

Interior Design Tour with Aubrey Banks

Interior design (furnishings) by Aubrey Banks

Started on project in 1997, but worked with Tony Putnam previously
Studied for 7 years with Mr. Wright, part of the Taliesen community for 37 years
Part of being at Taliesen was that of working in many capacities, such as cooking,
dining hall set up and so forth. From this Mr. Banks learned space should be
designed as to how things worked.

Mr. Banks designed or selected the furnishing you see.

Grammar of building

Form follows function and everything should speak same language. All selections based on this, notice the curves throughout. In keeping with the design plan, curves and circles selected in the furnishings. In addition, things on the same plane.

Small round cocktail tables
curved chair backs
conference room table curve mirrors that of the window
lecturns
china
trash receptacles
arch of windows

Nature of building

Decorating needs to relate to shapes and textures of the building and elements. This was accomplished by using the following natural materials:

cherrywood
stone
satin finished brass
glass (sand)

Carpet was designed first by Mr. Putnam, colors then selected from those in the carpet.

Mr. Banks designed:

lecturns (most difficult)
small cherry tables
conference room table
screens (folding)
benches

Mr. Banks selected:

chairs
fabric covering
drapes
china and flatware (Oneida)

Challenges

Public space for many uses, thus many configurations.
Everything in the building must look new at all times.
Large windows tinted to cut suns glare, cause colors to change in that light.

Things to note on tour:

Small cherry tables and club chairs-cherry is same as doors and woodwork, curve of chairback like arches.

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Lecturns—cherry wood, curves same as arches, not just another lecturn but speak the grammar of the building.

Conference room—

- cherry table is one piece, note base also has same curves
- curve mirrors window curve
- chairbacks and arms also match curve
- table is very functional, curve allows everyone seated at table to see one another
- colors in upholstery match carpet
- no artwork on walls as the building itself is the art

Story—

Table top is one piece (speaks to harmony and grammar). It was brought into the building through the front door and down the escalator. It was then assembled onto its bases.