

Charlottesville is home to Jefferson's Monticello. I think J. Peterman, writing in his catalog, has it right when he writes, "Of the thousand castles, mansions, chateaux you can walk through today, only Monticello, only Jefferson's own mansion, makes you feel so comfortable you want to live in it."

We visit Monticello nearly every year, luxuriating in the site that Jefferson loved. No, he doesn't remodel but the Thomas Jefferson Foundation continues restoration projects so there is always something new to see.

This year we saw the restoration to the kitchen and learned that the original kitchen featured a bake oven, a fireplace, and an eight-opening stew stove that was used to cook the complicated French dishes that he loved while in France. We had wondered how those were cooked on just a pot hung over a fire. And, this provides ideas for the rest of us on how to design a kitchen; the stove doesn't have to be in one spot; several cook tops could be scattered around the kitchen making it possible for more than one cook even in a small area. One of the things Jefferson excelled in was looking at inventions and then figuring out how to apply them in his daily life.