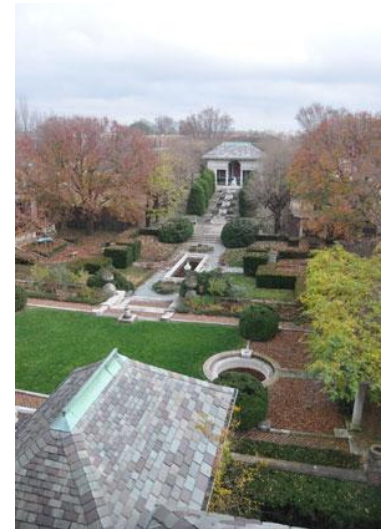


## The Inn at Irwin Gardens Bed and Breakfast – Columbus, IN - <http://www.irwingardens.com/>



### About the Home:

The Irwin Home and Gardens property at 608 5th Street is a magnificent property by any measure. It boasts a grand home built in 1864 and updated in 1910. The luxurious Gardens are modeled after those exhumed from the remains of ancient Pompeii. The property is situated in the heart of downtown Columbus and boasts such illustrious neighbors as the I.M. Pei designed Columbus Library, the First Christian Church of Eliel Saarinen, Columbus Signature Academy and St. Peters Lutheran Church both of Gunnar Birkerts.

The home exemplifies the best in human craftsmanship while the Gardens provide a taste of the beauty of God's creation. It is reminiscent of mid 19th and early 20th centuries, a place apart from the mundane, where guests can appreciate the designer's attention to detail and intense devotion to botanical beauty.

Today, The Inn at Irwin Gardens welcomes guests in the gracious tradition of fine Hoosier hospitality. Guests have the rare opportunity to experience elite accommodations of the early 20th century while enjoying contemporary amenities. Visitors enter the mansion through a grand foyer with quarter-sawn English white oak paneling and ornate staircase that rises to the second and third floor guest rooms. The beautifully detailed coffered oak beam and floral plaster relief ceilings rival those in European estates.

The home's design includes many details that have deliberate symbolism honoring the Creator, his creation, and great men that have gone before us. Seven library windows that overlook the Gardens have small stained glass designs in the transoms. Each figure represents a day of the week beginning with Sunday in the north window. A sun stands for Sunday. A moon represents Monday. Tuesday is depicted by the arm of the Greek god Zeus grasping bolts of lightning. The raven of Wotan stands for Wednesday. The arm of Thor holding thunderbolts represents Thursday. The black cats of Freia, the goddess of youth and beauty, stand for Friday. The last window facing south has a picture of the planet Saturn for Saturday. There are two heads carved in blocks of stone outside the library windows and two more on the tower to the left under the third floor window. These represent the seasons of the year. Linking the home to the Gardens on the east, a raised terrace was designed with a covered area at either end. The roof beam of each of these areas bears an inscription. On the north is a quotation from Robert Burns: "An' when fatigued wi' close employment a blink o' rest a sweet enjoyment." On the south, the inscription from Walt Whitman reads: "Keep your face always toward the sunshine and the shadows will fall behind you."

On this upper Gardens level under the open pergolas are four sculptured heads depicting Greek philosophers: Socrates and Diogenes on the north side, Plato and Aristotle on the south side. These are reproduction of statues in the garden of the Emperor Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli near Rome.

Wisteria vines on the two pergolas on the terrace beside the house were planted about 1911, and the same vines continue to bloom profusely in the spring. If the weather turns cool, why not borrow a book from the library and curl up next to the fireplace? Or play chess or backgammon in the game room?

### History

Built in 1864 by Joseph I. Irwin, Columbus banker and businessman, this Italianate design was remodeled in 1880. However, to accommodate four generations of the Irwin family, the home has been enlarged and redesigned over the years. The current mansion was the magnificent achievement of Henry A. Phillips, a Massachusetts architect, who was hired by William G. Irwin in 1910. The intricate detail of the extensive fine

woodwork and moldings throughout the house are reminiscent of a European estate. The old brick exterior was covered by tapestry brick with stone trim, and several new chimneys, which are now a prominent feature of the house, were added. The roof was recovered in slate and the pitch was altered, providing for a more spacious third floor. On the east, a raised terrace was added to link the home to the adjoining Garden.

The highlight of this two-acre property is the garden, a beautiful maze based on the Casa degli Innamorati in Pompeii. Several fountains and a long pool are the focal point of a lowered sunken garden. There is a statue under the center arch of the garden house designed from a lakeside structure at the Villa of Hadrian at Tivoli, Italy. Pompeian murals accent the garden house. A tall brick wall is rounded in imitation of 16th-century gardens in Mantua, Italy. Wisteria vines on the terrace's pergolas were planted in 1911, and continue to bloom in the spring. Only the English sundial and a Japanese bronze elephant sculpture that is a replica of one at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair pavilion do not follow the Italian motif.

This magnificent property is in the heart of downtown Columbus, Indiana, the city that boasts world-renowned modern architecture. The Inn at Irwin Gardens' illustrious neighbors that you can see on Columbus Visitors Center's architecture tour are the I.M. Pei library, the First Christian Church of Eliel Saarinen, and Columbus Signature Academy and St. Peters Lutheran Church, both of Gunnar Birkerts.

What is most significant about this property is not just that it shares proximity with these assets to the community, but that its inhabitants have been the progenitors of them. Clessie Cummins served as chauffeur to the Irwin family. It was on this property that Clessie first began 'tinkering' in the garage, where he developed the ideas and technology for a high-speed diesel engine. With the backing of William Glanton Irwin, his ideas became the cornerstone product of Cummins, Inc., now a \$13 billion Fortune 500 company. (The original garage has since been removed, and greenhouses now stand in its place.) W.G. Irwin's great-nephew J. Irwin Miller, who was born and raised in this house, and his wife Xenia had the vision that ultimately led to the development of the trove of modern architecture in Columbus.

## Exploring the Columbus Area



### The Columbus Visitors Center

The Columbus Visitors Center is one block away. This is the meeting point for the architectural tours and has a plethora of information about events and things to do in the area. It also has two exhibits of art glass by world-renowned artist Dale Chihuly.

### Zaharakos

*Zaharakos has been serving sodas, sundaes, and smiles since 1900.*

Step inside Zaharakos (Zuh-HARE-uh-koes) to find an ice cream parlor of stained glass, carved oak, and marble. Look for the Tiffany-style lamp and the double soda fountains. Listen to the rich, full sound of the Welte orchestrion. Learn about soda fountains and mechanical music when you visit the new museum.

Located at 329 Washington Street Columbus, IN [www.zaharakos.com](http://www.zaharakos.com)

### **Edinburgh Premium Outlets**

Shopping for all the latest styles is a breeze at Edinburgh Premium Outlets Mall. You can stroll the mall's 85 stores including Anne Klein, Banana Republic, Calvin Klein, Coach, Gap Outlet, Gymboree, J.Crew, Jones New York, Liz Claiborne, Nautica, Nike, Polo Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, VF Outlet, and more.

### **Exit 76 Antique Mall**

With 72,000 square feet of display space, this facility provides one the largest selections of antiques anywhere in the region. There are over 600 booths of vendors who provide a wide array of vintage products of all kinds.

### **Nashville, Indiana and the Beauty of Brown County**

Indiana's hilly country is picturesque, rustic, and fun all year round but it is famous for spectacular autumn colors and activities including shopping, art galleries, dining, blue grass, bird watching, and theatre. Less than 30 minutes from Columbus.

### **TC Steele State Historic Site**

Theodore Clement Steele was an artist of international reputation who in 1907 built "The House of the Singing Winds" atop a hill in Brown County, Indiana. A museum in this historic home is 40 minutes from Columbus.

### **Downtown Columbus Restaurants**

Lunch or dinner is within a few minutes walking distance at several restaurants that range from fine gourmet to bar-food. A list just within easy walking distance includes:

- 4th Street Bar
- Bistro 310
- Columbus Bar
- Fork
- The Garage Pub
- Papa's Deli
- Pieper's Gourmet Catering
- Smith's Row
- Tre Bicchieri

### Room number one - The W.G. Irwin Bachelor's Suite

In this ultra private offering, you'll have the extraordinary third floor to yourself. Nearly the entire suite is finished with ornately detailed quarter-sawn white oak paneling with tapestries above. The parlor has a limestone fireplace and an amazing birds-eye view of the entire Gardens. There is a generous changing room with lots of built-in cabinetry. The bathroom boasts perhaps the most unique wrap-around shower imaginable in the early 1900's... complete with a skylight!



The Bachelor's Suite



The Bachelor's Quarters



The Bachelor's Suite Bath