

Motorcycle Rider Memorial of Illinois

The Motorcycle Rider Memorial is a 36-foot plaza consisting of four components:

The first component consists of four brick walls oriented on a North, South, East, and West axis. They do not meet in the corner to form an 'X'; rather, there is a 12 foot diameter concrete pad in the center. The purpose of the wall is to have a surface upon which cast bronze plaques containing the names of deceased bikers can be displayed. Each one is 10-foot high at the outside, tapers down to seven foot at the inside, and is 12-foot by one foot wide; this provides a total surface area of 912 square feet, enough room for 3,280 four by seven inch name plaques with a one-inch space between them.

All of the elements of the second component are cast bronze. It is an empty chair draped with instantly recognizable items that nearly every biker owns: Vest, jacket, chaps, gloves, sunglasses, etc. In front of the chair is a pair of boots. The chair and respective possessions are slightly 25% larger than life and sits on a two-tiered round concrete pad 15-foot and 12-foot in diameter.

The third component is a round structure secured on top of walls that represents a spoke wheel. This will offer little shade, however, for the viewer it will provide a grounded feeling along with a visual ceiling, and the shadows created will be quite striking.

The fourth component is a four-column spire that is centered on the spoke structure directly above the chair. The spire and the un-obscured

space between the chair and the sky symbolize ascension.

Overview:

The Motorcycle Rider Memorial Plaza is designed in such a manner that there is no front or back, allowing the view a 360-degree unobstructed line of sight. When the viewer approaches the plaza, their eyes are naturally drawn to the chair in the center due to the perspective provided by the tapering walls and the hardly noticeable rise in ground elevation. The walls provide a comfortable sense of security and privacy while the name plaques offer of personalized connection to the memorial, something physically tangible that people can touch.

As they make their way towards the chair and step up on the pad, the additional height will give them the feeling of accession and freedom. The chair and its surrounding pad give a space for reflection and an extrasensory connection to the deceased. Additionally, it will trigger memories when one sees their own riding gear where it is kept while not in use. The spoke structure - and its shadow - is meant to be a subconscious reminder of the bond between those remembered and those remembering.

Our goal is to erect a large monument of fallen brothers and sisters in a public place.

This memorial for motorcycle riders will have the names and the date that they died on a plaque. An annual event will be held to remember our deceased friends and family members.

For more info www.motorcyclersmemorialofillinois.org

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