

SCULPTURE GARDEN: SENTINELS FROM THE SIXTIES

This corner of the Cornell campus was an overgrown pasture when these sculptures were built as a class project in 1961 by architecture students. “At the time, we had visions of people coming upon the pieces in the future, overgrown by vegetation, like the ruins at Angkor Wat,” said Stuart Carter '62. The students could not have guessed that their concrete monoliths would one day stand at the center of a lush arboretum.

“The advanced student will be able to design and build a full-scale, poured-in-place concrete sculpture with all the problems of structures and materials, design of formwork, the carpentry involved, and the very possibility of embarrassing public failure—the sort of real problems and risks the students will confront later in their architectural experience.” — Professor Jack Squier, MFA '52, who conceived the project as an exercise in form, volume, and structural integrity



Professor Squier (right center) helping to install the sculptures

The project's high level of innovation was affirmed by Walter Gropius, a pioneer of modern architecture, who declared to Professor Squier that it was one of the best projects he had seen for training architecture students.



Each sculpture was cautiously hoisted by a ten-ton crane into its slotted footing.

Built with teamwork and creative energy

To construct their full-size creations, the students consulted with engineers and crane operators, and carefully considered the placement of each sculpture. They built the sculpture forms and poured the concrete onsite.

This experience helped prepare the students for distinguished careers in architecture.



- Frederick C. Biebesheimer '61, B Arch '62
- Stuart L. Carter '61, B Arch '62
- Alan S. Chimacoff '63, B Arch '64
- *Robert M. Einaudi '60, B Arch '61
- Harold T. Graves III '58, B Arch '60, M Arch '61
- H. Randolph Lewis '62, BME '63
- Kent T. Moore '62, BFA '63
- *Michael D. Newman '58, B Arch '62
- Webb Nichols '63, B Arch '64
- Charles F. Rogers II '59, B Arch '60, M Arch '62
- Brewster Ward Jr. '62, B Arch '64

**The sculptures designed by these students were removed after they deteriorated.*

The 2010 refurbishment of the Sculpture Garden is the gift of Thomas '74 and Loren Colbert.

