A385_2017AbstractMillerMeghan

Abstract

This installation became more than just about creating a public art piece for the city of Columbus, it reflects Columbus itself. Columbus has been known for its small-town atmosphere interlaced with modern architecture, a rarity in the practical and sometimes shortsighted Midwest. It's an Indiana treasure most people are not aware of, tucked away in rich farmland away from the busy world. This abstract piece is an homage to the unique, yet practical, qualities of Columbus, exhibiting the values Columbus holds most dear.

One unique quality of Columbus is the presence of towers in its architecture. Besides major cities, most of the Midwestern buildings don't get taller than four stories. Columbus has multiple towers, almost exclusively church related. This project reflects the tall proportions by getting lighter towards the top, pulling the eyes away from the ground, before it blends in with the sky above. Located in the Midwest, Columbus is also home to a lot of advanced manufacturing. This project utilizes computer based design and the machine's abilities to create complex forms in metal, reflecting the future of manufacturing in the Midwest.

An important part of this project was to create something that reflected Columbus's future, not its past. For many decades innovation has been the driving force behind Columbus architecture, looking to solve the problems of tomorrow today, and investing in the future. With that in mind the design does not reflect how Columbus, or architecture in general, is now, but how it can become in the future. The form is complex, thanks to the abilities of advanced manufacturing. Both the inner and outer skin are a unique shape. Although they are related to one another they are not the same shape. It is a common misconception in architecture that the inside and outside shape must reflect each other, that the volumes cannot differ from one another. Traditionally, building practices have made this a fact, but with the inclusion of the computer architects are able to conceptualize more complex forms that may not necessarily look the same on the interior or exterior. This practice is becoming increasingly more common, and creates a visually different feel than a traditional form.

This installation also utilizes an unconventional visual phenomenon as well. The moiré effect is when two perforated patterns cross at different angles, creating a new third pattern through its interlay. This relies heavily on movement, as the pattern changes when the point of view changes. It is most commonly seen in fences, especially in a moving vehicle. This visual aspect is rarely, if ever, intentional. By using two different perforated layers of metal for the skin, this installation uses the moiré effect to add another layer of complexity to the form, and also help blur the edges between the object and its surroundings.

This project was created for the Exhibit Columbus event in the fall. Commissioned by the city, the goal of the entire exhibit is to celebrate Columbus's past and future through architectural installations located around the city. This installation will be located in University Village and represent Ball State University in this event. Notable architects from around the world are also invited to create installations that celebrate specific landmarks. Exhibit Columbus wishes to

shine a little more light in their city, to show the rest of the Midwest and the world what an architecturally intelligent, community oriented city can look like. Columbus is rated as one of the best places to live, prompting them to want to share their knowledge with the rest of the world.

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