

Title

King Harvest

Artist

Carolyn Braaksma

Location

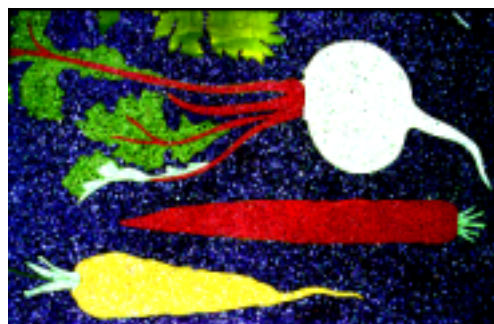
Frederiksen Court
Community Center

Materials

terrazzo, concrete, brass,
brick, and cast stone

Date

2001



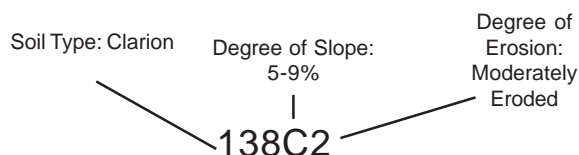
Detail fo root vegetable section of terrazzo floor.

About the Art

The works of art that make up *King Harvest* are located both inside and outside of Frederiksen Court Community Center and focus on regional farming and food production in Iowa. *King Harvest* is comprised of the brickwork design of the chimney and fireplace; cast concrete insets on the walls and fireplace; and terrazzo floors designed in conjunction with Minnesota artist Brad Kaspari. The floors contain depictions of planting patterns for plowing fields, the soil types of Story County, hawthorn leaves, grasshoppers and an array of grains, vegetables and fruit. "The floor images are inspired by the fact that Iowa is a major producer of corn and soybeans and Iowa State itself is a leader in research for the use of these farm products," states Braaksma.

About the Soil Survey Map

The soil survey map is located inside the south entrance of Frederiksen Court Community Center. This terrazzo floor map represents a section of 160 acres in North Central Iowa. Soil was extensively plotted and mapped beginning in 1889 as a result of the 1887 Federal Hatch Act. Samples of soils were obtained by boring a hole and extracting a 3ft. core sample. The samples were then classified using a standardized geological code. The soil types are denoted by a standard number, if a letter follows the number it indicates the degree of slope in the given terrain. An additional number following the letter indicates the degree of soil erosion. For example:



Soil types represented on the map include: Nicollet (55), Harps (95), Webster Clay (107), Clarion 2-5% slope (138B), Clarion 5-9% slope moderately eroded (138C2), Clarion-Storden 5-9% moderately eroded (638C2).

About the Brick and Concrete Work

The brick work for Frederiksen Court Community Center is stylistically bold and graphic. The chimney design incorporates a graduation of the brick layers, each layer is indented one 1/2 inch giving the chimney an elongated trapezoidal shape. Five different brick colors are used to pattern the chimney. Braaksma states, "I researched historic brickwork to find possibilities for enhancing the visual impact of the chimney for building users and for passersby."

The meeting room fireplace, designed by the architect, is a combination of brick and concrete finishing. The design is understated; traditional design elements like a concrete mantle and keystone are employed. The keystone again reflects a continued use of the trapezoidal shape. The commons room has a tiered double-sided fireplace with concrete inlays of corn. Primary angular designs are achieved through the use of three brick colors. "Precast concrete insets in the fireplace surround contain sculpted low relief images of corn ears and stalks, adding to the themes of regional agriculture and food production that underlie the unifying artistic concept of King Harvest," states Braaksma. Around the interior walls are bands of hawthorn leaves in the same cast concrete.



Detail of fireplace



Detail of chimney

About the Terrazzo Floors

Terrazzo is a polished flooring of small colorful marble chips in concrete inlaid between a matrix of brass strips. Frederiksen Court Community Center has a variety of terrazzo designs including plowing patterns, hawthorn leaves, grasshoppers, an apple and lightning bolt, a microscopic view of starches, and numerous types of vegetables. The plowing pattern at the south entrance represent the breaking of the prairie sod and tillage of the fields. The wave like lines are the plow lines or plow strips that create the ridge of soil for planting. Other plow patterns represented in terrazzo include the traditional animal drawn plow where plowing lines originate in the center of a field and echo outward, as well as the plowing of marshlands indicated by the crown like symbol.

Toward the center of the building is a red delicious apple with a lightning bolt in the foreground referencing the atypical origin of the Red Delicious apple in Iowa. The leaves scattered in the floor are from the hawthorn tree a native to central Iowa. The other crops and vegetation consist of root vegetables, carrots, rutabaga, beats, ears of corn, and tasseled corn plants. A microscopic view of protein starches is located near the south entrance preceded by brass grasshoppers. According to Braaksma, she chose the color palette for the terrazzo floors after reviewing the carpet coloring and the content of the floor images.



Samples of terrazzo used in *King Harvest*.



Beets outlined in brass before the terrazzo installation.



Microscopic view of protein starches, portion of terrazzo floor.

Artist Statement

The [Frederiksen Court Community] Center was originally scheduled to have nice but fairly ordinary finishes, moderately sensitive to its use as part of a home environment. I was given the opportunity to influence the interior finishing, and I made choices that I felt would ultimately soften and humanize the heart of the building. The imagery draws on many diverse agricultural subjects, including the ways that Iowa's land and weather affect its agricultural practice (plow patterns), the science of food production (microscopic foodstarch), anecdotal food history (the origin of the Red Delicious apple), actual food crops, and the symbiotic co-evolution of insects and crops. The art enhancements integrated the shape of the building elements, their inter-related functions, and the diverse imagery.

Carolyn Braaksma, September 11, 2002



Artist Carolyn Braaksma at the fireplace in Frederiksen Court Community Center.

Artist's Education

- B.A., magna cum laude, Metropolitan State College, Denver, CO, 1980
- Graduate work in Studio Art at University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 1987-1989



Panoramic of Frederiksen Court Community Center.

Awards For *King Harvest*

The terrazzo floor portion of *King Harvest* received a 2001 Honor Award by the National Terrazzo and Mosaic Association, Inc.



Beets depicted in a section of terrazzo floor.

Carolyn Braaksma's public art commissions include

Aesop Says, University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Saint Paul, Minnesota

The Path Most Traveled, eight miles of surface treatment on bridges, piers, and sound abatement walls, Scottsdale, Arizona

Wild Goose Chase, Maple Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

King Harvest

Art on Campus Accession Number 2001.240

Additional information about *King Harvest* (U2001.240), Art on Campus maps, and other Art on Campus fact sheets are available at the University Museums office - 290 Scheman Building, (515)294-3342 or visit our website at www.museums.iastate.edu.

This information sheet is intended to be used in addition to viewing the Art on Campus works of art. At no time should this sheet be used as a substitute for experiencing the art in person.

What is Art on Campus?

- Iowa State University is home to the largest campus public art program in the United States. Over 400 public works of art created by over 200 significant national artists, are located across campus in buildings, courtyards, open spaces and offices. In 1982, the University Museums created the Art on Campus Program, the only campus-wide program of its kind that codifies acquisition, education, and care and conservation of a public art collection.
- The traditional public art program began during the Depression in the 1930s when Iowa State College's President Hughes envisioned that, "The arts would enrich and provide substantial intellectual exploration into our college curricula."
- In 1978, Iowa passed the Iowa Art in State Buildings legislation, which requires .5 percent of new construction or remodeling funds be used to acquire public art. Since 1978, Iowa State has completed 52 Iowa Art in State Buildings projects, commissioned or acquired 267 works of public art and involved over 450 faculty, students and staff in the process.

Educational Programs

- Programs, receptions, dedications, university classes, Wednesday Walks, Moonlit Walks, and educational tours are presented on a regular basis to enhance visual literacy and aesthetic appreciation of this diverse collection. A complete schedule of University Museums programs can be viewed at www.museums.iastate.edu.

Tours of Art on Campus

- To arrange a tour of Art on Campus, please contact Allison Sheridan, education assistant for University Museums at 515/294-4442 or email her at aclone@iastate.edu. Please be prepared to provide the preferred date, time of day, name of touring group, number in group, location for the tour, and contact information.
- All educational tours during university museum office hours are free with two weeks advance notice. Educational tours outside open hours are \$75 per hour per museum educator. There is no charge for educational tours to university classes and community school groups outside open hours (this includes evenings and weekends). Cancellations need to be made at least 48 hours in advance. Funds are used to support museum programming.

Art on Campus Poetry

- Since the 1930's, University Museums has maintained a legacy of public art poetry. Significant Iowa poets are commissioned to accentuate the Art on Campus visual experience with words. Poems for many Art on Campus works of art can be found at www.museums.iastate.edu or at the University Museums Office, 290 Scheman Bldg. during regular business hours.

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Art on Campus

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