Homework: Garden Object-based Learning Model
2024 Garden Docent Training
Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens

Due February 26, 2024

Instructions:

Choose any garden feature in the French parterre (except the boxwoods), the motor court, or Japanese-style garden.

Answer the questions on the attached, writing in the spaces provided.

Bring the completed handout to the next class, and we will discuss it together.

Ideally, you will write the answers to the questions on the attached handout while standing in the (outdoor) garden room, but we understand if that is not possible. As an alternative, use images on the mobile audio tour (download to your device), or images on Hillwood's website or even by Googling the garden name.

After completing this homework, docents-in-training will be better able to "read" a garden feature using Hillwood's interpretive framework for analyzing visual evidence. "Reading" objects is a necessary skill for creating lesson plans for object lessons, room demonstrations, and tours.

Garden Object-based Learning Model:
Using Visual Evidence to "Read" a Garden Object, or Feature
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Name of Feature*
*plant, stones, water feature,
statuary, hardscaping,
furniture, vista, etc.   _____

Location of Feature   _____

Year or Time Period Created   _____

Look carefully at this feature, or garden object. Describe the physical aspects that you see.
Think about what you can detect with your senses: sight, sound, smell, and touch in particular. Think about what you can tell about its color, shape, stillness/movement, pattern, texture, line (curvy, straight, etc.), materials it is made from, and symmetry/asymmetry.

What emotions, moods, or ideas does this feature convey? How are those emotions, moods, or ideas conveyed by the feature?

For plant features only: **what do its physical aspects suggest to you about this plant?**
Think about its desirability in this garden, its native habitat, or its biology.

For plant features only: **what function do the physical aspects of this plant serve?** Think about functions such as protection, reproduction, nutrition gathering, or ornamentation.

Why did the designer and/or Marjorie Post use this feature in the garden? Think about the influence of the designer/owner's intent and the social/cultural context of the garden feature or the garden's function, design, and meaning.

What statement was Marjorie Post or is the museum making by maintaining or collecting this feature? Think about the choice of style, and its relationship to other gardens and the Mansion. **Is this statement intentional?**

What personal meaning or contemporary relevance do you find in this feature?