

**HERBERT BAYER MURALS AND ARCO PARK**  
**Philadelphia College of the Arts (now University of the Arts)**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Building Type:* Civic artwork and public park  
*Overview:* Technical consultation and construction documentation of mural wall paintings and an urban park designed by Herbert Bayer and executed under his supervision.



*Role: Architect of Record*

The late Herbert Bayer was one of the last living masters of the Bauhaus Design School in Weimar, Germany. Art historians regard the Bauhaus as one of the seminal influences on the art and architecture of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Although known primarily for his graphic design and corporate identity programs, Mr. Bayer was also a painter and sculptor; his works are exhibited in museums and corporate art collections in Europe and the United States.

The Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) commissioned Mr. Bayer to create an urban park and mural to serve as a focus for the urban campus of the University of the Arts. The site chosen for the park was a vacant lot fronting on South Broad Street between the historic Haviland Building and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century mansion that had been donated to the school. Structural investigation of the mansion revealed it had been weakened by demolition of the adjacent buildings on both sides; further, the brick used in the party wall was not of a quality that should be exposed to weathering. Supporting steel was added to reinforce the party wall, and a new face brick and CMU wall was added to the outside face of the party wall to support the murals. The porcelain tile murals were produced by Boehm Porcelain in Trenton, NJ.

(The park and building were demolished by the city in 1998 to clear land for the Kimmel Center.)

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