

# Clark Alumni House

The Clark Alumni House opened in May 1993 and was designed as a timeless gathering place rooted in tradition and craftsmanship. The 10,000-square-foot Georgian-style home was designed by architect Randy Kurzman of Weese Langley Weese in Chicago and constructed of brick and Indiana limestone, reflecting classical proportions and enduring materials.

Inside, the House features elegant architectural details, including black Brazilian granite, crown molding and finely crafted woodwork throughout. The main floor is furnished with authentic 18th-century reproductions, a design choice that reflects the eclectic decorating style of the period. The Great Hall includes an English-style sofa and French Louis XV chairs, creating a space that balances formality with comfort.

As international trade expanded during the 18th century, many households incorporated Oriental furnishings as decorative accents. This influence is represented in the Clark Alumni House by an oriental screen displayed on the south wall of the Great Hall. The Conference Room highlights local craftsmanship and features a solid walnut table and 25 hand-carved chairs built by local craftsman Steve Silver.

The formal English garden surrounding the House was designed by Iowa State University landscape architects William Grundman and Robert Harvey, who are recognized experts in English garden design. Drawing on their extensive knowledge of historic English gardens, they selected plantings suited to Iowa's seasonal climate. The garden's pathways, arbor, surrounding fence and wrought iron gates were designed to be historically accurate to the 18th century, extending the character of the House into the landscape.