

TURNING POINT SCULPTURES

Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

PHILIP JOHNSON • ALAN RITCHIE
A R C H I T E C T S



"Turning Point" is an architectural sculpture composed of five forms organized around the turning point of a campus pedestrian path. The shapes, each approximately twenty feet in height and varying from three feet to seventeen feet in width, converge and diverge around the elusive focal point. The forms are warped and twisted, like much of Johnson's work of this period.

The individual pieces are constructed of polyester resin and fiberglass formed over built-up, structural wood veneers. The process integrates the most innovative computer technology with traditional hand-craftsmanship. The final forms are sheathed in a pigmented elastomeric coating in the pale hues of earth, stone and bone.

While individually sculptural, the objects are meant to be experienced as a single experience. The artwork comes from Johnson's long-standing interest in procession and monumentality. Pedestrians traveling through the piece encounter the thwarted suggestion of arches, volumes and voids before passing through the sculpture. Fiber optic night lighting radiates from a central origin that illuminates only the interior facets.



Client: Case Western Reserve University
Completion Date: 1997