



\$736.00/double occupancy
\$896.00/single occupancy

Athens on the Prairie: An Architectural Tour of Columbus, IN

Monday - Wednesday, May 20 - 22, 2019

Please call the office at 734-998-9351 to register or visit our website: www.lli-umich.org

Must be an OLLI at U of M member to register. Make checks payable to: OLLI at UM

Send checks to: 2401 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-5786

One of America's best displays of architecture waits in Columbus, where the skyline mixes 20th-century masterpieces with 19-century structures. Names like I.M. Pei and Eero Saarinen left their mark here, earning Columbus recognition from the American Institute of Architects as America's sixth-best city for architectural innovation. How is a town of 45,000 people packed with buildings and art created by designers known even by people who know little about design? The answer: J. Irwin Miller. In the 1950s, the local Cummins Engine Company executive set out to draw world-class workers to Columbus by elevating the entire town's attitude via design. He subsidized public buildings, as long as a renowned architect designed them, because he believed that, "Mediocrity is expensive."

The result is a town filled with more than 70 buildings created by famed architects—including churches, fire stations, schools, homes and office buildings. Join other OLLI members for this 3 day excursion to Columbus, Indiana!

Itinerary:

May 20, 2019

8:00 a.m. Depart Meijer parking lot on Carpenter Rd. in Ypsilanti.

4:15 p.m. Approx. arrival to the West Baden Hotel

5:00 p.m. Tour of our hotel. (West Baden) Join their historian for an hour and step back in time to discover the captivating history of West Baden Springs Hotel.

6:30 p.m. Private dinner in the Grand Colonnade

May 21, 2019

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at Cafe Sinclair's

8:10 a.m. Depart for Columbus

9:45 a.m. A two hour architectural tour including 40 buildings

12:00-1:30 Lunch on own in downtown Columbus (approx.)

1:30 p.m. Group will tour the Miller House and Gardens

Check into the new Fairfield Inn & Suites

5:30 p.m. Depart for an included dinner

May 22, 2019

6:30 a.m. Breakfast at Fairfield Inn and Suites

8:00 a.m. Depart for Michigan

4:15 p.m. Arrival back at Meijer in Ypsilanti (approx.)

(over for more highlights)



Eero Saarinen designed Miller Home and its gardens

Columbus, a modest industrial city located in southern Indiana, has amassed a collection of public and private buildings designed by many of the country's leading architects. Seven buildings are recognized as National Historic Landmarks of modern architecture and numerous others are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In the 1950's the Cummins Foundation agreed to fund the design fees for public schools if they would select architects from a list that Miller had prepared. The architects listed were the leaders in their profession. The program was later expanded to other public and non-profit institutions. Today, a collection of outstanding schools, civic buildings, and commercial structures are the lasting result of Miller's vision.

The tour of Columbus will bring the architectural legacy of the city, Cummins and Miller to life. It will also include other features which will enhance this extraordinary experience.

Departing from Ann Arbor by a first class bus, we will travel through northwestern Ohio and proceed to Indianapolis, and arrive in the community of West Baden, IN. A part of French Lick Township, West Baden is located in the vicinity of many mineral springs which attracted a large number of visitors and the development of a number of fine hotels and resorts. Outstanding among these is the West Baden Springs Hotel, where we will be spending the first night. The hotel is known for its atrium, covered with a 200 foot diameter dome. It's often called the "eighth wonder of the world." The hotel is a National Historic Landmark and we will have a guided tour of the facility prior to dinner in the Grand Colonnade.

The following morning we will return to the bus for a short drive to Columbus. The morning will include a guided bus tour of the architectural treasures of the city. We will pass by some 40 buildings and include an interior tour of some. Some of the recognizable architectural names connected to these buildings, include several with Ann Arbor connections: Edward Larrabee Barnes, Gunner Birkerts (underground law library), Gwathmey Siegel, John Carl Warnecke, Richard Meier, I.M. Pei, Cesar Pelli, Saarinen father and son (Cranbrook), Kevin Roach (Power Center), Robert Stern (North Quad), Robert Venturi (stadium renovation), Henry Moore (sculpture), and many others.

After lunch in the downtown we will tour the Miller home and gardens. We will divide into small groups for the home tour to preserve the intimate scale of the family residence.

After checking into our hotel we will dine at the historic Upland Brewing Co. restaurant, a recently renovated structure with its own very interesting history.

The following morning we will board the bus and return to Ann Arbor. Please call Lisa Barton (998-9356) with any questions or concerns about participating. Boarding will begin at 7:30 a.m. to ensure a prompt departure at 8:00 a.m. No refunds after April 7.



West Baden Springs Hotel