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1964 - 1968

The Beginning

The Sculptural Landscaping of the Environment

The expansion from the present Art Center Building required a new bold concept. Sculptural Landscaping would require large amounts of earth fill and contouring of the land. Thirty-one years later, 1991, over two million cubic yards of earth had been moved.

1. The expansion was to the north where a start was made on the second small gravel pit.
2. The "old Ruin" columns were erected.
3. The upper parking lot was enlarged.
4. Two sculptural hills were formed (Noguachi Hill and Snelson Hill).
5. The new slope from the upper parking lot to the old gravel pit was completed. A great hazard had been removed.
6. Fertilizing using the farm manure concept with seeding was instituted because of the lack of topsoil. The gravel bank operation had destroyed all of the topsoil. What remained of any topsoil had a very heavy clay content. The farm manure concept was very successful.

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1974 - 1979

THE RESURGENCE AND BLOSSOMING OF THE ENVIRONMENT

under Peter Stern

The original concept of "one major project commencing, one project half completed, and one in the final stages of completion" acted as a transition for active leadership by Peter Stern. The Art Center was poised for the next great stage of the master plan concept. It did not exist on paper, but was a very flexible goal and hope that existed in our minds. Peter Stern's enthusiasm and love of the land was to far surpass Ted Ogden's fondest dreams and visions of what the Art Center was to become.

A major drawback was the lack of easy access from the Art Center building on the east and south. During this period a number of studies were made. It took until fall of 1977 for the last of Ted Ogden's projects to be completed. The last project was the lower inaccessible area east of the Art Center Building.

The 1974 Topographical Aerial Photo identifies the steepness of the slope on the east and south.

1974 to 1979 was to be the beginning of major architectural buildings. The Townsend House was built and the first picnic area adjacent to the small lower parking lot was projected.

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1979 - 1986

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The 1979 aerial photo shows the start of a massive project which would eventually require 400,000 cubic yards of earth material on the east and south slopes. During the next seven years more property would be acquired, many projects completed and the shifting of the master planning to the vistas and views down the valley to the south. As early as 1964, it was known that an expansion of the Art Center would logically be to the south. The land around the two ponds adjacent to Bunny Road was landscaped. The old railroad property was widened to 70 feet and tree lined with oaks. The Art Center did not own this land, but it was controlled by Peter Stern and Ralph Ogden.

Architectural Projects designed by Joyce Rutherford were to meld into the landscape.

1. The Ryder House was nestled into the woods to act as security for the North Bowl.
2. The George House was doubled in size and the adjacent barn renovated.
3. The Kellogg House was restored to its beauty.
4. The Art Center main floor galleries were renovated with new interior walls which preserved the extensive wood paneling.
5. The old kitchen was converted into a library.
6. A new main office was built in place of the house connected garage.
7. A caretaker's apartment was built in place of the former maids quarters.

During this period air pollution became a growing problem for the plant life and sculpture pieces. Acid rain was and did become more of a problem. The dogwoods continued to die from disease and old age but were replaced with hundreds of hybrid Rhododendrons. The diseased Red Pines were replaced with White Pines on a yearly basis.

The sculpturing of the landscape has given the Art Center a man-made natural beauty that fools visitors into believing it has always been there.

1979 Air Photograph Attached

1986 - 1991

THE BRIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE

A major master plan decision was formulated in 1986 to create a new central main entrance and parking complex located near the old original gravel pit. The steep sides of the gravel pit had always blocked the striking vistas to the south and down the valley. The entire area to the south along with the Art Center Hilltop area has made the dream of an environmental Art Center for sculpture and the Arts an actuality with tremendous potential for the future. The entire area has been opened up to an environmental architectural future. The vast sculpturing of the landscape in allowing easy access to all areas provides a glimpse of the environmental Art Center of the future. The dream was and still is to create an Art Center where men and women work in harmony with nature to create a unique legacy to a visionary future.