Columbus Museum for Innovative Objects of Design

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Often times museums are much too quick to reveal their contents, resulting in spoon-feeding patrons the art on a metaphoric silver platter. Objects worth such protection and consideration of display should be contained within a structure that places the same constraints upon itself.

The city of Columbus, Indiana, is not what you may think upon first look. A seemingly ordinary town filled with the public building typology found in any other American city is really a center of mechanical innovation and timeless architecture. The need for a second look can also be said for the “common” objects displayed within this museum. These recycled objects, inventions, and pieces of art have been transformed in extraordinary ways by their creators: encouraging the viewer to take a second look at the materials and processes and see beyond what they may have initially thought was there.

This design addresses the open spaces on either side of the site: by reaching out on the west side and pulling in on the east, visitors will be drawn into the “screen” and unknowingly into the entrances on either side of the building. This procession of alluding to vertical movement from afar, blurring the lines of indoor and outdoor spaces, hiding, and then revealing the means in which to view the objects inside follows the hint, reveal, first look, second look that is also true of the city, its existing architecture, and the people who live there.
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