

How did you come up with the idea for your piece?

This piece centers around geometry. I have always enjoyed math. Some great math teachers here in Broomfield introduced me to the subject. Carolyn Collins and Mary Brooks would be happy to know that I still use math and geometry in my art.

I have a fascination with circles and the many things you can do with them. I always try to include them in my pieces. I started thinking about creating round shapes with metal when I was commissioned to make a chandelier. During that process, I developed the technique for creating panels that fit together to make a curved shape. Metal is an interesting medium. It can be folded and unfolded to create circles and to modify those shapes. I saw this project as an opportunity to use my panel technique on a larger scale.

Tell us about the creation of your piece.

This piece is made of stainless steel. All of the slats are rolled on a machine called a ring roller, which stretches out metal into a radius. They were then cut into pieces to form the sitting area and the canopy overhead. In my shop in Portland, I created five panels which are the “petals” of the Lotus flower. They were then brought here and bolted together.

The stainless inlay in the concrete was one of those artistic accidents. After I created the model of the piece, I happened to see it when the light cast its shadow onto a piece of plywood. I traced it out and modified it a bit, and included it in the piece. I see the work in the pad as a great opportunity to add more depth to the piece. It makes someone sitting inside feel as if they are in the center of the flower.

At the center of the piece is the lotus fruit, which has significant symbolism in Asian philosophy. I have colored it brightly, just like the flower itself, for the same reason as nature – to attract the observer to the center.

How do you think your piece reflects its site?

The lotus flower is typically found around water. Tom Frost Reservoir is a wonderful place to display this piece. This is a very natural setting. My piece integrates natural and organic shapes with technical, linear material. The curves of the lotus flower reflect the curvature of the surrounding pond and landscape. Practically speaking, this piece creates much needed shade for anyone sitting in it.

What do you hope the Broomfield community will take away from an encounter with your piece?

I would like to inspire an appreciation for how art can meld nature, math and geometry. Growing up, I was lucky to be exposed to lots of “kooky” art. My parents took me to the