled along Filoli’s terrace lawn with an iconic view of the Sunken Garden behind them, passing shrubs of wisteria, azaleas, and a pair of Hinoki cypress trees that came from the 1915 Panama–Pacific International Exposition.

THE BALLROOM

President Biden and President Xi sat down for an extensive bilateral meeting between their two delegations in Filoli’s 2,000-square-foot Ballroom. This stunning room showcases floor-to-ceiling murals of Muckross, Filoli’s sister estate in Ireland and shines with opulent gold-trimmed molding. Crystal chandeliers were inspired by Versailles’ lighting fixtures in the Hall of Mirrors.

THE GARDEN