Unifying Waterscapes at Columbia Lakefront

Program
Sitting along the edge of Lake Kittamaqundi, the Columbia Lakefront serves as one of the much broader open spaces in Columbia Town Center. The site sits to the East of the Columbia Mall and has served for the town of Columbia for outdoor events since the 1990s. Each year Columbia Lakefront holds events such as festivals and holiday gatherings. The biggest event that is held there annually is 4th of July with nearly 10,000 people from Howard County come and gather to watch the fireworks. However in recent years with the 30 year proposal for the Downtown Columbia Plan, Lake Kittamaqundi is being considered for rennovation to adhere with the plans around further development in Columbia Town Center.

Design Goals
- Improve ADA Accessibility conditions in the site
- Accommodate space for larger crowds
- Enhance the water features to make the space more dynamic
- Connect the Columbia Mall and the plaza for easier accessibility to the site
- Provide a seating experience for entertainment, special events, and daily use.

Site Inventory

Design Process
Concept Design

Preliminary Design

Precedents
- Lovejoy Fountain (Portland, OR)
- Keller Fountain (Portland, OR)
- Owensboro Plaza (Owensboro, KY)
- Volker Fountain (Kansas City, KS)
- Outdoor Area at Columbia Mall
- Paleisbrug Bridge (Holland)

The overall concept was to cohesively blend the enhanced site elements desired within the design through form and functionality.

The Wheelchair Ramp in the changing grade from the entry to the bottom is way too steep.

4th of July each year has thousands of people within the site making it nearly impossible to leave after the fireworks.