



THE VIEW FROM OUR WINDOW GRANT WOOD IN IOWA

Cedar Rapids northbound



Linn County
I-380 northbound at milepost 13
Emphasis: Grant Wood (1891-1942)
Artist: David Dahlquist
Completed: August 9, 2012

Many different elements of artwork integrated at this site pay homage to the life and work of Iowa artist Grant Wood, and the development of Regionalism in American art that grew directly from the landscape of Iowa.

In front of the facility, there are "gothic windows" with images of native Iowa plants that become icons in honor of Wood's "American Gothic" painting. The rolling hills sculpture in the entry plaza recalls Iowa's landforms, made famous in Wood's paintings. Benches that look like bales of hay become exterior seating. Relief carved and modeled panels, based on topographical sections of his paintings, create textures and patterns inset into the building's façade.

The colorful, striped patterns of crop rows and contours are depicted in the epoxy-terrazzo floor mural. The pattern merges with other Wood's landscape images, made of digitally glazed ceramic tile, in the restroom vestibule murals.

Wall imagery includes a printed wall covering that reads "5 Turner Alley," which was the name of Wood's Cedar Rapids studio. The rear vestibule houses a lighted medallion with an enlargement of the 2004 Iowa State quarter on which Wood's painting "Arbor Day" has been represented.

Silhouettes of houses can be seen through the glass, and suggest a community or neighborhood. Picnic shelters, complete with wheels and metal roofs, recall the "ice wagons" that were home to the artists living and working in Wood's nearby Stone City Art Colony and School.

