

Duncan Galleries
Lincoln
Nebraska
USA
(1999 - 2002)

- Client: Mr. & Mrs. Duncan.
- Construction Cost: \$ 6 million USD
- New Construction
- Project Size: 20,000 sq ft

This project is in the great midland plains of North America. It is both a house and a gallery for a client who loves hand-woven baskets and Learjets and who collects modernist abstract sculpture.

The siting of the building is both picturesque and surreal. The wooded mound that serves as its backdrop appears as a surreal intrusion in the flatness of the prairie. A grid of paths is superimposed on the wooded grounds of the estate with the resultant squares planted in different varieties of prairie grass. Amidst this colourful patchwork quilt the gigantic sculptures are sited. The massing of the building is additive with the principal exhibition and entertaining rooms clustered around a central glazed atrium. A colonnaded courtyard at the north end serves as a carport and service yard.



The building has the scale of a gallery and just as the picturesque quality of the estate contrasts with the prairie grid, the Indiana stone of its walls contrasts with the brushed stainless-steel windows and doors. The juxtaposition of stone and stainless steel is a commentary both on tectonics and the inherent adaptability of the classical language. This gallery-as-house is pure equivocation occupying as it does the

space between public and private. As a gallery it offers refuge from an increasing techno-functional world. At the same time it claims the traditional protective functions of a house associating with the ground and becoming 'natural' to its prairie site.