The "Style-Function-Production" Framework
Mansion Docent Training

Style-Function-Production Framework

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

Style

- What can you say about the color, line, shape, materials, and texture of the object?
- What does this object's appearance reveal about the people who owned and used it?
- What do you see that makes you say that?

Function

- What purpose did it serve? Literally? Symbolically?
- How might you use this object?
- Who might have used this object?
- What do you see that makes you say that?

Production

- What can you tell about the people who made it just by looking at it?
- How was it made? (skills, materials, systems of production)
- What do you think the designer/maker was trying to say through this object?
- What do you see that makes you say that?

The "Design-Features-Marjorie Post" Framework
Garden Docent Training

Design-Features-Marjorie Post

This framework is designed to organize "big picture" information for entire garden rooms. In general, this framework provides an introduction (design), body (features), and conclusion (Marjorie Post). This framework of intro-body-conclusion is one most of us instilled from our formal education.

Design

Marjorie Post and others who created country estates with formal gardens wanted their outdoor spaces to be used for entertaining, relaxation, and exercise. These estates functioned to present their owner in a certain light, and to support the lifestyle of the owner.

- Introduce visitors to the garden room through its design (its plan that shows its look and function).
- Integrate information about this garden's role in the design of the entire estate.
- Think of the design section as: giving visitors time to transition from one garden room to the next; and as an introduction to the new room. In other words: time to settle-in and then focus.

Features

Select three or so features (i.e.: elements, both natural and manmade, used in the garden's design), including plants, that best illustrate the garden room's most important messages.

- Integrate information about the feature's role in the design of the garden, its cultural context, and its horticultural information.
- Typical features include plants, stones, water, statuary, hardscaping (built environmental features like sidewalks, walls, and terraces), garden furniture, and vistas (a distant view).
- Here is where you employ your skills at conducting object lessons, as practiced during your Five-Minute Object Lesson.

Marjorie Post

Integrate information about Post as it relates to this garden room, especially her role in and use of this space and the features in it—especially those you just discussed. If you introduced some of this information in your design or features section, continue the story here. Information about Post could include narratives about her as an estate manager, hostess, business executive, philanthropist, or collector.

- The Post section serves as a nice transition from garden room to garden room.
- This section can also be a place to connect current museum activities to Marjorie Post.