

A Closer Look

General statement of exhibition

The relationship between wood as a product and the craftsman as end user has changed in the last two centuries of western settlement in the Kingston area. The changes in wood as a raw material mirror the development of culture in general of this period; one of innovation in a strange environment morphing into concerns for regularity, aesthetics and quality. The versatility of wood throughout this period has allowed for the mimicry of other materials and the creation of new materials. While this versatility has been exploited for over 200 years, the approach and results have evolved with time such that the technology of the 19th century bears little to no resemblance to wood technology in the present. A Closer Look will investigate the material evidence of this shift.

Message: wood's inherent versatility promotes innovation creating an evolving cultural narrative and pattern of usage. The cultural record of Kingston can be viewed through its wood products.

Objective statements

Image Gallery

- ▶ To present didactic images in an aesthetic way in order to introduce the concept of changes in wood technology through time.
- ▶ The micrographs' close up view mirror the minute differences in the technology itself, and reinforce this message.
- ▶ The micrographs require interpretation to realize their significance, mirroring the "unrealized" significance of the common material, wood.
- ▶ The use of artistry (reflecting a fine art gallery) and mystery draw the visitor into the rest of the exhibit.
- ▶ The twin scientific and arts lens's in which wood is presented portray this material's use and cultural significance as spanning the boundaries between art and technology.

Microscope Station

- ▶ To allow the audience to explore first-hand the story of material culture that can be discerned through wood technology.
- ▶ To provide visitors with the tools and ability to perform tree species identification.
- ▶ To create excitement about wood and tree species identification via the technology-based exploration, visual medium, and the current implications of relevance that are suggested by these modes of representation.

Display Case

- ▶ To provide examples that explain the relationship between how craftsmen of the 18th and 19th century differ in their understanding of wood and how to use it. Specifically, the objects chosen

demonstrate that the craftsmen of 18th century understood the physiology of wood better than is common today; science has always been a part of wood technology.

▶ The objects illustrate the application of tree species' identification to wood technology, including how its versatility is related to this knowledge even to the degree that the shape of the object mimics the shape of the tree it was cut from.

▶ To contrast the loss of knowledge in today's society with the technology of today's society, as represented by the technology of the exhibit, and to suggest some relevance for the lost knowledge, in conjunction with opportunity for visitors to acquire this valuable knowledge in the here and now.

Digital display screen

▶ A behind the scenes look at the making of the image gallery presented as video clips, including the selection of the images, the technology behind the making of the images, and the curation involves.

▶ These videos provide the interpretation of the image gallery, and fully reveal the connections between exhibit elements, like the conclusion to a mystery novel.

▶ The use of video is a deliberate use of current technology to elaborate on the changes through time with wood technology.

▶ The revealing of the curation of the exhibit involves the visitor in the museum and its development, further enhancing the relationship between the visitor and the collection.