

Program: Architectural Tour of Columbus, Indiana

Special Thanks: Steve, Guide and Jim Bettner for arranging today's tour.

Attendance: Approximately 50

Guests: Many, All Welcome

Scribe: Jerry Kurlander

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The tour began on an uptick with lunch at the Upland Brewing Company of Columbus, Indiana.

Immediately following lunch the group went to the Columbus Visitor Center and saw an interesting video about the architectural jewels of Columbus. We learned that J. Irwin Miller a philanthropist and social activist served as a catalyst for transforming Columbus. He was head of a prominent local family that was involved in banking, real estate and the Cummins Engine Company. In the 1940s Miller asked the Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen, Eero Saarinen's father, to design a new church complex for the First Christian Church congregation. This was our first stop on the tour and it still represents one of the most striking buildings architecturally. Our guide pointed out to us the high points in the design of the church. While walking to the church, we passed the public library designed by the world-famous architect I.M. Pei and Henry Moore's sculpture "Large Arch."

We drove through the downtown area seeing many beautiful buildings designed by internationally famous architects including Eero Saarinen, Harry Weese, William Browne Jr. and Steven Risting. There are now more than 60 public and private buildings designed by noted architects. The American Institute of Architects ranks Columbus sixth in the nation for innovative architectural design behind Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Boston and Washington DC.

Even on the bus ride home, the bus driver pointed out to us several interesting architectural masterpieces. It is clear that to appreciate and enjoy these many architecturally unique structures, one must visit Columbus personally.

We thank Scientech member Jim Bettner for arranging this exciting afternoon.

Pictures below provided by excellent photographer John Morrival.



