

Miller House

As a true embodiment of the midcentury modernist movement, the Miller House in Columbus, Indiana was built to last. Combining steel and glass, architect Eero Saarinen set out to create a year-round dwelling and entertainment space for industrialist and philanthropist J. Irwin Miller, his wife Xenia Simons Miller, and their family. Saarinen worked with interior designer Alexander Girard and landscape architect Daniel Kiley to bring the vision for the house and garden to life.

Designed in the modernist aesthetic, the home is organized around an open layout with stone and glass walls, as well as a long flat roof. Located on a 13-acre (5-hectare) site between a street and river, the Miller House is divided into nine sections. At 6,800 square feet (631 square meters), the project includes a kitchen and laundry space, a master bedroom suite, children's area, guest room, servant's quarters, and a carport.

A variety of materials and structures come together to define the iconic home. Glass and gray-blue slate panels are juxtaposed by a grid of skylights and steel cruciform columns. Girard brought life and color to the interior, especially in the living room with its iconic conversation pit. Girard continued to work with the Millers on their house for more than 15 years. Design elements include a cylindrical fireplace, mosaic tile and glossy kitchen cabinets, and nearly every window in the house had Girard-designed curtains. Outdoors, Kiley's landscaping focused on implementing honey locust trees and large, geometric gardens.

Standing the test of time, the Miller House continues to impress. In 2000, the property underwent a \$2 million restoration, and efforts to maintain the home are ongoing. The Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation and the Miller family have donated \$5 million, while the Indianapolis Museum of Art has held continuous fundraising efforts. Today, the Miller House is a National Historic Landmark open for the public to discover and enjoy.

