

Press release
September 23, 2019

Into the Hedge
Columbus, Indiana

SO – IL

Into the Hedge

As one of the J. Irwin and Xenia S. Miller Prize recipients of the second edition of Exhibit Columbus, SO – IL took on the preservation effort at the Miller House and Garden and turned it into a temporary landmark for play in the city of Columbus, Indiana.

The Arbor Vitae hedgerow at the Miller Garden is a modern icon of landscape and architecture. While the glass walls of Saarinen’s Miller House disappear – erasing the boundary between inside and outside – the densely planted hedgerow on the perimeter defines a hard edge to the site between the streets and the private grounds of the Miller residence.

The 70 year-old Arbor Vitae trees are due to be replaced. It was an opportunity for a project to create a different and more engaging relationship with this modern icon.

In partnership with the Miller House and Garden, SO – IL procured 130 living Arbor Vitae trees and placed them in a large hammock structure on the lawn of the Bartholomew County Courthouse. After the exhibition the trees can be permanently planted in the garden, making a direct link between the installation’s original architectural inspiration and a contribution to the stewardship of one of Columbus, Indiana’s seven National Historic Landmarks.

The over-sized hammock is made by hand with nylon webbing – its color taken from the color palette Alexander Girard developed for the dining chairs at the Miller House. Through a partnership with Indianapolis’ People for Urban Progress, the net will go on to become a series of handbags and totes or even beach bags.

For the other components of the installation simple off-the-shelf agricultural and construction materials were used to ensure that everything could have a life afterward. The gabions, mulch, limestone and stakes that comprise the planters and central pathway will all be recycled into local infrastructure projects.

Committed to taking a critical approach to preservation and material use, “Into the Hedge,” temporarily re-organizes the elements of local construction and landscape as well as recognizable modern architecture into a memorable experience and a new landmark.

Project Information

Location

Columbus, Indiana, USA

Client

Exhibit Columbus

Program

Site-specific, temporary installation

Area

approx. 4,500 sf

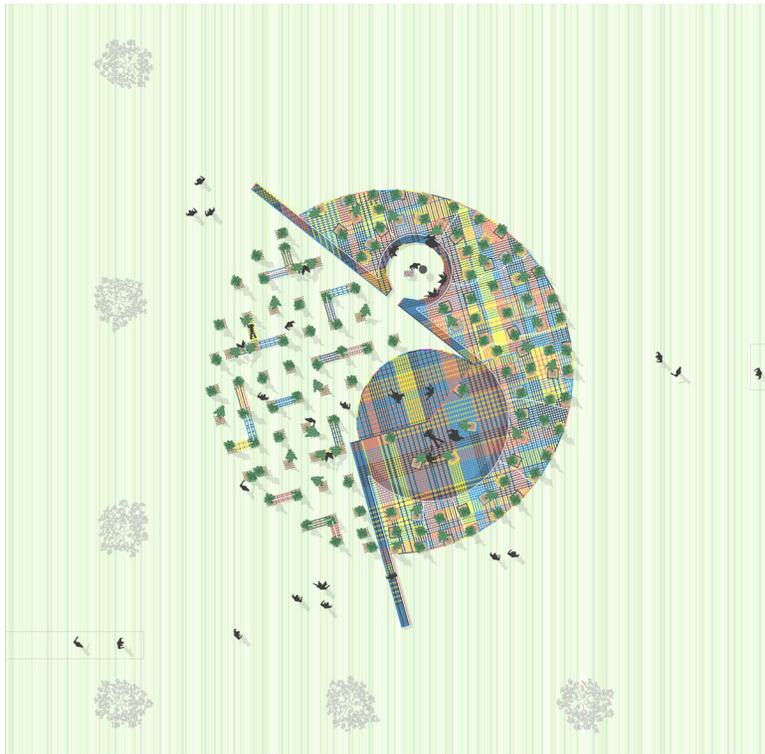
Team

J. Irwin and Xenia S. Miller Prize

The J. Irwin and Xenia S. Miller Prize is the centerpiece of Exhibit Columbus' exhibition and symposium and honors two great patrons of the Columbus community. The Miller Prize Recipients are international leaders that were selected for their commitment to the transformative power that architecture, art, and design has to improve people's lives and make cities better places to live. Each studio has been paired with a significant downtown site to create new forms that allow us to rediscover their purpose, while further connecting people to place and community.

SO-IL

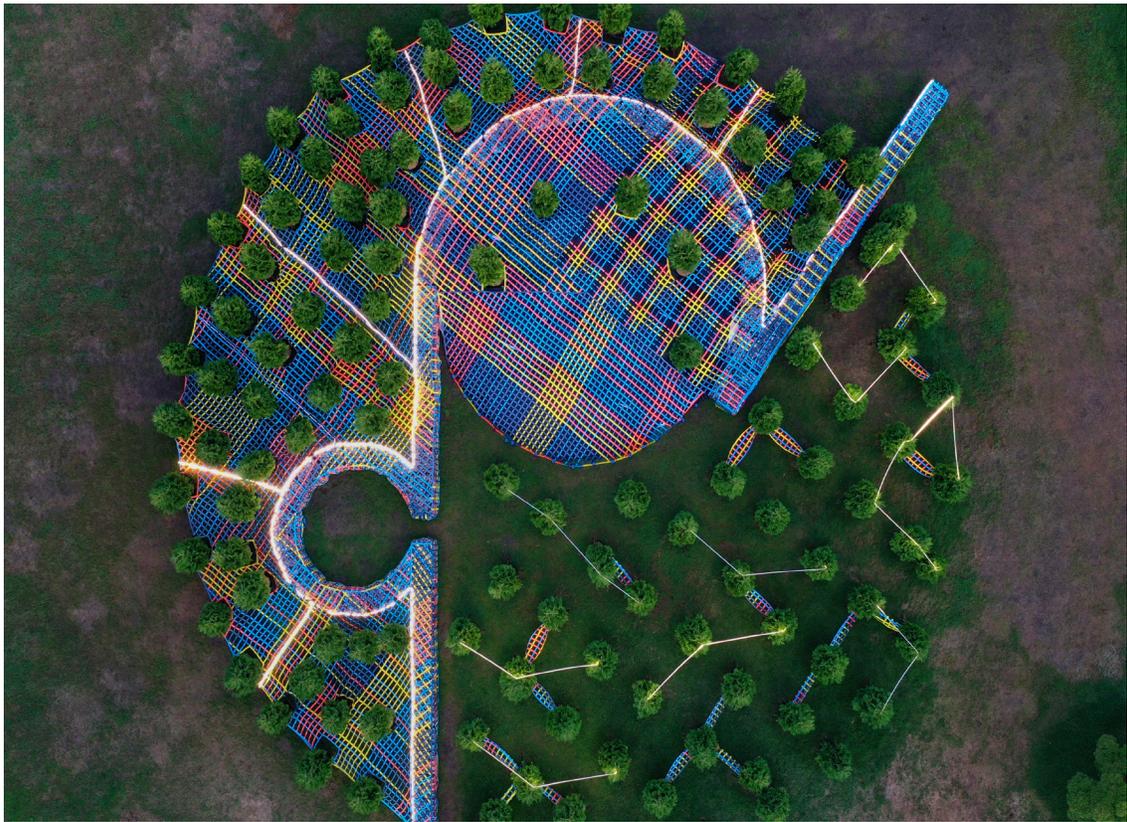
SO-IL is a New York based architectural design firm that envisions spaces for culture, learning and innovation. As a collective of diverse thinkers and makers, the office engages with the ever changing social, economic and natural environment through active dialogue that considers context, function, and opportunity. SO-IL was founded in 2008 by Florian Idenburg and Jing Liu.



© SO - IL



© SO - IL



© Hadley Fruits for Exhibit Columbus



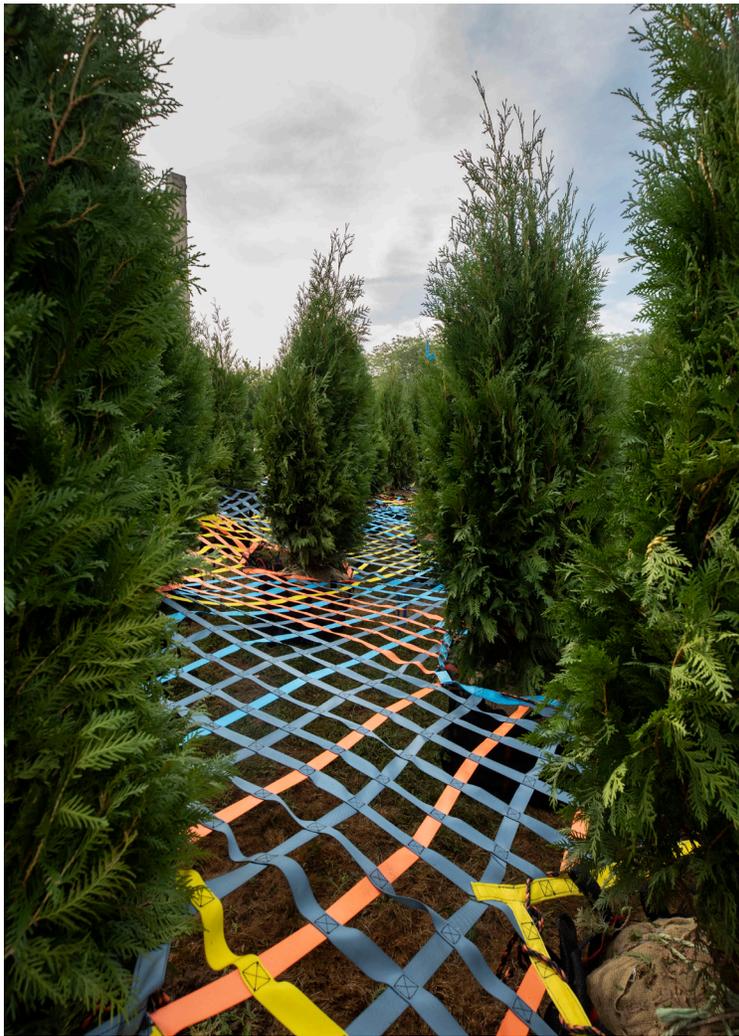
© Hadley Fruits for Exhibit Columbus



© Hadley Fruits for Exhibit Columbus



© Hadley Fruits for Exhibit Columbus



© Hadley Fruits for Exhibit Columbus

For Press Inquiries

Email

press@so-il.org

Media Kit

[via Dropbox](#)