

HILL-STEAD MUSEUM

VOCABULARY FOR HILL-STEAD HIGHLIGHTS

Architecture: The profession of designing buildings, open areas, communities, and other artificial constructions and environments, usually with some regard to aesthetic effect.

Architect: A woman or a man who designs buildings, open areas, communities, and other artificial constructions and environments, usually with some regard to aesthetic effect.

Ceramics: The art or technology of making objects of clay and similar materials treated by firing.

Colonial Revival: A cultural movement popular in the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century that grew as a reaction to the rapid urbanization of the Industrial Revolution. Proponents venerated the American past and held an idealized vision its simplicity, preserving the spirit of earlier times by incorporating what they believed to be traditional values and aesthetics into architecture, decorating styles, literature and even politics. Theodate Pope Riddle was strongly influenced by the Colonial Revival when she designed Hill-Stead.

Gilded Age: A period in U.S. history, between the 1870 and 1900, which was marked by major growth in population and extravagant displays of wealth. The wealth polarization derived from industrial and population expansion.

Grand Tour: An extended tour of continental Europe formerly considered a finishing course in the education of young men of the English upper class.

Impressionism: A style of art developed in France around 1870, generally devoted to subjects of leisure, the upper-middle class and the city, rendered in a naturalist manner often painted directly before nature, or *en plein air*. The Impressionist style is known for its short, broad sketch-like brushwork, simplified forms and lack of traditional finish. It leaves the viewer with an “impression” of a scene rather than an immensity of detail

Impressionist: A man or a woman during the late nineteenth century who painted in the style of Impressionism.

Industrial Revolution: The totality of the changes in the economic and social organization that began about 1760 in England and spread to other countries. This period is characterized by a rapid growth of industry, the replacement of hand tools with power-driven machines such as the power loom and the steam engine.

Patron: One that supports, protects, or champions someone or something, such as an institution, event, or cause; a sponsor or benefactor.

Portrait: A painting, drawing, photograph of a person.

Preservation: The activity of protecting something, such as an art collection, from loss or danger.

Print: A design or picture transferred to paper from an engraved plate, wood block, lithographic stone, or other media.

Sculpture: The art or practice of shaping figures or designs in the round or in relief, as by chiseling marble, modeling clay, or casting in metal.

Servant: A person who is hired to do household duties, such as cleaning or cooking.

Spiritualism: The belief that the dead can interact with the living.

Suffragette: A woman who worked to get voting rights for women during the period when women were not allowed to vote.