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The tapestry bas-relief Green Silk Forest by Sheila Hicks hangs in the Dining Hall. Originally commissioned by AT&T for their corporate headquarters, it was acquired and donated to the Institute by Bob and Lynn Johnston, who are Friends of the Institute.

Art Inside

There are noteworthy works of art inside the Institute buildings. Green Silk Forest, also known as Rain Forest, was installed in 2007. Originally commissioned by AT&T in 1975 for its headquarters, it was donated to the Institute by Lynn and Bob Johnston, who are Friends of the Institute. Floor mosaics from Antioch on the Orontes were in the Dining Hall, where it was installed in 2007. Originally commissioned by AT&T in 1975 for its headquarters, it was donated to the Institute by Lynn and Bob Johnston, who are Friends of the Institute. Floor mosaics from Antioch on the Orontes can be found on both levels of the Dining Hall. Most of them date back to the fifth or sixth century AD and were acquired from Princeton University in 1971. Former Members Doro Levi and Glanville Downey were involved in studies of the mosaics from Antioch. Try not to miss the rather curious sculpture by Jacques Lipchitz in the Dining Hall, which commemorates the centennial of the birth of Albert Einstein. The tapestry bas-relief Green Silk Forest by Sheila Hicks hangs in the Dining Hall. Originally commissioned by AT&T for their corporate headquarters, it was acquired and donated to the Institute by Bob and Lynn Johnston, who are Friends of the Institute.

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TIMES AT THE INSTITUTE

The east side of the campus features a number of newer buildings. Both Simonyi Hall, home of the School of Mathematics, and Wolfensohn Hall were designed by architect Cesar Pelli and date from 1994. Wolfensohn Hall is used for lectures and concerts, many of them open to the general public. The newest building on the campus is an extension to Bloomberg Hall that houses The Simons Center for Systems Biology as well as a new home for computing. The extension, by the architectural firm Pelli Clarke Pelli, opened in 2007 and has a green roof that is designed to improve insulation and reduce storm water runoff.

Landscaping and Sculptures

You will have noticed several sculptures tucked away among the various buildings. Outside Bloomberg Hall is a landscape sculpture by Mary Miss laid out in striking fashion in 2002 and surrounded by ornamental Hawthorne trees that bear bright red berries in the fall. If you now walk across the lawn that sweeps down to the Institute Woods, past the beautiful linden tree that brushes the lawn with its branches, you will reach Robert Wilson’s Nike sculpture. This bust of Albert Einstein is located in the Mathematics – Natural Sciences Library in Fuld Hall. The bust was completed by Serge Komnov in 1939, the year that Fuld Hall and its two symmetrical buildings were constructed.

Head over to the beautiful birch garden between the Dining Hall and the West Building and admire the graceful trunks and peeling back of the swaying trees. Can there be a better way to view some art than sipping a cappuccino next to the mosaic in the birch garden? This Italian mosaic shows Bacchus from Cenzo Cellini near Rome. It is thought to be a Renaissance copy of a Roman design. It is on loan from the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia. While in the birch garden, make sure that you see Tiny, created by Dorothea Schwarz Greenbaum, which won the 1944 George Widener Medal from the Pennsylvania Academy of Design. Another sculpture, New Piece (1980), can be found by walking down the Founders’ Walk. This was established in 1950 in honor of the Institute’s founders and continues the north-south axis of the alley from Olden Farm to Fuld Hall and down to the Institute Woods. New Piece was a gift of the artist, Tony Smith (1912–90), and a plaque notes: “In commemoration of Albert Einstein’s life and work. Presented on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Institute for Advanced Study.” To fully appreciate this piece, view it from several different angles. Across the pond is the intriguing granite and steel sculpture by Urs Zürneman, whose late husband Kirk Varnedoe was a Professor in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute. The sculpture was dedicated on May 20, 2005, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Institute’s founding. Be sure to read the inscriptions on the back of the benches and consider whether this sculpture reminds you of all of the birch trees as you walk through the windows of the Dining Hall.

The Institute is located on 800 acres, the majority of which were permanently preserved in 1997. At the entrance to the Woods, straight down from Fuld Hall, you will see a bench that faces the Founders’ Rock placed there in 1950. A plaque on the Rock reads: “Dedicated to Louis Bamberger and his sister Carrie B. F. Fuld whose vision and generosity made this Institute for Advanced Study possible.” This bench was dedicated in 2005 to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Institute’s founding. Continue on down and you will reach the Swinging Bridge, which spans the Stony Brook River and marks the end of the Founders’ Walk. The Institute Pond was constructed in the 1960s and has been stocked with many types of fish, including catfish, sunfish, and bass over the years.

Art Inside

There are noteworthy works of art inside the Institute buildings too, including busts of Einstein (in the Fuld Hall Common Room) and of the late School of Historical Studies Professor Elias A. Lowe (in the Historical Studies–Social Science Library). There are sculptures of Rains Forest, hangs at one end of the Dining Hall, where it was installed in 2007. Originally commissioned by AT&T in 1975 for its headquarters, it was donated to the Institute by Lynn and Bob Johnston, who are Friends of the Institute. Floor mosaics from Antioch on the Orontes can be found on both levels of the Dining Hall. Most of them date back to the fifth or sixth century AD and were acquired from Princeton University in 1971. Former Members Doro Levi and Glanville Downey were involved in studies of the mosaics from Antioch. Try not to miss the rather curious sculpture by Jacques Lipchitz in the Dining Hall, which commemorates the centennial of the birth of Albert Einstein.

In the Common Room of Fuld Hall, where people assemble for tea every weekday, there is a beautiful grandfather clock as well as prints, wall hangings, pastels, and busts, including a striking one of Abraham Flexner. Find out more about one or more pieces and impress your friends and family…or simply appreciate them.

Landscape and History Intertwined

And finally, if you walk up the avenue between Fuld Hall and Olden Farm, notice how the regularity of the line of the American planes is interrupted by one old oak. This oak predate the planting of the avenue and may well outlive the plane trees and reminds us of the role history plays in the growth of the Institute.
streets of the Institute

Have you ever wondered why the streets in Member housing are so named? Have you noticed the alphabetical order, starting with “Earle” and finishing with “Weyl”? They are a relatively new feature — when the Institute housing for Members was first built there was no need to give them names. The streets were simply labeled A, B, C, etc. Later, when the Institute grew, the need for clear identification of streets became necessary. The choice of names was particularly important, especially in the early years, when the Institute was concerned with establishing a sense of community. The names used were suggested by the Institute’s early members, and the process of selecting names was carefully conducted. The final selection was made after much discussion and debate about the meaning and implications of the names. The result was a set of names that reflected the diversity and intellectual character of the community at the Institute.