LAFAYETTE ART CENTER

DENNIS WISCHMEIER

ARCH THESIS WINTER 78
GOALS

My proposed Art Center will stress flexibility of space. Each space should accommodate as many functions as possible. Spaces should also have the capability of expanding into one another. I also want to explore and use form as a communicating tool. I want to use forms that are functional and exciting and powerful. I want an unusual building that will become a focal point in the New Middle Town Lafayette area.

The Center will be a place to display art, but should also be a place conducive to thinking, creating, and learning from one's own work as well as others. Private studios or spaces should be available for those who like to work alone. Small private studios may also be rented, but I want to stress an open concept where artists can watch and learn from each other, and still have enough privacy and security not to be overwhelmed or unnecessarily distracted. I want to maintain an informal atmosphere, inwardly all should be to a human scale. The exterior should be powerful or monumental enough to draw attention and interest. I don't want to Art Center overlooked.
THE ART ASSOCIATION

The New Greater Lafayette Art Center would be maintained by the Lafayette Art Association. The Art Association was founded in 1909 to "establish and maintain a permanent collection of art, to sponsor art exhibits, and to aid local artists". The Association has maintained a small Art Center in Lafayette since 1960. This Center is located in a residential area near downtown Lafayette. Because of serious space problems, an annex was added downtown. Lack of space is still a problem, and neither the Center nor Annex have the possibility of expansion. Both also have an identity problem. They are so well hidden that much of the population of Lafayette is not aware that they even exist. The present staff consists of a director and secretary/receptionist. The expansion in space of the New Fine Arts Center would probably mean additional staff. Teaching of classes is done by local artists. Currently the Art Center has a membership of 1,000 and a part-time teaching staff of 20. A permanent art collection of nearly 200 works is owned by the Center. A break down of some of the works is as follows:

- Oils — 65 pieces
- Water Color/Pastel — 21 pieces
- Lithograph — 10 pieces
- Sculpture — 3 pieces
- Woodcut/Wood Block and Wood Engraving — 12 pieces
- Etching — 20 pieces
- Intaglio/Drawing/Batik — 12 pieces
- Collage/Gouache/Resist/Drypoint — 7 pieces

Exhibits consisting of traveling shows and work of local artists are changed monthly. Informal exhibits draw approximately 300 people. Festivals or special exhibits draw as many as 5,000 people. I think a new facility and some publicity would greatly increase these numbers. The Center's Educational Program is divided into 3 terms, and operates year round. The Center is currently funded by interest on gifts and membership fees.
The Greater Lafayette Fine Art Center would serve the Greater Lafayette Region; Tippecanoe County, West Lafayette, and Lafayette; or a total population of 109,000 people. 60,000 of these are residents of the two cities, Purdue University adds approximately 20,000 more. The Lafayette area is fairly wealthy and has a higher than average standard of living. Lafayette is basically a factory town with new industry coming in regularly. West Lafayette is a college town built around Purdue University. Both have thriving businesses and schools, but very little when it comes to culture.

Users:

1. People looking for something to do, or a creative release.
2. People wanting to learn how to use their rough artistic skills
3. People wanting to meet and associate with others interested in art.
4. People wishing to display and sell their work.
5. People wishing to view artistic works.
6. People wishing to buy art work.
7. People wishing to use facilities and equipment they would not have at home, example: Darkroom, Wood Shop, Kilns etc.
8. People needing a place to work, private studios (local artists, professionals, Purdue students)
9. People who are just curious.
10. People who want critiques or advice on work they have done.
11. People who want to study art, but don't want to go through a formal school.
12. People who are looking for local talent.
13. People wanting to purchase and get information on art supplies.
14. People who just want a place to meet and talk. (not necessarily artists)
15. Tours — school children, visitors in general
16. People attending social events — dinners, showings etc.
The Center is for visitors and those who want to become members. It is for people of all ages that have some type of interest in art.
# REQUIRED SPACES & AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Square Feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>250 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>200 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary and Receptionist</td>
<td>150 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>600 sq. ft.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Public Spaces</th>
<th>6,550 sq. ft.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coffee and Snack Shop (dinners) + Kitchen</td>
<td>2,200 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Dining</td>
<td>2,400 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>400 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobby</td>
<td>600 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilets — 3 men, 3 women (150 sq. ft. each)</td>
<td>900 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>2,000 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lounge</td>
<td>450 sq. ft.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Galleries</th>
<th>22,000 sq. ft.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Exhibition</td>
<td>5,000 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Exhibition</td>
<td>15,000 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>2,000 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Exhibition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Utility</th>
<th>5,000 sq. ft.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical</td>
<td>2,000 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>300 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loading Dock</td>
<td>700 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>2,000 sq. ft.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permanently Placed Work Areas</th>
<th>7,500 sq. ft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photography — Total</td>
<td>1,000 sq. ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Room</td>
<td>400 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Room</td>
<td>150 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Room</td>
<td>50 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography (lights and backdrop)</td>
<td>400 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Making — Total</td>
<td>1,500 sq. ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio</td>
<td>1,050 sq. ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Area</td>
<td>200 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acid Area</td>
<td>100 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean up</td>
<td>50 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>100 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Shop — Total</td>
<td>1,500 sq. ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Area</td>
<td>1,150 sq. ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting Room</td>
<td>150 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean up</td>
<td>50 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>150 sq. ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ceramics — Total</td>
<td>1,500 sq. ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throwing and Work Area</td>
<td>750 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiln Room</td>
<td>300 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glazing Area</td>
<td>200 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean up</td>
<td>50 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>200 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy Sculpture — Total</td>
<td>2,000 sq. ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Area</td>
<td>1,550 sq. ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean up</td>
<td>50 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>400 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Work</td>
<td>4,500 sq. ft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multiple-Use Areas
  Outdoor Work
    8,000 sq. ft.
    1,500 sq. ft.

Private Work Areas
  Studios are 250 sq. ft. or 400 sq. ft. each
    5,000 sq. ft.

Locker Space for Members
    400 sq. ft.

+ Circulation = Total Estimate
    60,000 sq. ft.
SITE ANALYSIS
Named after the French general, Marquis de Lafayette, the city of Lafayette was founded in 1825. The site chosen was four miles north of Fort Ouiatenon, the first white settlement in Indiana, built by French traders in 1719.

In 1826 an act of the state legislature established Tippecanoe County, whose name commemorates the Battle of Tippecanoe of 1811 in which William Henry Harrison, later ninth president of the United States, decisively defeated the forces of Indian Chief Tecumseh. The battleground, now a state park, is eight miles north of Lafayette.

Two towns across the Wabash River from Lafayette—Kingston and Chauncey—were consolidated in 1888 and renamed West Lafayette. Today the combined population of Lafayette and West Lafayette exceeds 65,000.

The city may be reached by U. S. Highway 52 or state roads 25, 26, 43, and 38. It is served by the Penn Central passenger and Norfolk and Western railroads; the Greyhound, Trailways, and Indiana Motor lines; and the Allegheny Airline operating out of the University airport. Lafayette is 60 miles northwest of Indianapolis and 120 miles southeast of Chicago.
Greater Lafayette

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COMPARISON OF SITE #1 AND #2

ACCESS TO DOWNTOWN

• WALKING
  SITE #1 ○
  SITE #2 ○
  About 7 blocks from courthouse—But walk to center is would be a pleasant one thru park.

• DRIVING
  SITE #1 ○
  SITE #2 ○
  Would actually touch town square.

• IDENT. TOWN
  SITE #1 ○
  SITE #2 ○
  Town can be seen in dist. Very strong.

ACCESS TO RIVER PARK

• CONNECT TO PARK
  SITE #1 ○
  SITE #2 ○
  Act. Part of park.

• IDENT. PARK
  SITE #1 ○
  SITE #2 ○
  Very strong

ACCESS TO LAF.

• DRIVING
  SITE #1 ○
  SITE #2 ○
  Central location—on main traf. Art. Same

• WALKING
  SITE #1 ○
  SITE #2 ○
  Resident near, but Sep. by RR. & Road. Long walk.
- Greater Lafayette

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ACCESS TO W. LAFF.

- **DRIVING**
  - SITE #1
  - SITE #2
  - VEIRY GOOD; HARRISON BRIDGE.
  - VEIRY GOOD; FERRY ST. BRIDGE ACT. BAD SOUTH ST. ACT.

- **WALKING**
  - SITE #1
  - SITE #2
  - PED. BRIDGE → PARK → SITE.
  - PED. BRIDGE → PLAZA → SITE. CLOSER

- **UTIL.**
  - SITE #1
  - SITE #2
  - NO PROB.

- **FLOODING**
  - SITE #1
  - SITE #2
  - NO PROB.

- **R.R. RELOCATION**

  - **DEPRESS.**
    - SITE #1
    - SITE #2
    - NO PROB.
    - FERRY ALT. LIMITS SITE—R.R. BARRIER W/PARK.

  - **PLAZA**
    - SITE #1
    - SITE #2
    - GOOD, GATEWAY → PARK → SITE.
    - BAD, CONFLICT.

  - **ELEY.**
    - SITE #1
    - SITE #2
    - NO PROB. — VIS. BARRIER
    - VEIRY BAD VIS BARR. & PHYS. BARR.
**Views from Site**

- **View River/Park**
  - Site #1: Very good - open, natural
  - Site #2: Blocked by BR. - no good view of river at this point.

- **View Downtown**
  - Site #1: Town can be seen in dist.
  - Site #2: Good view of town sq. from S-E corner of site.

- **View-Cen.**
  - Site #1: Open - part bar. to south
  - Site #2: 2 good views pos. 3 - row bldgs. block views.

**View into Site**

- **Across River**
  - Site #1: Very good, also from Harrison Bridge.
  - Site #2: Part. blocked by R12 - good from State St. Bridge.

- **From East**
  - Site #1: Open, maj. art. to east.
  - Site #2: Blocked by exist. bldg. Part. vis, from square.

**Surround Bldgs.**

- Site #1: Low profile.
- Site #2: High profile.

**Zoning**

- Site #1: Zoned for park (residential) - could be changed.
- Site #2: Zoned for business.
NOISE
SITE #1 ○
SITE #2 ○
Low, some traffic noise, noisy area.

POSS. OF EXPAN.
SITE #1 ○
SITE #2 ○
Large site, some room for expansion.
Very limited site—no expansion.

PARKING
SITE #1 ○
SITE #2 ○
No exist; must be provided, but there is space.
Very limited downtown parking—no real space for additional parking.

FEELING OF SITE
SITE #1 ○
SITE #2 ○
Very open, natural, relaxed feeling.
But with city near by, very urban, cramped, excitement & motion.

AVAIL. OF LAND
SITE #1 ○
SITE #2 ○
City park—no buildings; land could be acquired as part of river park (art center would be part of park).
Privately owned—existing buildings; high cost land—land is needed for parking.

SOIL
SITE #1 ○
SITE #2 ○
Buildable
Same as site #1

COMPAT. WITH PARK PROJ.
SITE #1 ○
SITE #2 ○
Very compat.—would add to park.
No prob.—cent. might draw people to park.
Photographs

A. Site Analysis
B. Rail Road Relocation
C. Site Analysis
D. Looking north - Site Model
Photographs

A. View south from north-east corner of site
B. View north from north-east corner of site
C. View west from north-east corner of site
D. View east from north-east corner of site
E. View west from center of site
F. View of bridge from site
G. View into site from Water Co. — looking south
H. View into site from across the road — looking west
I. View into site from across the river — looking east
J. View of Down Town from site — looking south
K. View of Wabash river — looking north
DESIGN PROCESS
RIVER

- Park thrusts up into bldg.
- Earth Bums
- Break Down in Scale - Bldg Melts into Landscape
- Break Down in Scale - Outdoor Work Areas - Use Good North Light

NORTH LIGHT

Powerful Facades

Parking

Road

CONCEPTUAL DIAG.
BLDG. MASSING
FORMAL GARDENS

ANCIENT ROME - VILLA POMPEII

-walls garden

BERIN STAT GALLERY

Broken into Water
Slow Area

Plains
SECTION E-W TRU BLDG.

MAIN ENTRY

MECH.

SECTION N-S THRU BLDG.

ADMIN

MULTI USE

FEET COL.

EXHIB.

VERT CRC.

FEET STUD.

OUTSIDE WORK
ATRIUM - FOCAL POINT

REMOVE ADMIN SECOND ENTRY

CITY

LIGHT

From Sculptor's Back

Tube Skylights

DIM

Draped Light Down to Sculpt Garden

DIM

DIM

DIM

DIM

SCULPT GARDEN

SCULPT GARDEN

SECTION - ATRIUM Dim Light

DIM

Go Fountain

Reflected Skylight skirt inner fountain

Tube Skylights
BOOFRAN

Glass

4'6" Stairs or Double Doors

20'

Covered Walking Bridge
Above walking way connecting outdoor work areas.

PRIVATE STUDIOS
High Low in Front

EAST ELEV.

Open

30' 30'

Joists

30' 30'

Standoff Joint

Bottom Connected w/ Frame Grid (like Neumann Center)

SPACE FRAME SKYLIGHT

Glass Light

Glass Col.

MORE LIGHT
Outside

Glass

Inside

Back of Elev as glass & back of towers glass. Makes using the elev a better experience - somewhere to look (View of River)
Spiral Stair (Gallery)

Grouping
Vent Cnc.

Glass

Spiral Cells.

Ed Stair.

ED.

Circ. un Direct
View from Entry

Removal Columns

Suspended by Cables

Cross Cut

Provides backdrop for Spiral Stair.
All Studios have some windows that open.
Class/Studios have outside access (furniture).
Class Exit
Accessible From Studio
Walls are non-structurally and can be removed for flexibility.

ED., MULTI-USE STUDIOS
OUT

Panel system on surface or inside

3-D. cat wall

South Wall

Grapes Wall

Access?

INSIDE

Scaffold

Steel on inside also reflected on outside -- flexibility -- lets artists create.

Exposed Steel System unit: thru steel

Light reflection to create spaces

You: Panels hung from 4' x 4' steel frame grid -- attached to bottom of joists.

For exhibit of work -- to create spaces

Lighting hung from frame -- flexible

Grapes Wall Outside

Truss system, fireplaces, scaffold

Storage Area for Panels not in use.

Partitions extend to bottom of truss -- are removable -- flexibility --
Don't interfere with grid or cur of art.
1ST QUARTER PRESENTATION
FINAL PRESENTATION
Photographs

A. Looking north - Graphic Wall
B. Looking south - Ed. Wing
C. Looking east - Park Entry
D. Looking west - Main Entry
E. Close-up Park Entry
F. Close-up Main Entry
Consultants

Daniel Woodfin
Paul Laseau
Bruce Meyer
Omar Faruque