

Columbus, Indiana Visitors Center – AIA Continuing Education Credits

Inn at Irwin Gardens House Tour – (1 hour)

Tour overview:

Get an insider's look at the Irwin House, the Irwin family home and childhood home of J. Irwin Miller, which is virtually unchanged since 1910. This tour features an extensive look at the first floor and one of the upstairs private suites (when available). A unique glimpse into the history and lifestyle of the Edwardian-era family that has been responsible for the Columbus modern architecture movement.

Attendees of this tour will:

- 1. Discover** how this house and garden completed in 1864 has been modified and significantly changed over a period of 155 years.
- 2. Learn** how Cummins Engine Company was started by Irwin family chauffer Clessie Cummins while tinkering in the garage of the home. It was here he developed the ideas and technology for a high-speed diesel engine. The garage has since been removed and replaced with a greenhouse.
- 3. Discover** how the original house and garden was designed in the Victorian style of architecture. Then **learn** how in 1890 the house was expanded by doubling the square footage and adding a third floor.
- 4. Learn** how in 1910, Massachusetts architect Henry Philips was hired and totally redesigned the house and garden from the Victorian style to the Edwardian style. This included modernization features such as adding electricity to the home and a hydraulic elevator.
- 5. Discover** history of the gardens and **Learn** how different landscape architects have modified the concepts the design of the gardens. Well known landscape architects have included Dan Kiley (Vermont), Terry Schnadelback (New York) and Jack Curtis (Connecticut).
- 6. Learn** how the House and Garden was given new life when it was purchased in 2009 by a local couple, Dr. Chris and Jessica Stevens, and repurposed as a Bed and Breakfast Inn. This has provided for additional public access to the home and garden.