

# INDIANA LIMESTONE COMPANY INCUBATOR OFFICE



## SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

2017-2018

A partnership between SOAD-D272:  
Interior Design Studio 3 & the  
Indiana Limestone Company





# SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

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# SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

## Acknowledgements

This project was completed as a collaboration between the students in SOAD-D272: Interior Design Studio 3 and the Indiana Limestone Company as part of the 2017-2018 Indiana University Sustaining Hoosier Communities (IUSHC) initiative. IUSHC is a program within the IU Center for Rural Engagement (CRE).

This report represents original student work and recommendations proposed by the students in SOAD-D272: Interior Design Studio 3 for the Indiana Limestone Company. The contents of this report represent the views of the students in SOAD-D272: Interior Design Studio 3 and do not reflect those of IUSHC, CRE, Indiana University, or the Indiana Limestone Company.

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# SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

## About Sustaining Hoosier Communities

Indiana University Sustaining Hoosier Communities is an initiative that partners with a local community within south central Indiana to explore, understand, and resolve challenges and projects identified by the community. Based on a tested model for university/community engagement that has been successfully implemented by over 25 universities and their community partners, Sustaining Hoosier Communities is a yearlong collaboration between Indiana University and a single community partner.

Indiana University’s faculty who opt in to Sustaining Hoosier Communities match their courses to the projects based on their areas of research, expertise, and teaching. Each course uses a cross-disciplinary approach to explore and solve sustainability issues identified by the community partner through project-based research. Faculty and community stakeholders agree before classes begin on a scope of work and deliverables for each class, and project liaisons are identified by the community and the university to coordinate this unified effort.

Sustaining Hoosier Communities is just one example of many types of community engagement Indiana University plans to pursue as part of the Center for Rural Engagement. By harnessing the research, expertise, energy, and service of Indiana University’s faculty, staff, and students, Indiana University and our local partners work collaboratively to improve the health, prosperity, and vitality of southcentral Indiana.

To learn more about IU Sustaining Hoosier Communities, visit [www.shc.indiana.edu](http://www.shc.indiana.edu).

To learn more about the IU Center for Rural Engagement, visit [www.rural.indiana.edu](http://www.rural.indiana.edu).

## Sustaining Hoosier Communities Project Process





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## About the Course

SOAD-D272: Interior Design Studio 3 further developed students as designers by focusing on commercial design problems, which increased in size and complexity throughout the semester. Students learned to apply design theories, organizing systems, and contemporary design languages by focusing on Pre-design, Schematic Design, and Design Development Phases in addition to some of the more technical aspects of design. In order to apply design theory to the real world, students in SOAD-D272: Interior Design Studio 3 were tasked with creating a synthetic and creative environment for the Indiana Limestone Headquarters and turn it into a business incubator space.

An incubator office is a collaborative, nontraditional workspace that appeals to young technology and design professionals, entrepreneurs and start-ups who need flexible, inexpensive spaces they can grow into. Presently, the Indiana Limestone Company headquarters building is used as an incubator space, but it lacks the social atmosphere that encourages collaboration, brainstorming, and the congregation of these young entrepreneurs and creatives. With SOAD-D272 students as the designers, they were assigned to create an exciting environment where people can mingle and meet to collaborate on projects in innovative spaces so novel ideas and new collaborative efforts can arise.



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### About the Indiana Limestone Company Headquarters

The Indiana Limestone Company headquarters in Bedford, IN – just 30 minutes away from Bloomington, IN – was built in 1927 and historically housed the offices of the Indiana Limestone Company, which is the premium supplier of limestone throughout the United States. The Indiana Limestone Company expressed interest in developing its Bedford offices into an incubator space. An incubator space is a collaborative, nontraditional workspace that appeals to young technology and design professionals and start-ups who need workspaces that foster collaboration and brainstorming. Students in SOAD-D272: Interior Design Studio 3 were assigned the job of consulting with Indiana Limestone Headquarters and creating designs for potential incubator workspaces that include a reception area, café, restaurant, gallery space, small private offices, meeting rooms for think tanks, and small and large conference rooms.



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## The Project: Connecting Course & Community

The StoneGate Arts and Education Center expressed interest in renovating the historic Indiana Limestone Company headquarters in Bedford, IN and using it for nontraditional workspaces that would attract young entrepreneurs and professionals to Bedford. Students in SOAD-D272: Interior Design Studio 3 worked with the StoneGate Arts and Education Center and Shance Sizemore, Chief Executive Officer for the Bedford Chamber & Lawrence County Economic Growth Council, to develop an incubator office to facilitate collaboration and brainstorming. The plan included a reception area, café, restaurant, gallery space, small private offices, meeting rooms for think tanks, and small and large conference rooms.

By working directly with community stakeholders to understand their desires for how the Indiana Limestone Company headquarters should be developed, students had the opportunity to learn more about the historical significance of limestone in southern Indiana and to work with real clients. Likewise, by providing students with insight into the adaptive reuse of the Indiana Limestone Company headquarters building, community stakeholders could then benefit from student-generated ideas that could attract young professionals and entrepreneurs to Bedford, IN.





# SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

## Student Outcomes

- Learned about the history of the Indiana Limestone Company headquarters and the limestone industry in southern Indiana
- Learned about the differences between incubator offices and traditional office spaces
- Analyzed stakeholder interest and applied design theory to develop incubator office designs for the adaptive reuse of the Indiana Limestone Company headquarters
- Gained applicable skills in professional communication, project management, and design within a rural community

## Community Partner Outcomes

- Twenty-seven innovative, student-generated design plans for the adaptive reuse of the Indiana Limestone Headquarters
- Gained access and greater awareness of research, resources, and expertise from IU faculty and students





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# **RURAL ENGAGEMENT**

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