

# Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens

## The “Style-Function-Production” Framework

### 2022-2023 Mansion Docent Training

#### What is an “interpretative framework”?

*Interpretation* = an educational activity that aims to *reveal meanings and relationships* rather than simply to communicate factual information. (Tilden, 1977)

*Framework* = a network or outline that can be used to organize information, perceptions and experiences.

#### Why do we use a framework?




Cognition, or the mental activities of thinking, understanding, learning and remembering, is a process of forming logical structures for comprehending and analyzing experiences. (Piaget)

Information that fits into a system of organization is better understood, learned and retained. (Ausubel, 1968; Anserdon and Bower, 1983; Rumelhart and Ortony, 1977)

The talks by the collections and interpretation staff about Hillwood’s collections and founder are resources, not models for tours. Using an interpretative framework gives you a structure for organizing and remembering information from these talks. In turn, interpretive frameworks are the structures of your object and room lessons and your tour, so that visitors have a way to organize the experience.

### Style-Function-Production Framework

This framework is designed to organize object-specific information. Each section of the framework answers certain questions.

<b>Style</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What can you say about the color, line, shape, materials, and texture of the object?</li><li>• What does this object’s appearance reveal about the people who owned and used it?</li><li>• What do you see that makes you say that?</li></ul>
<b>Function</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What purpose did it serve? Literally? Symbolically?</li><li>• How might you use this object?</li><li>• Who might have used this object?</li><li>• What do you see that makes you say that?</li></ul>
<b>Production</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What can you tell about the people who made it just by looking at it?</li><li>• How was it made? (skills, materials, systems of production)</li><li>• What do you think the designer/maker was trying to say through this object?</li><li>• What do you see that makes you say that?</li></ul>