

# White River Park

Indianapolis, Indiana

Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff

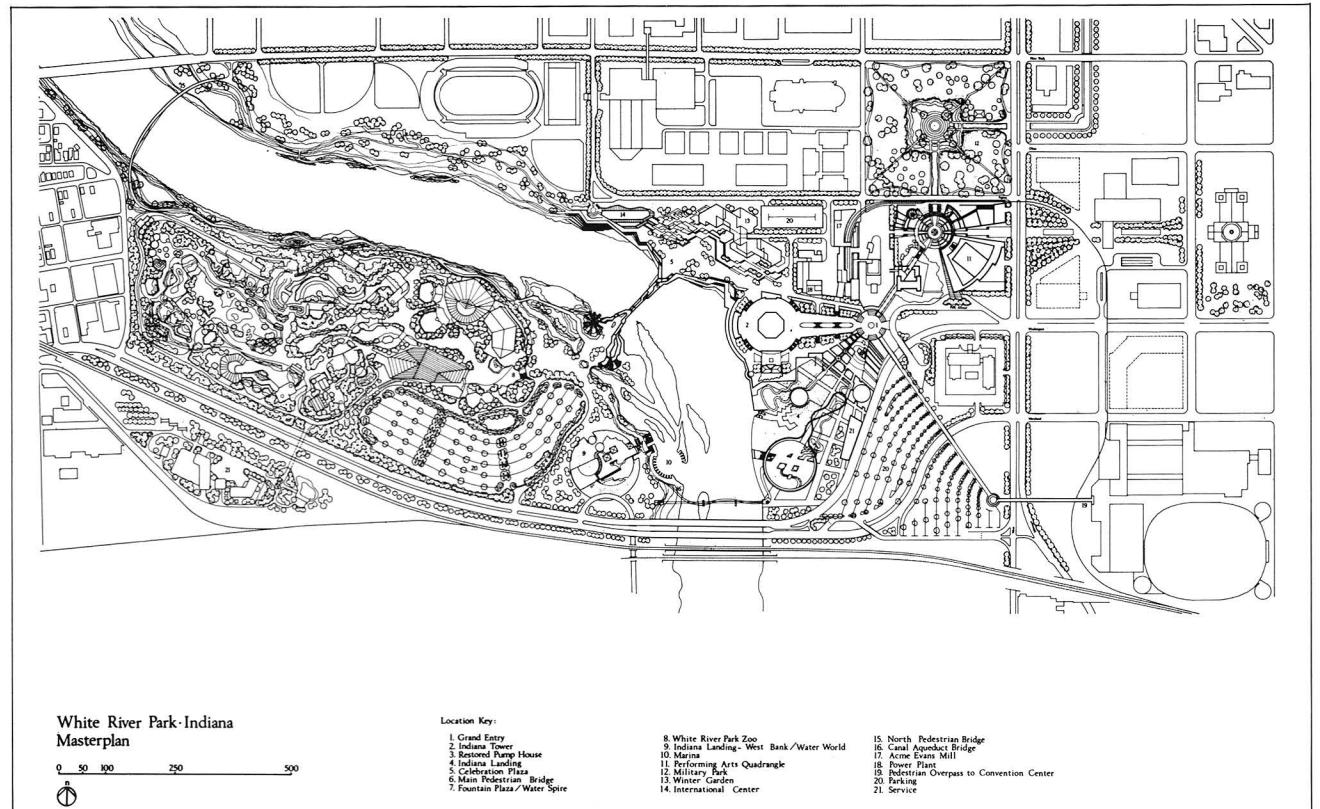
The park's appeal will be universal, a unique showplace attracting national, indeed international, attention. It will be a masterpiece bespeaking the ingenuity and innovation of the creative process. With the establishment of the White River Park, an aesthetic and technical benchmark will be realized in the reclamation of urban resources.

White River Park Commission

White River Park originated as a reclamation project for Indianapolis and the state of Indiana. While it is intended to bring recognition, revenue, and rejuvenation to downtown Indianapolis, it will also be a park having enough places within it to attract many different kinds of people, at many different times. This variety will be the park's strongest asset, making the White River Park a place for activity, feeling, and celebration—a place for people.

White River Park Team

Recognizing that the development of the White River Park represented a unique opportunity to further enhance its world image, the State of Indiana committed substantial public and private resources to the park's design. The firm of Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff (HNTB) Archi-



## Master plan.

itects, Engineers, and Planners was commissioned to organize the master planning. Because of the stated goals, the size and scope of the project, and its importance to Indiana, HNTB established a master plan committee to coordinate the year-long planning process. It was comprised of Cary Goodman, HNTB; Edgardo Contini, Urban Innovations Group of Los Angeles; and Angela Danadjieva and Thomas Koenig, Danadjieva/Koenig Associates.

Individual spaces within the park became the responsibility of various members of the planning team. Indiana Tower was designed by Cesar Pelli; Indiana Landing by Charles Moore; the public open spaces by Danadjieva/Koenig Associates; the performing Arts Quadrangle by HNTB; and the White River Park Zoo by Zoo-plan Associates, Inc.

The initial concept evolved into a project comprising two hundred fifty

acres in an area two blocks west of the capitol building in downtown Indianapolis. Bisected by the White River this area was nearly abandoned, but held great potential for the creation of a world class theme park. The park's openness will counter the city's density, and the environment of the city will be enriched by the presence of the river and the variety of places created within the park. It will become a focal point for the state as well as a major urban landmark.



View looking east.

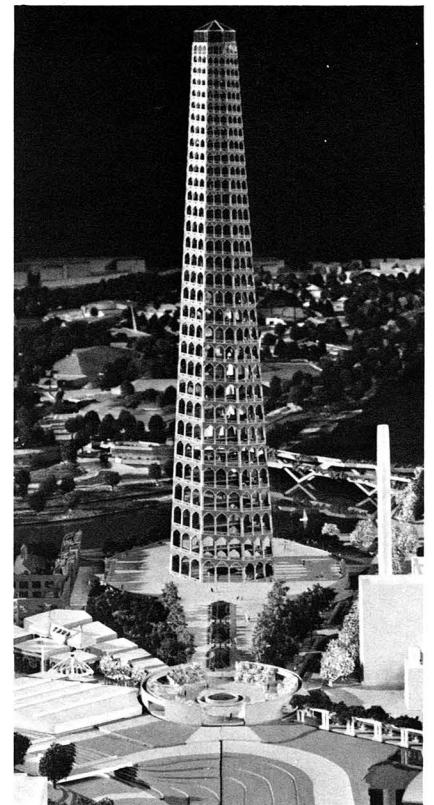
#### Indiana Tower

The tower will establish the crossroads of America. Its multiple associations will engage our imagination, memories and our dreams.

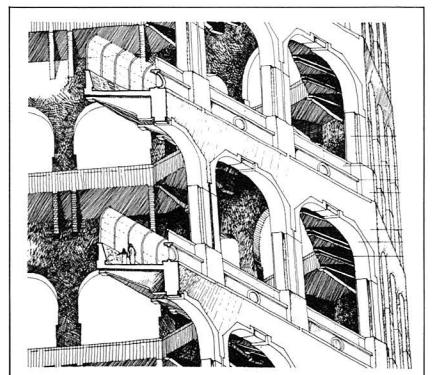
Cesar Pelli

To create a focal point within the park an observation tower was designed that would become the symbol of Indiana's past and present achievements and its promise for the future. Placed on axis with Washington Street where it meets the White River, the tower would establish a place symbolic of the crossroads of America. Its multiple associations, ranging from

obelisk or giant column to watchtower or campanile, are meant to engage one's imagination and echo both memories and dreams. It is a place of learning as well, where the descent via a ramp system would allow the visitor to read the unfolding story of Indiana's past inscribed on the tower wall, and at the base would be the Indiana Pavilion, a state history museum.



Indiana Tower.



Section of tower.



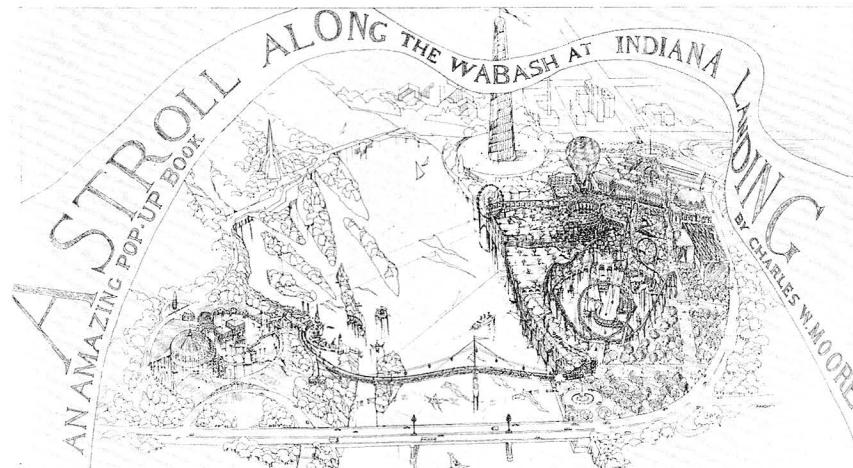
View of public open space.

### Indiana Landing

...journey from the familiar to the fantastic, increasingly full of wonder, mystery, and delight.

Charles Moore

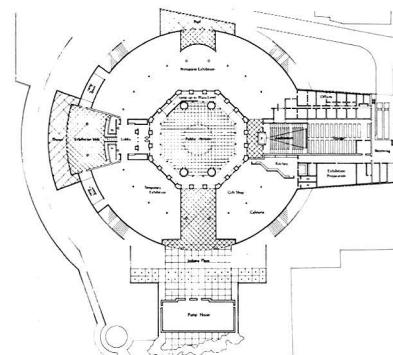
Indiana Landing was designed to become the place for celebration within White River Park. The first of its three areas contains restaurants and specialty shops that would be open all year. The second area contains an array of activities and rides, while the third will be devoted to water amusements. The Landing is "planted" in an architectural manner wherein corn stalks grow into a hypostyle hall, soy plants sprout lights, and tall stalks of corn form the support for the Indi-apple Seedway roller coaster. By distorting familiar elements and images, the design creates a place in which physical realities become increasingly fictional, and the visitor is drawn into a fantasy world.



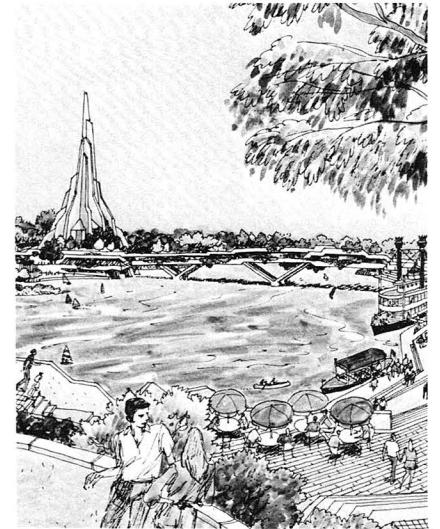
Indiana Landing.



Entrance to the Landing.



Landing plan.

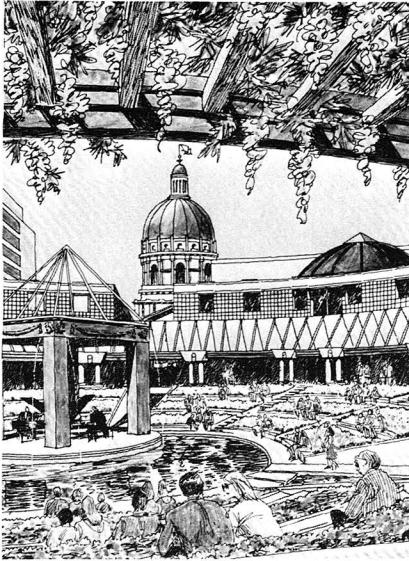


Public Open Space

...natural and cultural features of Indiana; its land forms, limestone, water, plant materials, seasonal colors, and its people —past, present, and future.

Angela Danadjieva

The open space design focused on historical elements located within the park area. Linked to downtown and to each other by a canal system, these features include the Pump House, Military Park, the site of an old covered bridge, Acme-Evans Flour Mill, and McCormick's Rock. Located in what would be Celebration Plaza, McCormick's Rock commemorates the first settlers and the crossing point on the river of the old National Road, which was the route to the western frontier for thousands of emigrants. On the opposite bank of the river is the site of Water Spire Plaza, containing a fountain resembling a crystalline stalagmite which holds a grotto at its base. The connection of the two plazas is accomplished by the design of a multi-level bridge which could accommodate exhibits, festivals, and other entertainments. The bridge structure becomes secondary to the plantings and to the water curtains that transform the bridge into a tapestry over the river.

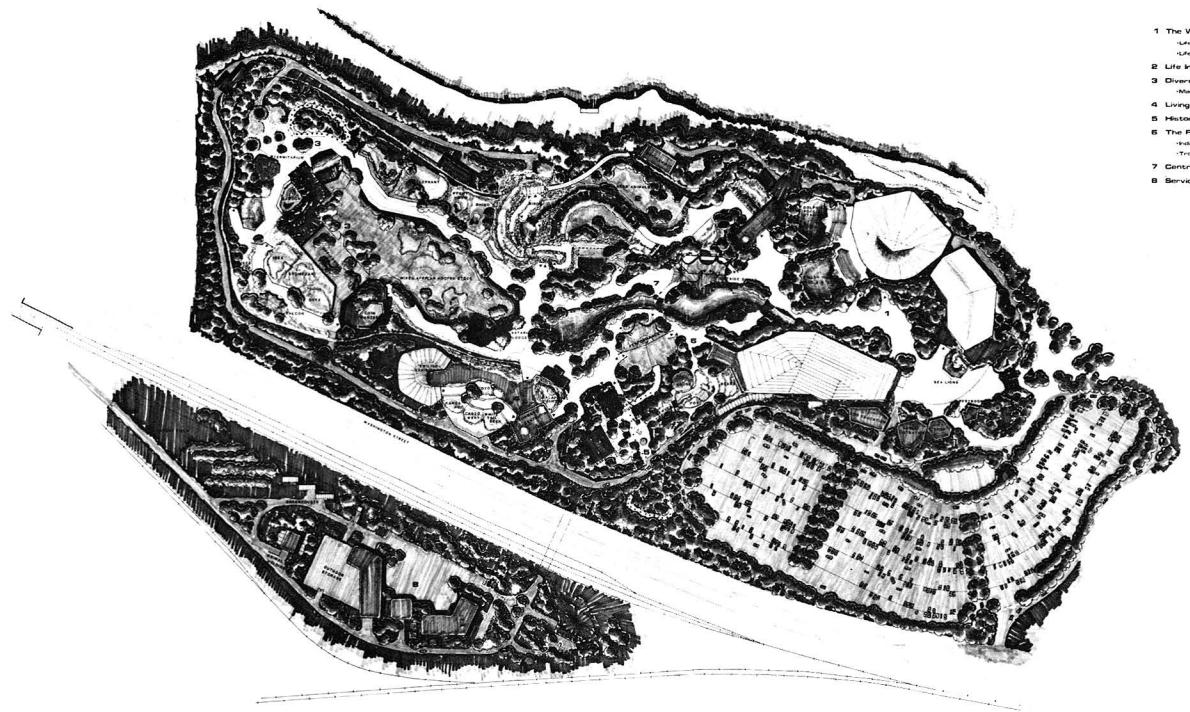


### Performing Arts Quadrangle

This functionally active and architecturally formal complex establishes a unique collaboration between park patrons and artists, allowing both the opportunity to benefit from interaction with the other.

Cary Goodman

The Performing Arts Quadrangle is in direct proximity to the city. Its location south of Military Park on the Market Street axis provides the formal organizational concept of buildings around a central public space. Functionally, the quadrangle is defined by four buildings, each dedicated to a separate discipline of the arts. These include a music hall for major concerts and recitals, a drama school, an art school, and a crafts center. The design contains a continuous loggia linking the buildings into a single compound, and the galleria thus formed opens to the entrance of each building while defining a central public space for outdoor performances. The city is complimented by the radiating Beaux Arts plan, while on the pedestrian scale plantings and a flowing pond would create a serenity fostering a transition into the pastoral qualities of the park.

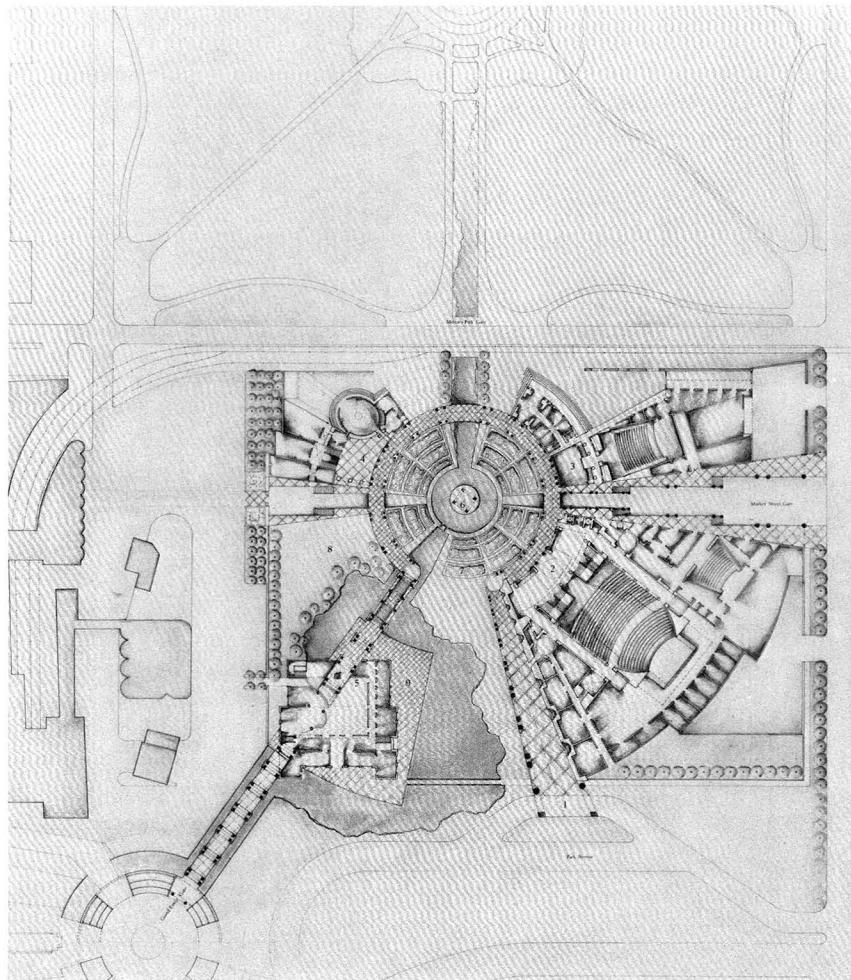


### Zoo master plan.

### White River Park Zoo

This will be a natural zoo. A zoo planned to meet the needs and wishes of the people of Indiana.

Jack Jones



### Performing Arts Quadrangle, plan.

Enjoyment and enlightenment are the main objectives of the design of this particular place within the park. The zoo will be organized into five separate experiences each designed to educate the visitor. A water exhibit would show life on the river contrasted to life on the ocean, while the Life in Communities exhibit would show the value and function of relationships among animals. A Diversity of Life exhibit would have as its setting a scene from the African plains and the activities of nocturnal animals would be portrayed in the Living with Change exhibit. Finally, the Forest Trek exhibit would simulate a visit to a tropical rain forest.