Cheryl Griggs, Allied ASID Director of Interior and Exterior Design Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Learning about history was an important part of growing up in Virginia. In fact, most family vacations revolved around visits to museums and historic sites, Colonial Williamsburg included. Out of those inspiring experiences, my love of period furnishings and design was born. In college, starting at UNC-Greensboro and transferring to Virginia Tech, I was drawn to Art History, History of Architecture and Interiors and coursework related to Adaptive Reuse, Preservation and Textiles.

It was no surprise that soon after graduating, I launched my design career working for Colonial Williamsburg as the Assistant Interior Designer. Understudying the Interior Designer, who quickly became my mentor, I gleaned everything I could from her knowledge about design and most notably, period design. Working alongside some of the leading experts in the museum and historic preservation fields, immersed in an environment that embraces quality and authenticity, provided a solid base of understanding the importance of proportion and attention to detail in creating good interior design.

Over the course of 22 years with Colonial Williamsburg, I have enjoyed the diverse range of interior design work. Projects have encompassed everything from hospitality spaces and office/corporate interiors to interior and exterior holiday/ event spaces to executive housing. While my job is not that of a museum curator, who maintains authentic interiors in the exhibition buildings, I do strive to create spaces with a sense of place, allowing the visitor or occupant to 'step back in time' within comfortable, safe environments that are relevant to the twenty-first century.