

Where Time Stands Still

Artist Statement

Vaulted ceilings, soaring columns, and windows like chrysanthemums fill us with awe and wonder. All around are hints of something larger than ourselves. The architecture draws you in and awakens feelings of reverence. Time stands still in a cathedral.

The modern architecture of Windhover Hall, the grand entrance to the Quadracci Pavillion of the Milwaukee Art Museum, evokes a similar response. Here, too, one feels enclosed by a moment. It is said that the pavilion is Santiago Calatrava's postmodern interpretation of a Gothic cathedral, complete with flying buttresses, pointed arches, ribbed vaults, and a central nave.

Bringing together examples of medieval style cathedrals and Calatrava's modern design reveal more similarities than differences. Both reach back in time, both evoke thoughts of the eternal. In the stillness of the moment these great spaces open to us their grace, inviting us to contemplate the unseen in the seen, the eternal in the temporal.

William North