



Architecture on the Berea Public Art Tour

STYLES, MATERIALS, ARCHITECTS, AND USES

Architecture as Public Art and History

- ▶ A community's story is told through its buildings. As you explore the architecture on the Berea Public Art Tour and learn how the history of the buildings is intertwined with the history of the community, consider your own community. What story do the buildings in your town tell?

Stop # 1- Mitchell Tolle Building/Visitor Center

- ▶ Since 1994, the Mitchell Tolle Studio and Gallery has been one of the first sights visitors see when they enter the town of Berea. Located just off I-75 at Exit 76, the attractive 1 ½ story building with an octagonal cupola was designed by the well-known artist to serve as both his studio and a sales venue for his original art and prints.



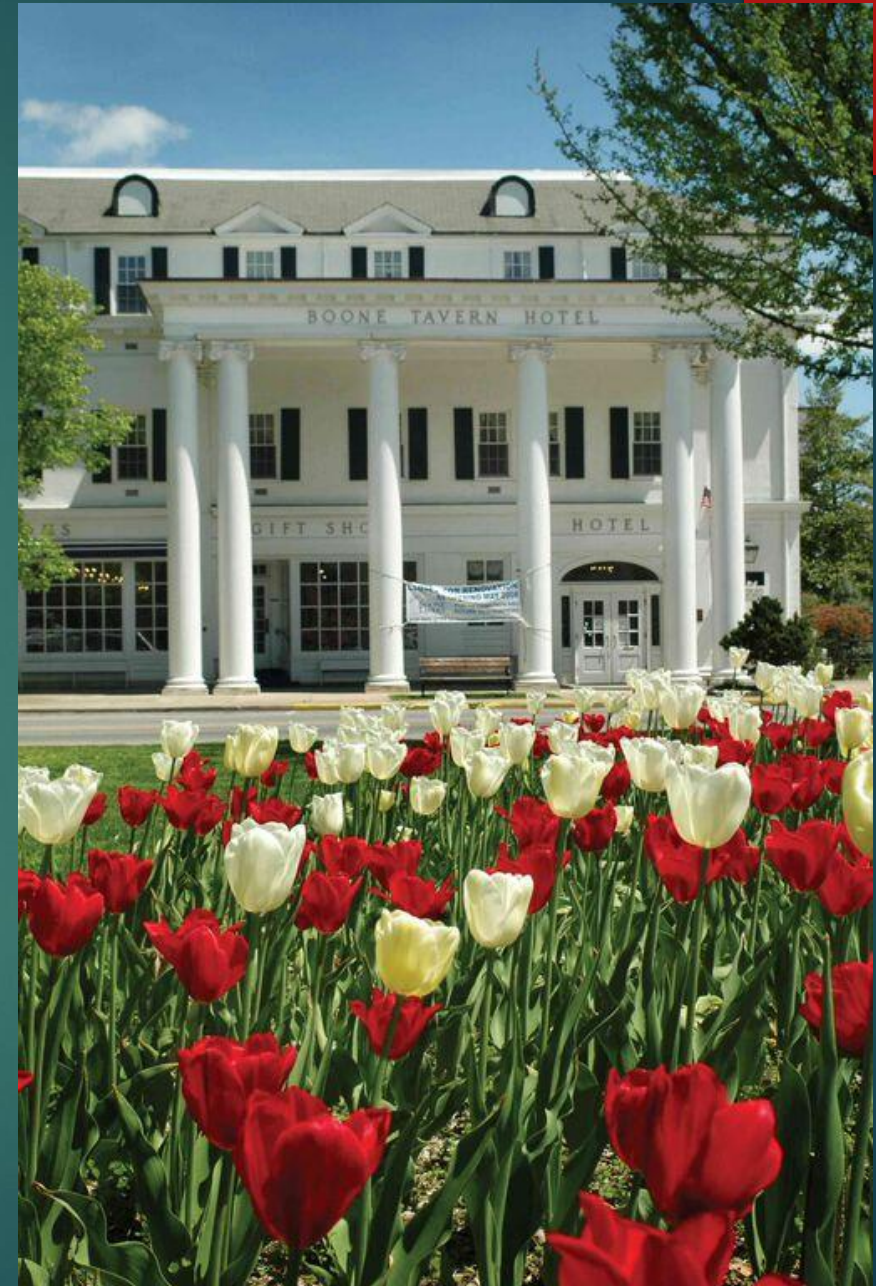
Repurposed

- ▶ When Tolle decided to sell the iconic building, the City of Berea purchased it to use as a highly visible visitor center.



Stop # 2: Boone Tavern Historic Hotel

- ▶ Another iconic Berea building sits at another entry point into Berea, the intersection of Route 25 and Route 21.
- ▶ Boone Tavern stretches nearly a block with the rooms on the second and third floor occupying space above the adjoining stores.



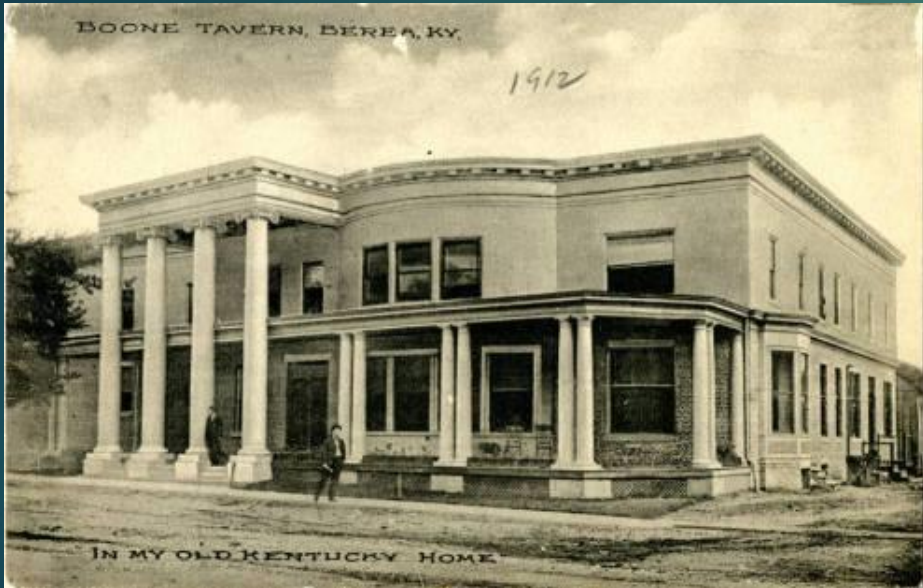
Built to house visitors to Berea College

- ▶ Berea College was founded in 1855 as the South's first inter-racial and coeducational school. By 1909, Berea College was attracting so many visitors (300 in one summer!) that Nellie Frost, wife of the College president, suggested that a guest house was needed to accommodate visitors. The original Boone Tavern was a two-story building with 25 guest rooms and a flat tin roof.



Historic Photo by Conley Ogg

Built with Student Labor



Historic Photo by Conley Ogg

- ▶ One of the founding principles of Berea College is the dignity of labor. Even today, students do not pay tuition. Instead, they work 10-15 hours per week, and their labor is considered a valuable part of their education.
- ▶ Boone Tavern, designed by Cady and See of New York City, was built by the College Woodwork Department of College-manufactured bricks and furnished with College-made cherry furniture.

Instant Success!

- ▶ Although Route 25 (Old Dixie Highway) was a dirt road at the time, it was a main north-south thoroughfare. The gracious Colonial Revival architecture of the Tavern, with its columned portico and double porches, was so attractive to visitors that by 1910 a third story was added.
- ▶ Windows on the third story are pedimented with triangular crownings that give the Tavern's hipped roof a dormer effect.



Historic Photo by Conley Ogg

Growing Popularity - More Renovations

- ▶ The Tavern's popularity attracted an influx of visitors, contributing to the prosperity of the town and College.
- ▶ In 1953-1955, the west entrance was added. The portico entrance has a pair of double paired outside columns with two singular center columns. All six columns span two stories and have capitals in the Ionic order with volutes (spiral-like scrolls). Above the columns is the entablature and a lattice balustrade.



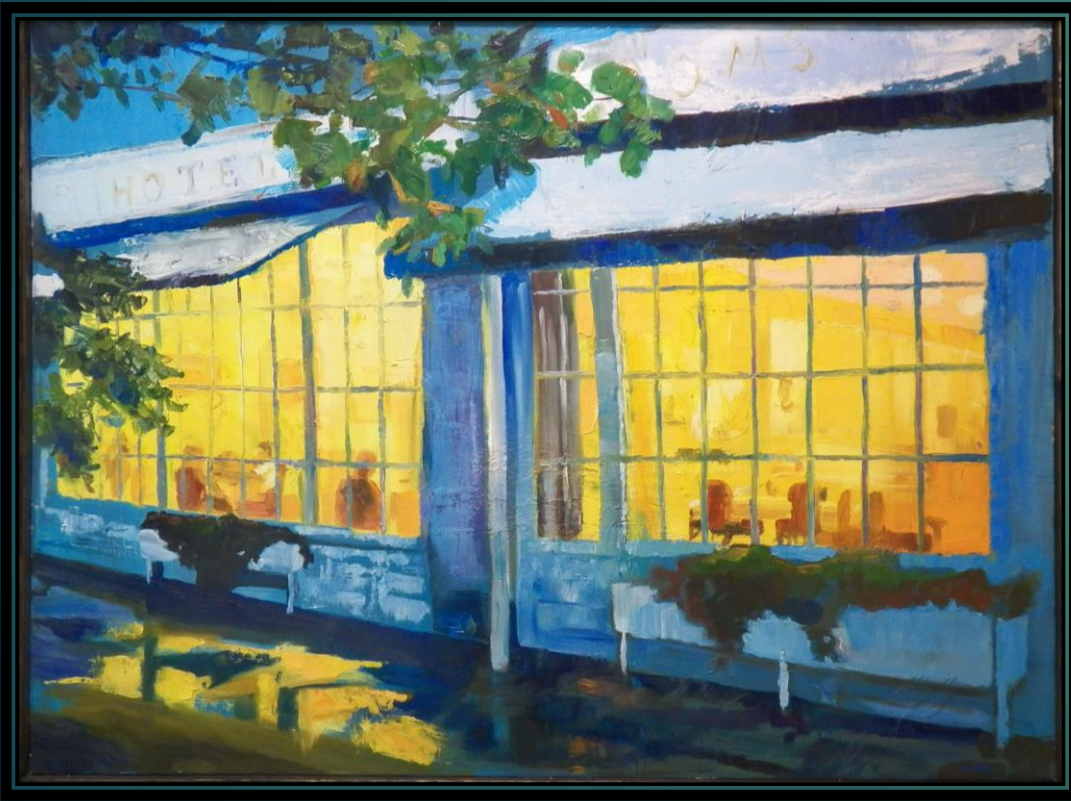
Historic and GREEN!

- ▶ In 1996 Boone Tavern was added to the National Register of Historic Places.
- ▶ A full-scale renovation in 2008-09 enhanced the Tavern's energy efficiency in the most environmentally responsible way while maintaining its historic character. As a result, Boone Tavern was awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council



Furniture in all the guest rooms is still produced by the College Woodworking Department.

The Tavern is a popular subject for local artists like Jonathan Clark and Dinah Tyree.



Stop # 3: Union Church

- ▶ Like Boone Tavern, Union Church was originally part of Berea College. The congregation was founded by John G. Fee, Berea's founder, in 1853.
- ▶ The present building was constructed between 1919 and 1922. It was modeled, at least partially, after the First Congregational Church of Oberlin, Ohio at Oberlin College.
- ▶ Oberlin was the first institution of higher education in the United States to admit both female and black students.



Greek Revival Façade

- ▶ Union Church's façade is not as plain as the Church at Oberlin. The eight great pillars across the front portico topped by an entablature and the round window in the pediment are more in keeping with the Greek Revival style than with the plainer "Calvinistic" style.



Details



Interior

- ▶ The interior of the church is more strongly influenced by the church at Oberlin.
- ▶ There is a large choir area behind an elevated pulpit with the communion table at the congregation level.
- ▶ The Steiner-Reck organ was installed in 1975.

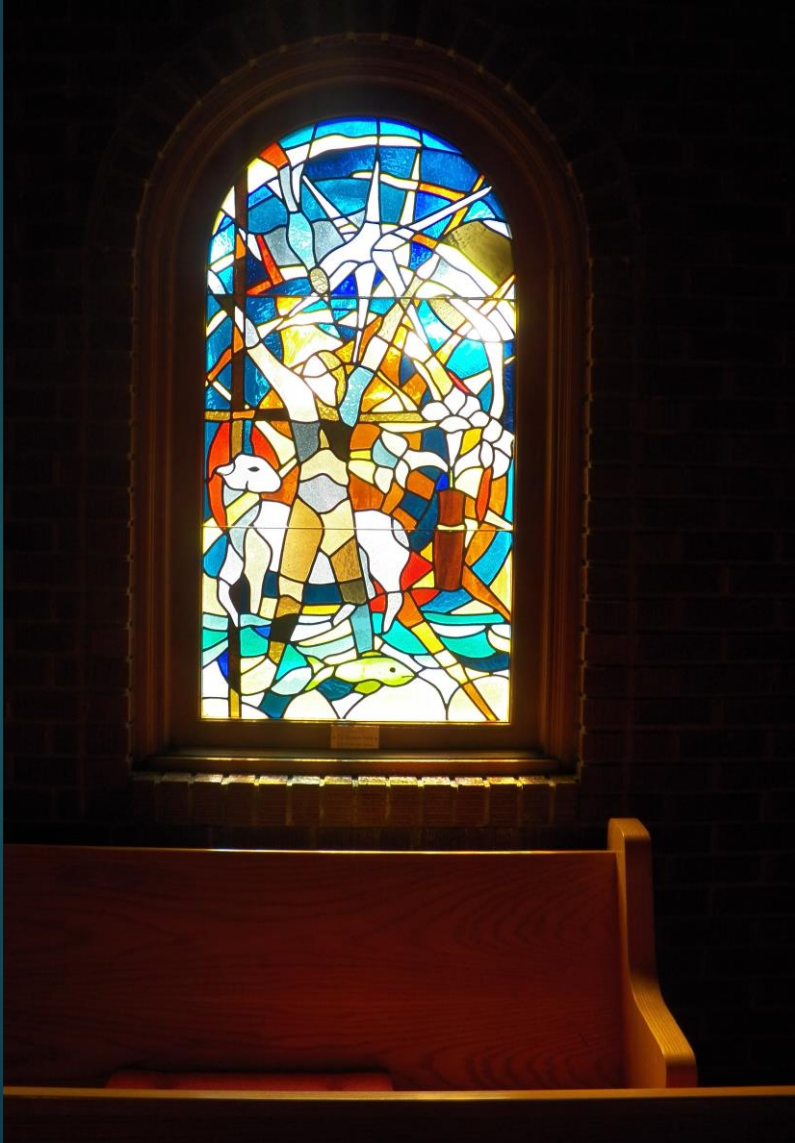


Balcony, Sunlight, and Chandeliers

- ▶ A circular balcony surrounds the room, providing seating for nearly one thousand.
- ▶ The windows are clear glass to allow sunlight to shine through.
- ▶ The natural light is augmented by chandeliers created by local blacksmith, Bob Montgomery, and local glassblower, Michelle Weston.



Cowan Chapel



- ▶ The Cowan Chapel was added in 1966 and serves as the religious education building.
- ▶ Six biblically inspired stained glass windows were created by Fenestra Studios and artist-designer, Lisa Hillerich, of Louisville.
- ▶ They are entitled "Creation," "Recreation/Incarnation," "Exodus," "Christ on the Cross," "Prophets," and "Pentecost."

Stop 9: Log House

- ▶ Built in 1916, the Log House is considered the birthplace of Berea College Student Crafts. At that time, weaving was the only craft program in what was known as the Berea Fireside Industries.
- ▶ Weaving looms were installed on the second floor, while the first floor served as a gallery for retail sales.
- ▶ Today the Log House sells student-made crafts and high quality handmade crafts from all over the United States and houses the Wallace Nutting Furniture Museum.



The “Log Palace”

- ▶ Constructed of tulip poplar logs, Log House was originally called “Log Palace” because of its balconies, pediment, and columns.
- ▶ Like many college buildings, the Log House had an eco-makeover in 2006 to reduce energy consumption while retaining its historic appearance.



Historic Photo by Conley Ogg

Stop 9: Sunshine Ballard Cottage

- ▶ As student crafts expanded, Sunshine Ballard Cottage was built to house the weaving program.
- ▶ Also built of logs and wood shingles, the Sunshine Ballard Cottage is U-shaped with an irregular gable roof, gable dormers, and stone chimney. A low-lying effect is achieved by deep eaves and window lintels set under the eaves.



Sunshine Ballard Cottage Weavers



- ▶ Sunshine Ballard Cottage is one of the most popular sites for visitors to Berea College, as visitors can walk right up to the looms and chat with the student workers as they weave.

Stop 11: Frost Building

- ▶ The Frost Building, built in 1905, was originally a Carnegie Library. Berea College was one of the few private institutions to receive funding from the philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie. The temple portico, half columns, and Ionic capitals are in the classical, or Federalist, style.



Local Materials and Student Labor

- ▶ Limestone for the Carnegie Library was quarried in Rockcastle County, sawed and rubbed to finish the surface. Bricks were manufactured at the College Brick Yard and laid by students. Flooring was made of maple and oak from the college forest.



Historic Photo by Conley Ogg

Stop 12: Phelps Stokes Chapel 1906

- ▶ The Phelps Stokes Chapel was built in 1906 after fire destroyed the previous chapel. What makes Phelps Stokes unique among other buildings is the fact that it was built entirely by student labor as part of a proviso by Miss Olivia Phelps Stokes, a philanthropist from New York who funded the construction.



Here is what the chapel looked like in 1906:
Behold the Horses!
(Source: berea.edu/media-relations)

Stop 13: Jessie P. Draper Memorial Building

- ▶ Thanks to generous gifts from philanthropists interested in the education of Kentucky mountain boys and girls, construction of the Draper Building was begun in 1937 and completed in 1938.
- ▶ The central bell tower, reminiscent of the central tower of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, rises 154 feet and is balanced on either side by projecting wings.



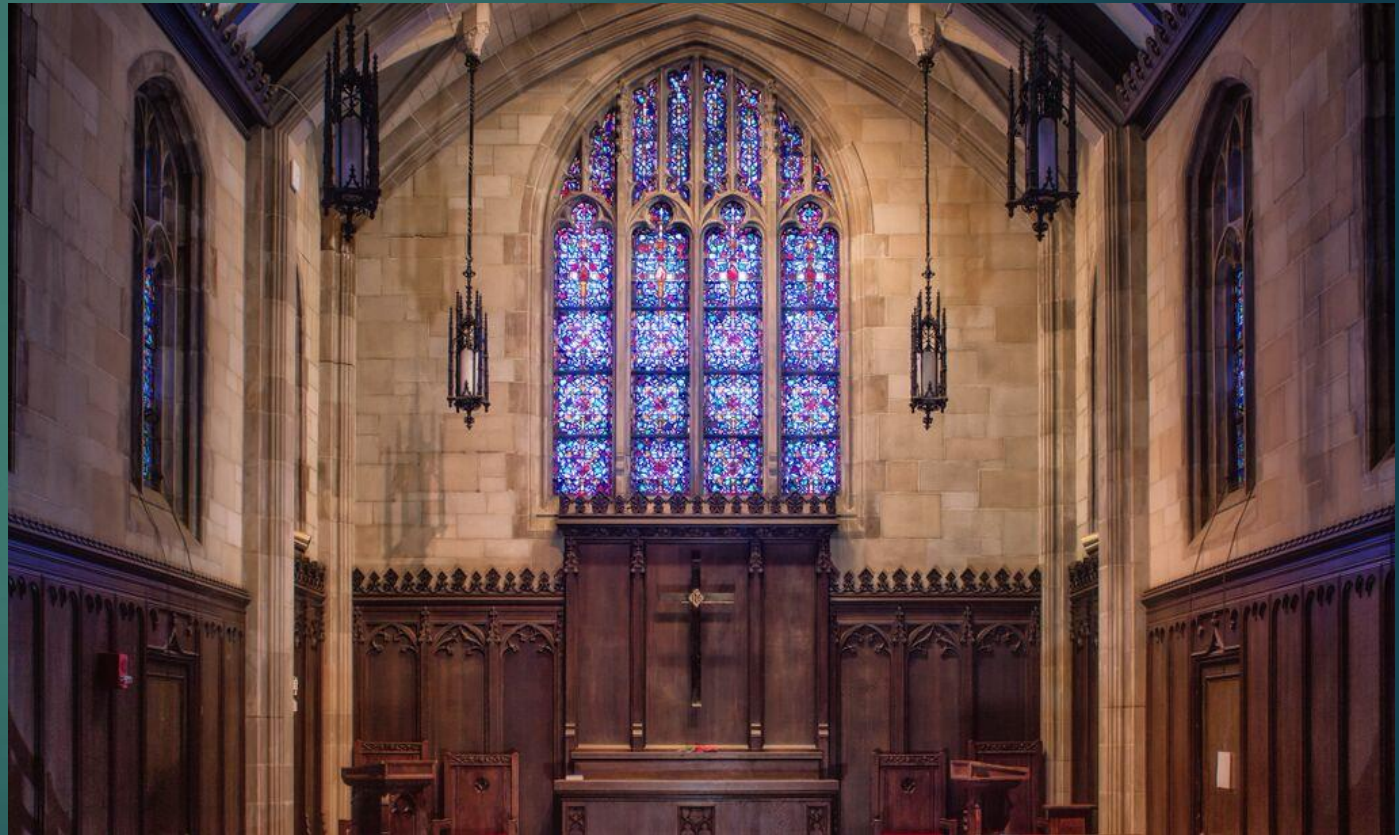
Renovation and Preservation

- ▶ The projecting wings house classrooms and incorporate recessed arches and other features of Colonial Georgian architecture.
- ▶ The architect, Charles Cellarius, engineered the building so that interior walls could be removed and replaced without disturbing the exterior.



Danforth Chapel

- ▶ Another distinctive feature is the small chapel inside Draper Building. Its stained glass windows are modeled after the windows of [Sainte Chapelle](#) in Paris.



Carillons in the Bell Tower



- ▶ In 2000 a carillon was added to the bell tower of Draper Hall. The 56 -bell instrument weighs nearly 11 tons and has a range of four and a half octaves. It has the capability of playing musical works in full melody and harmony. Carillon performances are presented in the summer months.

The Installation

- ▶ Workers cut openings in the four sides of the tower to be used for installation of the steel frame needed to support the bells. Later the openings were covered with arched sound vents.
- ▶ Reinforcement beams were swung into place with cranes. Then the bells were raised by crane to the waiting installation crew.



Renovation, Atrium, and Climate Contrail

- ▶ During a major renovation completed in 2002, interior walls were removed to allow for the creation of a 21st century learning environment incorporating “green” and “place responsive” design and technology.
- ▶ The Georgian entrance vestibule was restored and now opens into a central atrium that rises through the second and third floor to a glass roof, flooding the building’s core with light.



Stop 16:

L & N Depot and Welcome Center



- Berea Tourism's Welcome Center is housed in the historic L&N depot in the Old Town Artisan Village. The L&N depot in Berea is now the only brick depot left standing between Cincinnati, OH and Knoxville, TN.

Historic Beginnings

- ▶ In 1887 the Kentucky Central Railroad built a small wooden depot in Berea. The town of Berea became incorporated in 1890, and in 1891 the Louisville and Nashville Railway Company purchased the line through Berea.
- ▶ The depot was replaced by a larger brick depot in 1917.



Historic Photo by Conley Ogg

Stop 15: Berea Arts Council

- ▶ Passengers and freight began to move in and out of the depot. Businesses, hotels and homes soon filled the “old town” area.
- ▶ Today, the Berea Arts Council is located in a building that was once a hotel serving rail passengers.



- ▶ The L&N discontinued passenger train service in March of 1968 and freight service by 1969.
- ▶ In the mid 1970's, after sitting empty for six years, the depot building was given a second chance. The property was placed on the National Registry of Historical Places, and the City of Berea purchased the building to use as a welcome center.
- ▶ The one remaining set of tracks is still an active CSX freight line, with an average of 30 trains passing the station daily.



- ▶ After two renovations, the L&N Depot is once again an attractive building.
- ▶ The red brick exterior is accented with stone and brick trim. Raised brick bands frame the openings which emphasize the arches of the main entrance and windows.



- ▶ The long, low overhangs of the roof add to the uniqueness of the structure. Another outstanding feature is the wavy red tile roof, with its raised ridges and rounded copper gutters. These elements combine to present a very welcoming exterior, just a prelude to the beauty to be found inside.



Stop 20: Kentucky Artisan Center

One of Berea's newest attractions, the Kentucky Artisan Center, opened in 2003. Though it appears to be a cluster of individual buildings, it is in fact one continuous structure containing areas dedicated to travel information display, sales of artisan works, and dining.

The architects have described the 20,000 square foot building as having the look of an older barn that has been updated.



In its design and construction, the Center exemplifies the high-quality Kentucky artistry it was created to display.

Photo by Gwen Heffner

Kentucky Materials, Kentucky Artisans

- ▶ In 2012, the Center welcomed its two millionth visitor.
- ▶ The limestone in the building is Kentucky limestone, and the stonemasons who laid it were all Kentucky stonemasons.
- ▶ The art glass windows were designed and created by [Kenneth Von Roenn](#) of Louisville.

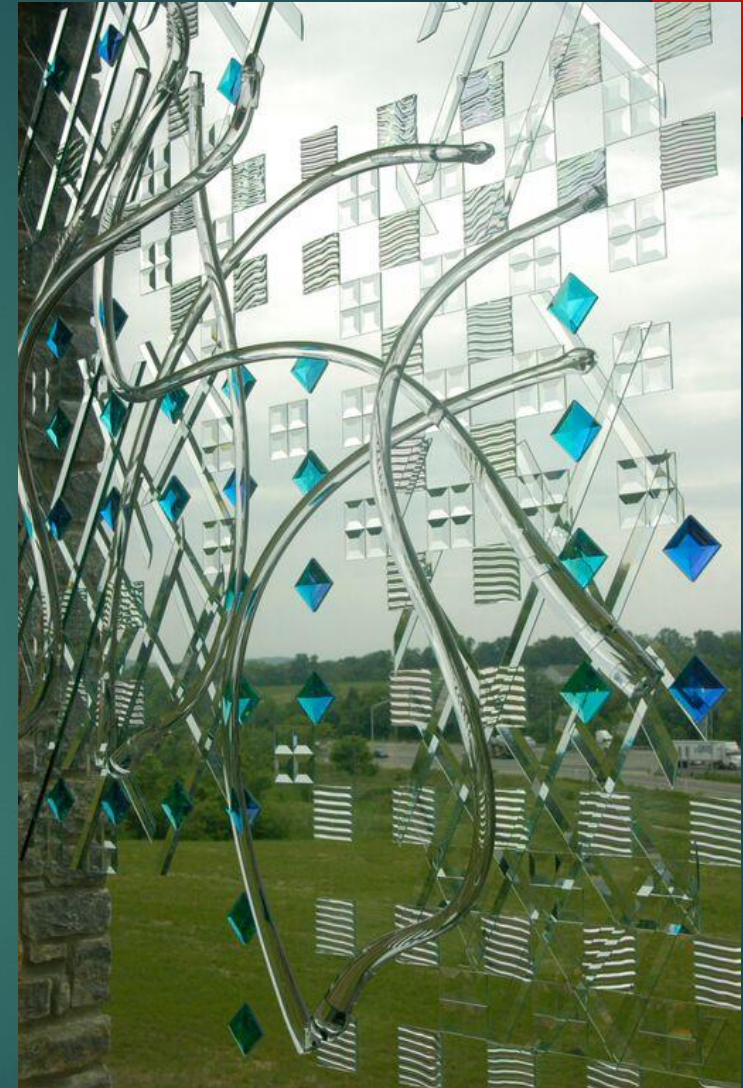



Photo courtesy of Creative Services

- 
- ▶ There are many other attractive and architecturally and historically significant buildings in Berea, which you can discover on your own.
 - ▶ What about in your own community? What buildings can you discover? What stories do they tell?