Kosciusko County

Cultural Activity Center

A facility for the community

Matthew E. Maudlin

April 29, 1994
acknowledgments

There are a few people that I would like to thank, for without their help this project would never have been possible. A thank you to Mike Sobczak and Brian Kelly for their help with the completion of this project. A special thanks to Dr. Ron Spangler for his help, advise, and confidence in me. You have helped me more than you could ever know. And also to my parents, who pushed me, directed me, and supported me throughout my life. Thank you.
The ever changing societal values of today have caused a need to reevaluate the ability of our public spaces to meet societal needs. The desire for public facilities have increased over the years, and urban sprawl is under more and more scrutiny as society develops new opinions about what is best for our environment. Multiuse public facilities, such as community centers, are sprouting up in many communities because of the increasing need of public spaces for gathering, from small clubs to town meetings. Such is the case for Kosciusko County, Indiana. The county's needs include (but are not limited to) a core facility, auditorium, library annex, convention center, day care center, youth center, and vocational center. How this project will be developed and where is a major concern.

There are two significant aspects of my project that should be addressed which are going to be influential to my entire process. One is my choice to work together with a fifth year thesis student throughout this project. This gives me a good opportunity to see first hand the thoughts, process, and methods of an architect. The second aspect deals with my choice of medium... 3D computer imaging. With this tool I will show the process of my design, the development of ideas, and a 3D view of movement through my design.
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In 1833, the Treaty of Greenville opened the door for the white man’s right to territory in the midwest, which included the area of Kosciusko County, Indiana. At the time of the treaty, white men already resided in the area. One man, Peter Warner had squatted on a claim northwest of where the county seat of Warsaw now stands.

On February 7, 1835, the boundaries of the county were established and on June 1, 1837 was named Kosciusko in honor of a polish aid of General Washington’s Thaddeus Kosciuzko. The city of Warsaw was named later with respect to the capital of Kosciuzko’s homeland. Presently Warsaw has a population of approximately 10,000. With a long and prosperous rural influence and the healthy growth of technological based industry, Warsaw has emerged as one of the premier places to live and work. According to a recent national survey, Warsaw was rated as one of the top ten small towns in America due to its high quality of life and cultural activities, festivals, events, and performances. One of the county’s unique qualities is its abundance of natural lakes, providing beautiful natural scenery which draws people from hundreds of miles, relax and enjoy all that Warsaw and Kosciusko County has to offer.
My interest in this project stems from evaluating my college education. To accomplish all I felt I should experience to be prepared for the profession of Landscape Architecture, there were two areas I needed to know more about: working in an interdisciplinary situation and further developing my computer aided design skills.

Due to the complexities of the issues involved in a project like this, it lent itself as a good opportunity to test the team approach of design to present our conclusions not only to the college, but also to the inhabitants of Warsaw and Kosciusko County. It is important to recognize how this experience will benefit both parties involved. For each it offers an opportunity to develop skills of communication and interaction with other types of professionals associated with design. For the landscape architecture student, this project will allow him to see how the architect approached and solves specific problems as they relate to architectural design and construction, such as process, form, connections, materials, proportion, and technology. For the architecture student, this project will allow him to see how the landscape architect can address these problems with a more natural type of media. This project offers both parties the ability to work jointly on key issues and independently on areas specific to each field, resulting in a better quality project and an invaluable learning experience.

Being capable of using computer aided design (CAD) as a tool for my comprehensive project is something I have worked at for over a year. Due to the infancy of the computer in the design field as well as our curriculum here at Ball State University, I would like to share my learning process with fellow students, faculty, and even
design professionals. Using the computer as a supplementary design tool is my way of experimenting with a new type of medium. Where some students chose to express their ideas through colored pencils, charcoal, watercolor, poetry, or music, I chose computers so I can develop new skills for myself which will make me more marketable for employment. Computers have greater possibilities than we can ever imagine. This project will blaze the trail for other students, develop new design parameters for faculty, and show everyone the technology that Ball State University has to offer.

Two studies led to the development of this cultural activity center being located on the fairgrounds site. First, in the spring of 1993, Ball State University based projects organized a charrette for the Kosciusko County 4-H fairgrounds located in Warsaw, Indiana. Several members of the community thought that the fair board should examine ways in which the fairgrounds may be better utilized during the non-fair (50) weeks of the year. The challenge of making the fair grounds more of an amenity to the community and the county year round led to making this project my thesis project. Secondly, the county of Kosciusko developed a study as to what facilities are still needed within the community. Facilities such as an amphitheater, banquet hall, exhibit hall, library annex, meeting hall, park, restaurant, vocational center, and youth center, were all considered as possibilities to be included on this site. But after evaluating which facilities could be profitable and successful on site we chose to focus the cultural activity center to include the exhibit hall, meeting hall, banquet hall, and city park.
With a unique site in Warsaw, Indiana, located within the city limits, on the northern shore of Winona Lake, the fairgrounds offer users close proximity to the urban fabric while at the same time providing for a natural setting on the water’s edge. About a half mile southeast of the historical downtown and the same distance west of the U.S. 30 commercial development, the site provides an excellent opportunity to blend the old with the new.

Bordered directly to the east and west with single family residences and to the north with a combination of residences, commerce, and industry, the 66 acre site is primarily used only for county fair activities, leaving the site barren and unused during most of the year.
The ever changing societal values of today have caused the need to reevaluate the ability of our public spaces to meet the societal needs. The desire for public facilities have increased over the years, and urban sprawl is under more and more scrutiny as society develops new opinions about what is best for our environment. Multiuse public facilities, such as community centers, are sprouting up in many communities because of the increasing need of public spaces for gathering from small clubs to town meetings. Such is the case for Kosciusko County, Indiana. The county’s needs include, but are not limited to a core facility, auditorium, library annex, convention center, day care center, youth center, and vocational center. How this project will be developed and where is a major concern.
4 Objectives

Objectives & criteria

1. Create a site that has year round use by developing the facilities and spaces to accommodate this.

2. To successfully design for the criteria set for this project.

3. To work through an interdisciplinary approach to achieve a unified solution best for the community.

Criteria

1. To create facilities which are needed within the county in a manner which is easily accessible for the community and without disrupting the integrity of the site or the surrounding community.

2. To redevelop the fairgrounds and upgrade the facilities to the standards that have been established by the fair board and the Chamber of Commerce.

3. To have the foresight to create spaces for activities which the community may choose to bring to the site in the future.

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The program for this project involves two separate but integrated portions: that for landscape architecture and that for architecture. Included in both is the scope, quantity, and quality of the project.

The landscape architecture portion of the project deals with the overall masterplanning and designing the layout and circulation of the site in addition to examining possible links between our site and the rest of the city. This will be an important asset when dealing with how the users can access our site. These amenities listed below will not only compliment the 4-H fair activities, but also be an independent feature for the site and area year round. Included on the site is:

- linkage for a future park system
- parking for the new facilities (approximately 250 spaces)
- walking trails within the park
- outdoor plazas and eating spaces
- pavilions

The architecture portion of the project focuses on the creation of a multiuse, cultural center for the inhabitants of Warsaw and Kosciusko County. With a wide range of programs offered to add to the quality of life of the community, this new facility will embody, through a built form, the culture, the character, the goals, and the
uniqueness of this particular society. The facility is separated into four main building types for clarity of the function, however, each building type should not be stereotyped by tradition or precedent, but should be looked at in a new way of thinking for this specific project. Creating places for trade shows, art exhibits, demonstrations, commercial exhibits, indoor festivals, banquets, meetings and conferences for all types and sizes of community groups and organizations, the convention portions and information between various groups of individuals. The civic auditorium will provide a stage for several cultural events such as musical concerts, drama productions, speeches, etc., which will be augmented during the warm seasons by outdoor performance spaces.

Included on the site is:

- exhibit hall for 75 booths
- meeting hall for both large and small groups including some administrative offices.
- banquet hall for seating up to 600 people.
- total square footage of approximately 65,000 square feet.
The interdisciplinary design process used throughout this project by both myself and the architecture student is represented by a separating arrow (figure 6-1) which illustrates our working relationship throughout our process. It is important to notice that although most people might feel that we should carry out this entire process together, we felt that this situation as diagramed, is most like professional situations, and will work best for our cultural activity center. The arrow begins separated with each of us entering this project with separate research and ultimately different values. Then, as the diagram illustrates, we came together to decide our program, to evaluate our site, to develop ideas on how the architecture can relate to the landscape architecture, and then to diagram how this can be incorporated on the site as our masterplan. We began to separate for our final crunch of designing the individual details, and ultimately for our individual presentations. Although throughout the process we swayed from this model occasionally, this was our general outline we followed throughout.
Interdisciplinary Team Design Process

figure 6-1
The site is located in Warsaw, the county seat of Kosciusko County, Indiana (figure 7-1). Warsaw is a small to middle size Indiana community with farmfields surround the city which has a rich agricultural flavor itself. The site is presently known as the Kosciusko County 4-H Fairgrounds, although the fair operates only two weeks out of the year and the facilities only incorporate 50% of the site.

Warsaw contains three major lakes within the city limits and has an intricate system of public pocket parks located within close proximity to the fairgrounds. This could offer the opportunity to suggest a linkage of these parks with the park on my site in the future. Our 66 acre site is also located only one mile from city hall and the courthouse.
Location Map

figure 7-1
When looking at figures 8-2 and 8-3, we determined that these views were important in linking our site with the rest of the community, as well as working with instead of becoming separate from the fair.

Figure 8-5 shows the relationship of our site to the surrounding zones: residential, industrial, commercial, and the school.

Figure 8-6 illustrates the two types of soil found on the site: sandy loam on the northern portion of the site and peat muck on the southern rim of the site. This was critical when it came to the decision of where to locate the buildings. Peat muck does not have the bearing capacity needed for our facilities, which is also one reason why all of the fairground buildings were located on the upper half of the site. As shown in figure 8-8 three main zones of activity are found on the site: parking, fair, and the grandstand. All of the white area is unused portions of the site which shows how much development still can occur on this site. Figure 8-9 gives a graphic depiction of the figure/ground relationships of the fair buildings and the natural area on the site. This was crucial because it illustrated to us that there were three axis on the site: the north-south axis and the east-west axis with identifies my site's connection with the downtown, but also an arbitrary angle which the buildings are oriented on which addresses better to the natural features on the site, such as Winona Lake.

As drawn in figure 8-10 the only significant vegetation on the site is a grove of mature oak trees. All other the
vegetation located on the rim of the site is scrub brush deliniating the lake from the site. Figure 8-11 shows the man made plateau which is at an elevation of 834.0 above sea level. The lake is at a level of 812.2 which demonstrates a tremendous grade change on the site, most of which occurs within a one hundred foot wide slope giving slopes of up to 25%. What this shoes is that is a strong separation between the upper plateau and lower plain level. Since finding out this fact, we feel that the buildings lend themselves to be used as a transition, linking the lower and upper portions of the site.
Views from Site

figure 7-1

Views to Site

figure 7-2

Noise

figure 7-3

Human/Culture

figure 7-4
The analysis is an evaluation of the site as illustrated in figure 9-1.

**site analysis**

1. entry-- This entry diagrammed gives the best sense of entry into the site and the best access to the southern portion of the site, therefore, quite ultimately, to the cultural activity center.

2. oak trees-- the mature oak trees should be kept as they are the only vegetation on the site.

3. residential-- The residential areas around the site create the desire for more passive spaces on the site to keep the noise down, but also give the site users within walking distance. These areas are the biggest resources for the facilities and the park spaces. It will be important for the designers to respect the needs and wishes of the community to give them a reason to use the facilities.

4. slope-- The slope separates the site into two parts: the lower plain and the upper plateau. There should be a better connection between the two sections.

5. lake-- The lake is an amenity that is not being used and could be an important element within the design.

6. grandstand-- The grandstand is an eyesore to the community and should be torn down due to lack of use. It was a facility that has become outdated in its use and therefore allowed to become rundown.
site analysis

7. buildings-- Some of the fairground buildings need renovation and others look so dilapidated that they need to come down. The fair facilities also need to be evaluated as to whether they are even needed anymore for any fair activities.

8. city-- Having the site located within the urban fabric will help to support development on the site.
Having the site within the urban fabric will help to support development on this site.

Some of the fairground buildings need renovation and others look so dilapidated that they need to come down.

This entrance gives the users the best experiences when entering the site.

The mature oak trees should be kept as they are the only vegetation on the site.

The residential areas around the site create the desire for more passive spaces on the site to keep the noise down, but also give the site users within walking distance.

The grandstand is an eyesore to the neighbors and should be torn down due to lack of use.

The slope separates the site into two parts; the lower plain and the upper plateau. There should be a better connection between the two sections.

The lake is an amenity that is not being used and could be an important element within the design.

Site Analysis

*figure 9-1*

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To keep a project scope that we as a team could handle in a semester, we decided that a three to four hour design charrette on the layout of the fairgrounds would be an answer to designing the larger issues created by this project which need to be addressed. By deciding to accept the findings of this charrette as the answer to those larger design issues, we could spend the remainder of the time focusing on the design for our comprehensive project.

The first step we took in our fairground layout charrette was to create a matrix (figure 10-1) of the important elements presently associated with the fair, and how these should relate (or should not relate) to each other. Secondly, we evaluated the results of the matrix by dividing them into three categories: should relate, should not relate, and indifferent. This allowed us to develop a schematic diagram (figure 11-1) of the relationships of the elements, and from there a conceptual masterplan of the site.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIDWAY</th>
<th>STREET</th>
<th>LAKE</th>
<th>PARKING</th>
<th>LIVESTOCK</th>
<th>COMMERCIAL</th>
<th>CONSESSIONS</th>
<th>VIEWS</th>
<th>AMPHITHEATRE</th>
<th>PARK</th>
<th>SERVICE AND UTILITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y N</td>
<td>N N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y N Y</td>
<td>Y Y Y</td>
<td>Y Y</td>
<td>Y N Y</td>
<td>Y Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY:**

Y = SHOULD RELATE  
N = SHOULDN'T RELATE  
--- = INDIFFERENT

*figure 10-1*
Through this schematic diagram (figure 11-1), one can begin to see how the entire site can be used. The fair activities will still occur mainly in the northeastern portion of the site. The new cultural activity center is placed on the transition between the two levels of land to help transition the separation and begin to unite the site. Parking is brought back into the southern portion of the site to facilitate the new facility and the southern rim is left to be a linear park allowing for uses in the area otherwise not buildable due to peat and muck soils. The picnic and camping are where the mature oaks are located, becomes an extension of the park and therefore protected as it is the only are of mature vegetation. The black lines are the access roads for vehicular traffic. At this point, we began to organize the bubbles with more concrete design ideas.
Schematic Diagram

Figure 11-1
By using the site inventory, site analysis, fair matrix, objectives, and criteria, we developed a masterplan for the site. We chose to use the masterplan as it was a set of guidelines for the project that we must follow. It also began to set the framework for our individual designs to occur in.

At this point most of our team work stopped and we began to work more on an individual basis keeping in touch regularly to check each others progress. This was also during the time when I began using the computer as a design tool. As our ideas for the masterplan became more concrete, I began to plug some of those ideas into the computer to see if they worked three dimensionally. By using the computer I could quickly manipulate the ideas and re-evaluate them, much different from the conventional method of redrawing ideas over and over.

The following few pages explain our guidelines to follow on our masterplan (figure 12-1)
masterplan

figure 12-1

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masterplan

1. show coral-- one of the new additions to the fairgrounds is a show coral to replace any activities which occurred at the old grandstand and to give the 4-H fair a facility to show animals.

2. livestock-- The livestock area will be refurbished, but the number of buildings will remain the same.

3. parking-- Two paved parking areas (200 spaces) have been create on the southern half of the site to facilitate the new cultural activity center.

4. banquet hall-- The banquet hall is a 15,000 square foot facility which seats 600 people. Included within the building is a kitchen, prep area, and seating for viewing activities outside in the plaza along with view to the lake. (figure 9-2)

5. exhibit hall-- The exhibit hall is a 30,000 square foot building to be used for trade shows, art exhibits, craft fairs and indoor activities associated with the fair.

6. meeting hall-- The meeting hall is a 20,000 square foot building which contains small, medium and large size conference and meeting rooms as well as a civic auditorium which seats 600 people for concerts and plays.
plaza-- The plaza is an area designed to give opportunities for activities that occur inside the buildings to be moved outside for additional room. It incorporates a natural area with benches for sitting during lunchtime for workers and gives and open area with a gazebo for gathering groups together for events such as political speeches, small outdoor bands or plays, and town meetings.

open space-- The open space creates room for activities for the festivals and community activities which do not presently occur on the site. It also allows for better views of the lake from the plaza and buildings.

park-- This park was designed for the surrounding residents to have a place on this site to picnic, walk, run, bike, and recreate. Included within the park are walking and interpretive trails as well as a wildflower area.

office and administration-- These old buildings have been renovated to become office and administration buildings for activities for the fair such as an information area, first aid, fair headquarters etc. and for organizing other activities which may come to the site.

parking-- This area still remains parking for the fair but may become sport fields during the off fair time such as soccer or football.
My area I chose to address with greater detail is the plaza area formed by the new building facilities. There were a few main issues I felt were important to address when designing for this area of the project. This criteria was:

1. Meet the new needs created by the facilities. (i.e. facilitate activities that now can and will occur here. Activities that general happen indoors that can be brought outside if the area is planned for this.)

2. To identify the circulation routes created by the new facilities and lay out paths which respect this new circulation pattern for the site.

3. To create new spaces for new activities and respect and/or add views to the lake.

4. To not create a separation from the natural site already existing and the "formal" plaza that the buildings seem to create with their placement. They need to be integrated with each other.

The following pages are showing and explaining how I met these criteria within this space. (figures 13-1 through 13-5).
design

details

figure 13-1 (plan view of facilities) - This view best demonstrates the circulation through and in the plaza. Centered within the plaza is a gazebo to be used for bands, speeches, or parties. Surrounding this is a naturalized wooded area, and defined by low stone retaining walls, is an open green area to lounge or gather.

figure 13-2 (view of banquet hall) - This view shows the window seating provided for the users of the building. It provides views to the lake and into the park.

figure 13-3 (view of entry) - This view shows the entry into the plaza, with a terrace overlook. Through the major entry here one enters on the lower level with access to the plaza. The secondary entry is between the two exhibit halls and gives access to the terrace.

figure 13-4 (bird's eye view) - Shows overview of the entire facilities.

figure 13-5 (view under main terrace) - This view is from the walkway under the terrace of the exhibit hall.

figure 13-6 (view from the lake) - This is a view from the open space just north of the lake.
design details

figure 13-2

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design
details

figure 13-3

Kosciusko County Cultural Activity Center

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figure 13-6
This cultural activity center could be a valuable amenity to the community of Warsaw, Indiana. It begins to reduce the number of facilities they are lacking and brings year round activity and revenue to the site.

It has become fitting for these facilities to be located on the Kosciusko County 4-H Fairgrounds after coming to realize what the qualities and characteristics of the 4-H organization. This national organization's goals are to help prepare today's young people to become tomorrow's leaders by instilling in them certain values and attitudes. The motto for the organization is: "I pledge my head to clear thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my health to better living, and my hands to greater service for my club, my community, my country, and my world." This cultural activity center is built to give all people the opportunity to gain the same knowledge and values as the children who are associated with 4-H. It gives people the abilities to see today's leaders in political rallies, to experience music, plays, and festivals, to recreate with family and friends, and most of all to come together as a community to communicate their ideas, values, and achievements.

Kosciusko County Cultural Activity Center can be a symbol of civic pride and cultural identity, reflecting the rural heritage and the future development of the community of Warsaw.
Using this project as an interdisciplinary study was well worth the effort put into it. I learned how to communicate on an interdisciplinary level and also the thought process for a discipline other than landscape architecture.

When beginning this project, I thought things would run a little smoother and ideas would flow between us like a river during flood season. But initially it was much harder than that. Breaking those stereotypes that had been established and learning what each person could bring to this project were huge hurdles it took a lot of time to overcome. Deciding on a common program that would work for each of our personal goals with this project was an issue I do not think was ever resolved. But when the project was completed, I felt that a true learning process had come about as well as new opinions of each of the professions. This project would take on a totally different approach had it not been an interdisciplinary study and I feel I would then be lacking the most important experiences I got out of this project. We both hope that we answer questions and solved problems we had with each other’s profession and that it will truely help us in our professional environments.

Using computer aided design with this project created opportunities and constraints that I never before thought would happen.
Using this project to facilitate my personal goal to improve my CAD skills was a tremendous experience. Although I felt comfortable to do only certain aspects of my project on the computer, I learned the present limit of my abilities to design on the computer and even progressed toward improving these skills. As you can see through my paper, I chose not to introduce the computer into the process until the design details section or nine weeks into my project. I did this for two reasons: one, my interdisciplinary partner was not as familiar with the software as I was so hand sketching was better to develop ideas while passing the pencil back and forth during our brainstorming sessions, and two, I feel the computer still has not (or I have not) made enough progress to warrant the use of computers in the initial stages of inventory, analysis, and schematic design. Soon the technology will be to the stage of development where this will be efficient to do on a computer screen.

Using the computer to create realistic images and movement through a design gives the client a better understanding of how the building is really going to look instead of a graphic artist's interpretation. This also creates a considerable advantage for those people who have trouble visualizing like a designer can. This gives them the ability to participate in the planning process. Computers are the future and I am grateful to have gotten the opportunity to learn a little about this powerful tool which soon could affect every aspect of our lives.
Books

Pamphlets
*County Profile: Kosciusko County, Indiana*. SD&R March, 1991
*Kosciusko County 4-H & Community Fair Charrette*. Community Based Projects Program. Ball State University: February 24, 1993
appendix

Jenkins, Philip W. Thesis project: Kosciusko County Cultural Activity Center.

April 20, 1994 pp 42-46.
Kosciusko County
Cultural Activity Center

View of Main Entrance
Isometric of Complex
Design Objectives:
- integration
- expression
- transition