

Narrative Architecture and the Indiana State Museum:

Narrative architecture is the art of telling stories with form, space and materials.

Monroe County and Bloomington Character

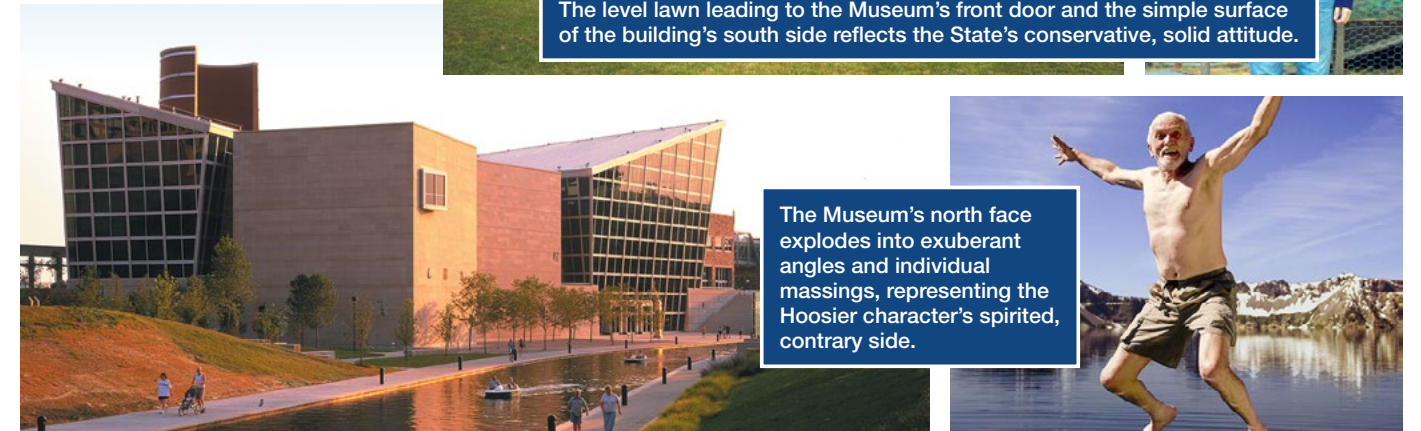
Monroe County, and its county seat Bloomington, is one of Indiana's most beautiful places. From the rolling hills, through the woodland forests, to the limestone quarries; dotted with lakes and reservoirs, the rural part of the county is picturesque and pastoral. The towns of Stinesville, Ellettsville, Unionville and Smithville reflect the small town character of the county and represent the approachable charm found in southern Indiana. Centered in the county is the City of Bloomington, the vibrant, urban core hosting the County Government and the state's largest intellectual, academic institution Indiana University. The quality of the Indiana University campus, often recognized as one of the top five most beautiful campuses in the nation, reflects the overall quality of this community. This sustainable, environmentally friendly city attracts young talent for learning and offers a rich cultural center for all its residents.

We believe that it is important that public architecture reflect the nature of the place in which it is built, and for whom it serves. The natural environment of the county and the urbane quality of the city need to be represented in the building. Much of our architecture develops a narrative that goes beyond the mere functionality of the building, and describes a richer, more meaningful story about its purpose in the community. The newly expanded Convention and Civic Center needs to capture the character of the county and city so that it presents the face of the community to those who visit it.

The **Indiana State Museum's** north and south sides reflect the various characteristics of the Hoosier personality.



The level lawn leading to the Museum's front door and the simple surface of the building's south side reflects the State's conservative, solid attitude.



The Museum's north face explodes into exuberant angles and individual massings, representing the Hoosier character's spirited, contrary side.

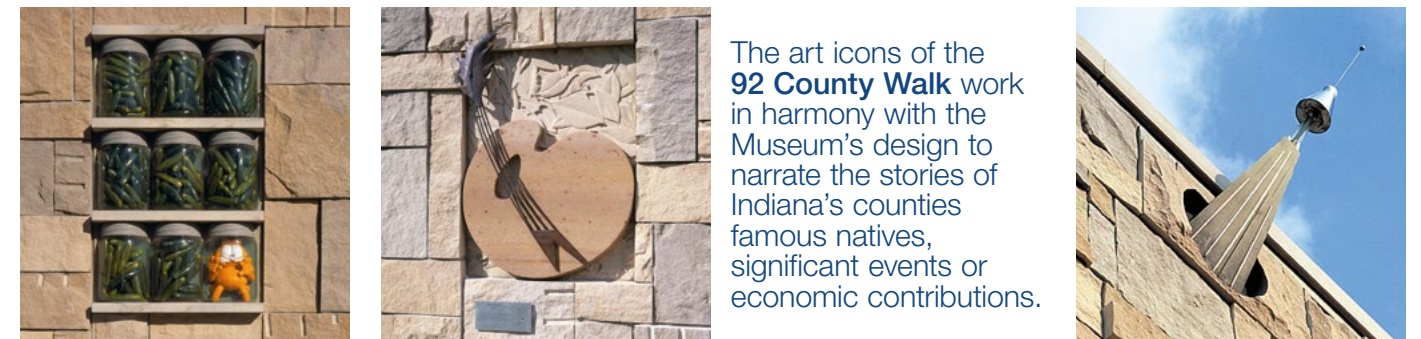
The Museum's shapes and materials tell the story of Indiana's rich industrial heritage and pays tribute to the work ethic of the typical Hoosier.

Indiana limestone is extensively used throughout the Museum.



The "smokestack" element pays tribute to the State's industrial heritage.

The use of steel reflects Indiana's vast steel industry.



The art icons of the **92 County Walk** work in harmony with the Museum's design to narrate the stories of Indiana's counties famous natives, significant events or economic contributions.

Monroe County Convention Center



Conventional
wisdom

