

Columbus, Indiana

THE TOWN.

Columbus was settled in the 1820s; incorporated on June 28, 1864. The City has a population approaching 50,000. Columbus is approximately 50 miles south of Indianapolis.

The major employer is Cummins Inc.: \$25 billion capitalization, #65 on Fortune 500, 62,500 AE worldwide, established 1919. Cummins primary product is diesel engines. Cummins, Inc. is a big benefactor of the city and its urban development.

J. Irwin Miller, 2nd CEO and a nephew of a co-founder of Cummins Inc., instituted a program in which the Cummins Foundation paid the architects' fees, provided the client selected a firm from a list compiled by the foundation. The plan was initiated with public schools and was so successful that the foundation decided to offer such design support to other non-profit and civic organizations. As a result, Columbus is a city known for its modern architecture and public art.

SMALL TOWN, BIG NAMES.

Since the early 1940s the high number of notable public buildings and public art in the Columbus area, designed by such individuals as Eero Saarinen, I.M. Pei, Robert Venturi, Cesar Pelli, and Richard Meier, led to Columbus earning the nickname "Athens on the Prairie." [22] Renown public artists have contributed to the town's aesthetic ambiance, such as Henry Moore, Dale Chihuly, Jean Tinguely, and Robert Indiana.

A DEDICATION TO DESIGN.

At the corner of Washington and 4th, one can view a comprehensive approach to aesthetics.



Looking west on 4th one sees a piece of art and the many streetscape features systematically designed with pavers, flowers and pedways.



Looking east on 4th there is a better view of the designer festival street barricades along with the matching utility box and trash can.