

Milwaukee Art Museum Curriculum



The Shape of Things to Come – Milwaukee Art Museum

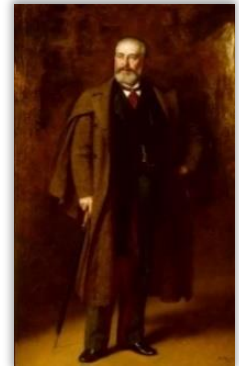
When learning about art, our teachers point out the importance of **line, shape, and patterns**. We see these artistic elements in our clothes, streets, nature, and everywhere we look. As we are looking at the history of the Milwaukee Art Museum, it is a good time to view the line, shape, and patterns that have made these buildings treasured landmarks in Milwaukee. These art elements are also mirrored elsewhere in Milwaukee – perhaps you can find some on your walk to the other Viewaukee sites.



Construction of the Milwaukee Art Museum | Quadracci Pavilion, circa 1999

1888 Layton Art Gallery

Frederick Layton was a Milwaukee meatpacker, railroad investor, art enthusiast, and philanthropist who was committed to promoting culture with Milwaukee's first permanent art gallery. Designed by London architects WJ and GA Audsley, and our local prolific architect Edward Townsend Mix, the Layton Art Gallery was located in the heart of downtown Milwaukee. Layton ensured it would be open on Sundays so that the masterpieces could be viewed by Milwaukee's hard-working families. In 1957 this collection was moved to the new civic building, the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center.



What repeated patterns do you notice in the façade of the Layton Art Gallery? Do you see organic or geometric shapes? Is it a building that invites you to enter? Are you curious to go inside?

1957 Milwaukee County War Memorial Center

"To Honor the Dead by Serving the Living."

Designed by modernist Finnish architect, Eero Saarinen, this captivating structure with its cantilevered wings was a model of mid-20th century pioneering design for its use of a civic open floor plan and its innovative load bearing structure. This first major civic building on the downtown lakefront housed the Milwaukee Art Museum.

What prominent shapes do you notice here at the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center? Notice the difference between positive and negative space.



1975 Bradley Collection Addition, Milwaukee Art Museum

Mrs. Harry Lynde Bradley committed to donating her extensive art collection to the Art Museum. She also generously donated funds to construct a David Kahler designed addition to the existing Milwaukee County War Memorial Center to house it.

How does the 1975 addition complement the 1957 Milwaukee County War Memorial Center? Notice the lines and forms. What are you eager to see? The building, the lake views, or the art inside?



2001 Quadracci Pavilion

The groundbreaking Quadracci Pavilion designed by architect Santiago Calatrava, has helped put Milwaukee on the map. Visitors come from all over the world to see the Burke Brise Soleil moveable sunscreen wings open and close, the towering 90-foot-high glass ceiling in Windhover Hall, and the Reiman Bridge, a suspended pedestrian connection to downtown Milwaukee.

This building's lines and shapes are very different from the MCWMC and the 1975 addition. Why do you think the architect did that?

How are they different? Is there anything similar about the three structures?



Extra Fun! <https://mam.org/visit/burke-brise-soleil.php> for a summary and video of the sunscreens moving from the inside and outside.

2001 Cudahy Gardens - Landscape

The world renowned landscape architect, Dan Kiley designed these geometric themed gardens, plazas, and fountains with the benevolent support of Michael Cudahy.

What kind of lines, shapes, and patterns do you notice in Dan Kiley's design? Is it symmetrical or asymmetrical? Does it encourage you to wonder in the gardens or to view it?



Activity: Art and Architecture

1. What prominent shapes do you notice in the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center, the Quadracci Pavilion, and the Cudahy Gardens?
2. Which buildings have organic shapes or geometric shapes?
3. What kind of designs do you like to work with, organic or geometric?
4. What design element strikes you most for each one? Color, shape, lines?
5. Do they repeat? How? Why?
6. Can you build a structure with those shapes? You can try to use blocks, popsicle sticks, straws, or cards. Which shape is easier to build with? Which is the strongest?
7. Looking at the Viewaukee photo, why do you have to dig down to build up?
8. What kind of a landmark building could you make for Milwaukee? Remember to use organic and or geometric shapes. Design it here: