

**“The Best Possible Visitor Experience”
2026 Mansion Docent Training
Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens**

February 2, 2026

Objectives

After completing this session of the training program, participants will be better able to:

1. Identify key ideas distilled from the lecture and readings on furniture and furnishings and small precious objects at Hillwood using style, function, production framework;
 1. Describe their further refined understanding of how frameworks can be used for organizing interpretive ideas.
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- I. Introduction (advance organizer)
 - A. The overall topic for tonight – fitting key interpretive information into organizing frameworks
 1. Review framework readings
 2. Review Hillwood’s interpretive perspective, material culture
 3. Discuss Hillwood’s interpretive frameworks
 4. Distillation of lecture and readings on French furniture & textiles
 5. Practice integrating information into frameworks
 - II. KNOW ONE: Review the framework readings
 - A. Carson
 - B. Miner
 - C. Zimmerman
 - III. Interpretive perspective (material culture)
 - IV. Interpretive frameworks
 - A. Definition of frameworks
 - B. Two interpretative frameworks
 1. the big picture: estate, collection, collector
 2. object-specific: style, function, production
 - V. Distillation of lecture and readings on French furniture and textiles
 - A. Main Ideas
 - B. Style-Function-Production
 - VI. SEE ONE: Activity in the mansion – incorporating information into the frameworks
 - VII. Step back
 - A. What do you know now that you didn’t know when we started?
 - B. Did we meet the objectives?
 - VIII. Assignment:
 - A. Lecture (viewing), readings and take-home handout (DO ONE) due February 9
 - B. Next class on Monday, February 9, French Porcelain and Frameworks Continued, Zoom