ater playful connection flo experience surfaces activity ace centre for the arts pat eat culture flexibility knol emorial Buchanan quiet foc olitary Courtyardspermeabl ccessible meandering visibl ustainability vitality divers erformance cafe Concept Design Report Spol planting celebrations stage arning sensory stroll lighti

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# **Site Analysis**

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# **Site Analysis**

## **Public Realm Design Principles**

- Employ landscape treatments as the major unifying visual elements of the campus, using both manicured
  and natural treatments to create a cohesive whole.
- Embrace local vegetation and design for natural systems.
- Design for low, lifecycle, maintenance costs and GHG footprint.
- Create places and passageways of beauty, delight, discovery and universal appeal.
- Design for pedestrian and bicycle priority with universal physical access.
- Create a pedestrian scale, reducing the perceived distances between destinations.
- Express the identity of the university by showcasing the culture, collections, research and learning of faculties.
- · Preserve and celebrate the places and resources valued by the community.
- Integrate outdoor and indoor pedestrian routes to reveal the research and learning within buildings.
- Strategically locate amenities, programming and infrastructure, to fully support the needs of users.
- Design for all seasons, in particular the wet, cool, and bleak west coast climate
- Provide a variety of opportunities to sit and socialize.
- · Provide and foster a safe, comfortable night-time environment for all.

### **Objectives**

#### Create a network of outdoor public spaces that:

- Animates, invigorates and brings life to campus.
- · Enhances the educational experience with outdoor informal learning.
- Promotes the sharing of ideas, creative expressions and interaction across disciplines.
- Supports and nurtures the physical and mental health of our students, faculty and staff.
- Instills pride and a strong sense of place, showcasing to visitors from around the world that we care about our environment.
- Are economically sustainable and well used and supported by the community.

## PUBLIC REALM DESIGN PRINCIPLES /OBJECTIVES

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING



What Countyard with Dat Countyard under construction, 1960.





Top: Stiudent Rally staged on Front Entry Court (n.d.) Middle: View of West Courtyard from

its southeast co.

(1958) Bottom: View of East Courtyard today



Birmingham & Wood Denise Cook Design

Statement of Significance

Buchanan Courtyards The University of British Columbia 1958-60

source: BIRMINGHAM & WOOD ARCHITECTS
Denise Cook Design

**UBC Buchanan Courtyards** 

Site Analysis

Statement of Significance Buchanan Courtyards The University of British Columbia 1958-60

#### Description of the Historic Place

The Buchanan Courtyards consists of the Front Entry Court facing Main Mall, and two courtyard spaces bounded by five wings of the Buchanan Building complex. The complex is located at the north end of The University of British Columbia's Point Grey campus, between Main and East Malls.

#### General

#### Values

The Buchanan Courtyards are valued as the campus' finest example of Modernist civic space, designed to culturally elevate and inspire the modern open and inclusive university society after the Second World War. Along with other landscape changes at the north end of the campus in the early 1960s, the Courtyards helped recast this public face of the campus from a simple space with a breathtaking view to a dynamic network of social spaces incorporating that natural beauty.

The design of the Courtyards signaled the University's participation in the Modernist transformation of North American college and university campuses in the 1950s and 60s. The Front Entry Court and West Courtyard in particular are important for their association with the firm Thompson Berwick & Pratt, descended from Sharp & Thompson, the firm who won the competition for the original planning and design of the campus; and specifically Roy Jessiman (Partner-in-charge) and Zoltan Kiss (project Architect) at TB&P, who represented the young generation carrying forward the firm's traditional role as the campus architects, and who introduced the Modernist aesthetic to the UBC campus with their building and landscape design. These courts are important examples of the Modernist practice of making the landscape and building one integrated design.

Their original designs and subsequent modifications are a record of the evolving campus landscapes following the 1960s, characterized by the desire to increase the garden-like nature of the campus' open space.

#### Character-defining Elements

#### Form and scale

- Elongated rectangular form found at various scales throughout the Courtyards and building complex, from building footprints to proportions of the Roman brick pavers
- Gridded design intimately related to the building grids
- Landscape design laid out in an asymmetrical grid
- Sense of enclosure balanced by a dynamic passages and openings through and under buildings to open space beyond
- Irregular entrances and exits between the courtyards and the campus and between the courtyards
- Covered spaces created by the building overhangs
- Framed connections below building overpasses between courtyards
- Connection or view from west courtyard to the conifer-planted lawn to the north

#### Materials and surfaces

- Low raised rectangular planting beds used to create discrete spaces
- Two coloured concrete surfaces in a grid of large squares with surrounding painted concrete banding
- Remaining sculpture

#### Plant material

- · Tree planting as specimen or in small groupings
- · Use of coniferous trees
- · Restrained plant palette of low shrubs, trees and lawn

#### Use

· Continued use as a student and faculty gathering space





Top: Sculpture in the West Courtyard, 196-Bottom: Buchanan Building Complex with Front Entry Court in foreground, 1962

2

source: BIRMINGHAM & WOOD ARCHITECTS

Denise Cook Design

#### Statement of Significance - Buchanan Courtyards

#### Front Entry Court (1958)

#### Values

The Front Entry Court is valued for being the public face of the Modernist Buchanan Building complex, adding a simple, sophisticated, modern public space onto the north end of the signature open space of the campus. Main Mall. The space is important aesthetically for its complete visual connection with the entrance lobby and main stairs to the floor and West Courtyard below. The court is also valued for its association with the student railies of the 60s and early 70s, which utilized the court as a conveniently raised stage adjacent to the mail.

#### Character-defining Elements

- Wall sculpture
- · Simple concrete pavement
- · Contrasting building surfaces: brick veneer/glass wall
- · Asymmetrical flanking planter
- Two short flights of broad stairs as part of broad paved entry path
- Regular line of lighting standards leading to Main Mall.
- Formal link of broad path with spacing of Main Mall boulevard trees
- · Transparent entry door wall



#### West Courtyard (1958)

#### Values

The West Courtyard, bounded on three sides by the original three wings of the building complex, is of cultural value for the boost it gave to the Arts Faculty's presence at the university. Its spare detailing, scale, and contemporary sculptures together signaled the faculty's cultural ambitions.

The sophisticated interweaving of outdoor space and building make West Courtyard an important regional example of dynamic site planning, formal rigour, and restrained detailing that are the hallmark of early Modernism (International Style). The choice of simple materials and faux white stone paving (road paint) are important examples of the local design community's adaptation of continental design trends to local restricted budgets and conditions.

The countyard is also valued for its site-specific engagement with the wider natural landscape that is the halfmark of Vancouver Modernism: the countyard was deliberately designed to embrace the mountain view that defines the north end of the campus, making the reflecting pool and lawn intermediary elements between the cultivated countyard and the breathfalking coastal landscape in the distance.

The space is culturally and historically valuable as the setting for many student events, including the great Engineering sculpture spoof, reflecting the important role the space played in campus life in the years immediately following its construction.

#### Character-defining Elements

- Planning and physical remnants of reflecting pool
- · Remains of view through open north end
- Wide passage through south end under Block B
- · Generous areas covered by building
- Largely paved open space; paving with visual grid design, and some panels of elongated Roman brick
- · Planting beds adjacent to office block
- · Transparent wall between courtyard and entry foyer
- . Original sculpture, whether on- or off-site





source: BIRMINGHAM & WOOD ARCHITECTS

Denise Cook Design

**UBC Buchanan Courtyards** 

#### East Courtyard (1960)

#### Values

The East Courtyard, formed two years following the West Courtyard with the construction of the second-phase of the complex, is of modest value primarily for its continuation of the earlier West Courtyard's palette of materials and design aesthetic, and for its garden-like nature that provides a counterpoint to the West Courtyard plaza.

This courtyard can be seen as aesthetically valuable as a contemporary descendent of the university cloister: a quiet internal space bounded by building, and designed to accommodate quiet seating or passage through on foot or bicycle.

It is of some cultural and symbolic value for its stock of memorial trees, lending the space a social intimacy, and a role of linking the present student body and faculty to important social history.

#### Character-defining Elements

- Memorial trees aligned with hard landscaping grid
- Gridded paving, with brick panels, concrete panels, and borders
- Open to the south
- Predominance of soft landscaping





Try Villa 1989 For Aric (Naville Dec Ocuber) Ration, Aktiving of Rose D

source: BIRMINGHAM & WOOD ARCHITECTS

Denise Cook Design

#### Interviews with key TB&P designers

#### Phone interview with Zoltan Kiss

History of building design

- TB&P doing most the work at UBC at the time with Roy Jessiman the partner-incharge for the UBC projects
- Buchanan Building Phase 1: Blocks A, B, and C
- Buchanan Phase 1 designed without input of landscape architect; does not remember any design consultations with CHO. Landscape design entirely followed building design
- Colour of glazed facing bricks to replicate UBC granite colour, for continuity yet in a contemporary idiom
- Courtyard open to the north a deliberate decision to make connection of the civic space with the natural landscape
- Buchanan Phase I was designed in the International Style, which at the time was relatively new to North America, but an idiom familiar to anyone living in Europe
- . The enameled metal panels were an innovation in this part of the world
- There was no difficulty convincing the client to do a Modernist building; the client was a small group headed by the Arts dean.
- TB&P not retained to do Phase II

#### Zoltan Kiss

- Zoltan Kiss Project Architect, who also designed research buildings and many other buildings on campus
- Emigrated from Hungary to Denmark 1945-1950, then to Vancouver, where he had a sponsor

#### Phone interview with Barry Downs

#### TB&P

- Roy Jessiman underrecognized for his role in the post-war design community of Vancouver
- Modernism
  - Inspiration from what was happening south of the border, as epitomized by the work of Skidmore Owings & Merrill (International Style), which was derived from Mies van der Rohe's work, particularly his work in the United States
  - Buchanan Phase I exemplified the Style's formal, modular, anonymous qualities, but done with local practices that mimicked the appearance of Mies' work without the budget
  - Block B on stilts is a legacy of Gropius at Harvard
  - Very much a plan designed to a grid (Jessiman always designed on graph paper)
  - No recollection of discussion of landscape design

#### Interview with Cornelia Haan Oberlander

#### TB&P

- . CHO associated with the firm at the time of the designing of the first phase
- Hard landscaping designed by the architects (Jessiman, Kiss)
- Plant specimens signature of species in favour at the time, particularly the three Robinia pseudoacacia in the planter nearest the entry lobby and the birch (now gone) in the southeast corner
- Discovery of the faux light stone finish (road paint)

#### Supplementary site photographs

#### East Courtyard









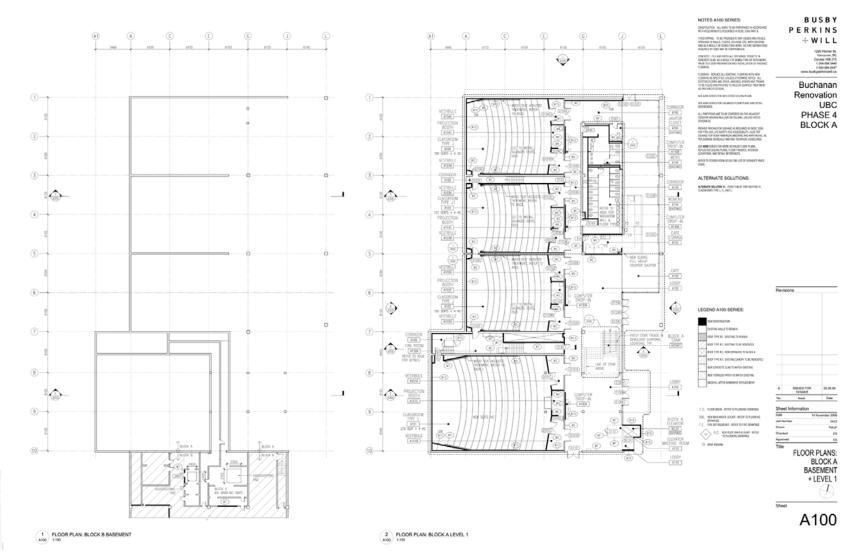






source: BIRMINGHAM & WOOD ARCHITECTS Denise Cook Design

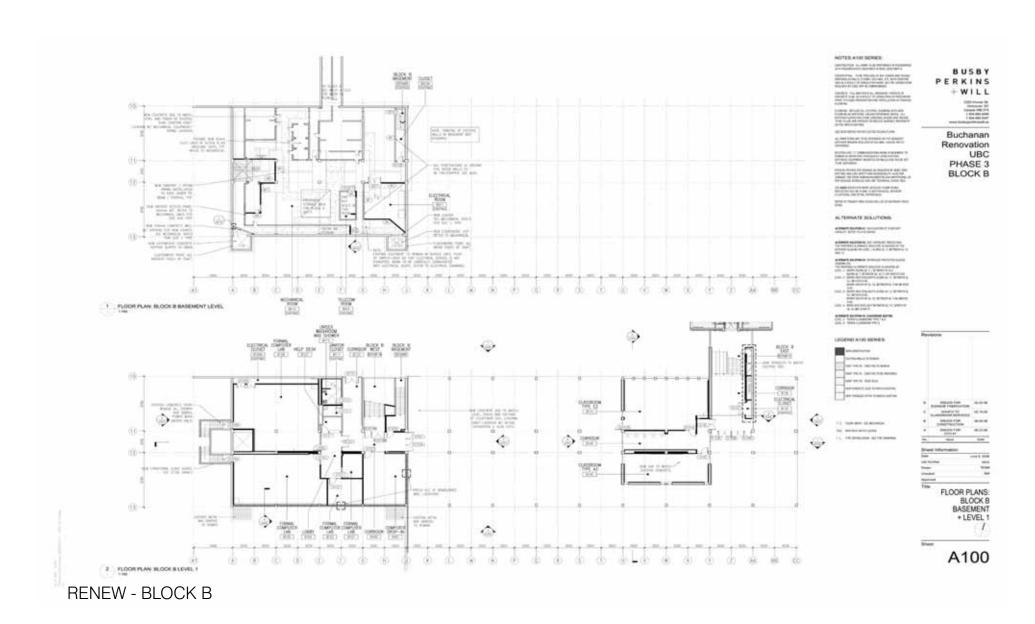
UBC Buchanan Courtyards



**RENEW - BLOCK A** 

source: BUSBY PERKINS + WILL

UBC Buchanan Courtyards Site Analysis Design Report

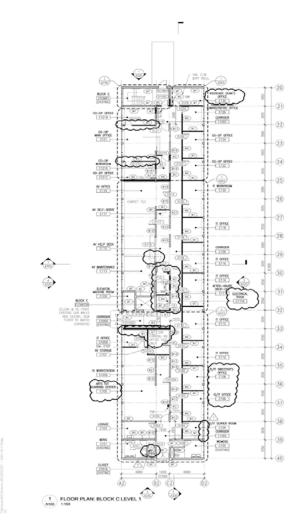


source: BUSBY PERKINS + WILL

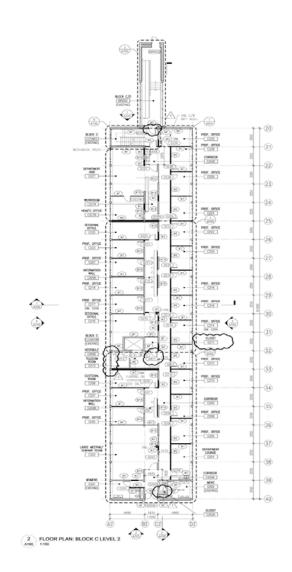
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RENEW - BLOCK C



NOTES A100 SERIES:

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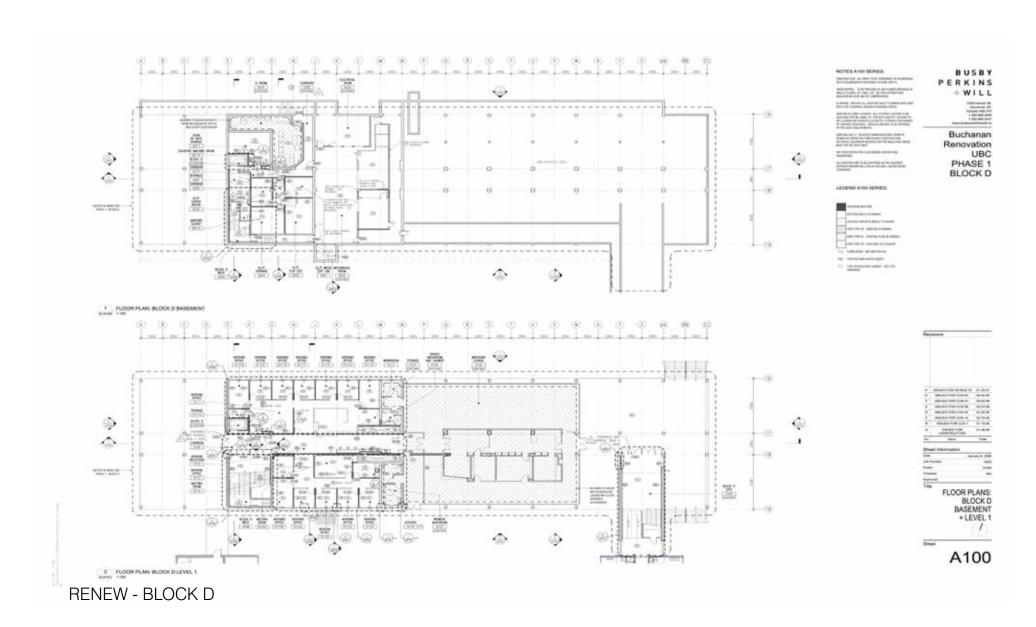
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source: BUSBY PERKINS + WILL

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source: BUSBY PERKINS + WILL

**UBC Buchanan Courtyards** 

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## 150 most commonly used words in the faculty of arts course descriptions (winter 2008)

economy / economic	557	production	45		ociological	19
geography / geographic / geographical	382	theatre	44		igital	18
asia / asian	325	nation	40		icome	18
social	324	structure	42		narket	18
psychology / psychological	271	women	42	2 tr	ade	18
french	260	classical	40	0 ur	nderstand	18
philosophy / philosophical	242	human	40	0 de	emocracy	17
engl	233	literacy	39	9 et	thnographic	17
literature	204	text	39	9 fe	eminist	17
china	203	america / american	38	8 so	culpture	17
history	198	europe	37		ction	16
anthropology / anthropological	194	paint	37		overn	16
language	183	design	36		wish	16
political	168	math	36		on-heritage	16
cultural	164	war	36		elationship	16
chinese	150	britain / british	38		reative	15
culture	139	environ	34		raw	15
modern	134	family	34		ast	15
research	121	korea / korean	34		ealth	15
	113	latin	34		lam / islamic	15
write	111	architecture	30		noral	15
contemporary		comparative	32		honetic	15
work	110		32			15
policy	104	present	3:		oetry	15
politics	86	organization			rint	15
relation	84	science	3:		egion	
system	79	state	30		rban	15
society	78	thought	30		ehaviour	14
international	76	ancient	29		onsult	14
canada / canadian	73	public	29		est	14
century	73	gender	28		orth	14
historical	72	linguistic	28		neoretical	14
japan / japanese	72	spanish	28		inema	13
german	70	intensive	27		olumbia	13
visual	70	growth	24		ıdia	13
change	69	medieval	24		iterdisciplinary	13
first	67	russian	24		sten	13
problem	61	studio	24		pen	13
grammar	60	survey	24		erformance	13
tradition / traditional	60	media	23		yntax	13
greek	59	techniqu	23		vebsite	13
art	57	world	23		ostume	12
context	57	logic	22		indi	12
religion / religious	56	pronunciation	2		stitution	12
translation	56	drama	20	0 in	itellectual	12
reading	55	heritage	20	0 la	bour	12
skill	53	knowledge	20	0 m	nandarin	12
archaeological / logy	52	law	20	0 pl	hysical	12
oral	49	period	20		rocesse	12
roman / rome	49	revolution	20		unjabi	12
italian	47	semantic	19		ity	11



































relative student populations of departments in arts



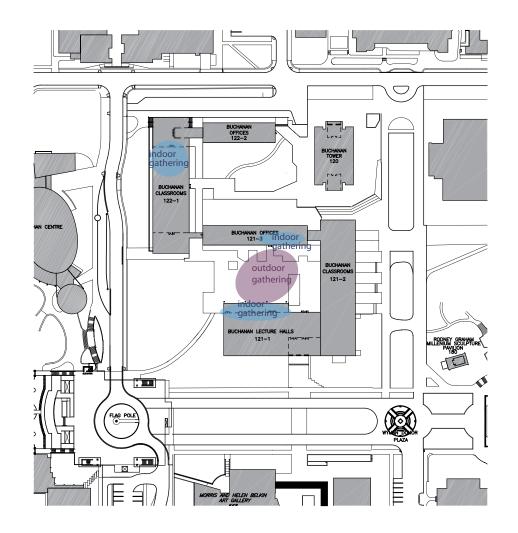


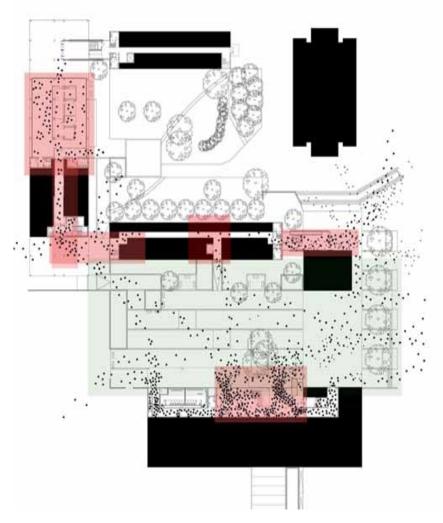


DEPARTMENTAL DEMOGRAPHIC

source: Environmental Design 401 studio

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PLACES OF INTEREST & GATHERING

**GROUND FLOOR - STUDENT SERVICES** 

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

source: Buchanan Renew; Busby Perkins Will

## University of British Columbia

#### 3.1.3 Architectural Design: Learning + Working, Community, Environment

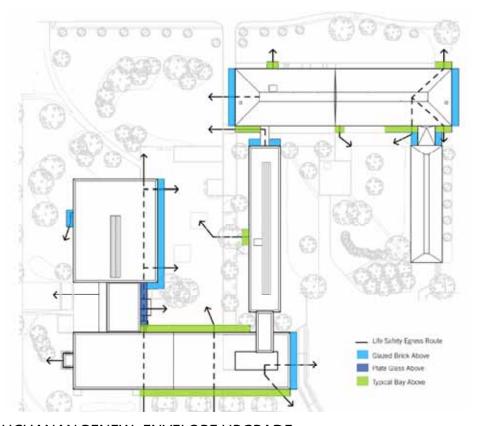
Our design proposal for the Buchanan Renovation is motivated by three scales of activity that affect the user's experience of the buildings: learning + working, community, and environment. First, the Buchanan Complex must comfortably host the daily activities of its users. Second, it must host a broad and diverse community of users as well as represent and nurture a public identity for that community. Third, it must respond to its global context by performing to the highest environmental criteria in terms of its function and its materiality.

#### Learning + Working

The first key to improving the learning and working conditions is clarifying the organization of the buildings' parts. The renovation will introduce a more distinct vertical gradation of public to private, starting on the ground level where the newly consolidated faculty services are spread throughout the blocks. In Block A, there will be a new espresso bar, taking advantage of the high student traffic flowing in and out of the lecture halls and the adjacency to the courtyard. Block B will have reconfigured computer labs, both bookable and drop-in, on the west side and a newly defined Dean's Office on the east side, more recognizable as such with improved signage and a better entrance. Block C will house the newly consolidated IS/IT hub, with centralized help desks and access to the many resources available to faculty and students, as well as the Arts Co-op Program, which looks to play an increasing role in providing a balanced educational experience for Arts students. The Arts Undergraduate Advising Services will be located next door in Block D, completing the network of undergraduate student services that began with the creation of the Meekison Lounge a few years ago. As you move up through the building, the program becomes less and less public and the volume of traffic dissipates. The largest lecture halls (with the exception of one) will be on level 1 of Block A. Level 2 of all four buildings will still be connected internally by a continuous corridor, making the traffic volume on this floor high. Level 2 and 3 will have a mix of classroom sizes. Block C level 2 will contain the Department of Classics, Near Eastern and Religious Studies (CNERS), which enjoys the exposure they receive from being on this high-traffic level. Levels 3 and 4 of Block C will contain offices and Reading Rooms for CNERS and Political Science.

provide a healthy, comfortable, safe environment for working and teaching: clean air, access to fresh air and sunlight, user-controlled systems, access to nature, good acoustics

#### FIGURE 3.1.4.1: ENVELOPE UPGRADE DIAGRAM



## **BUCHANAN RENEW - SIGNIFICANT SPACE PROGRAMMING**

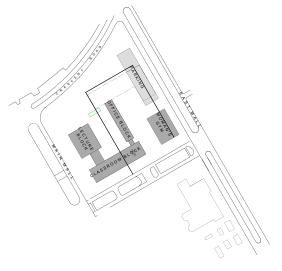
source: Buchanan Renew; Busby Perkins Will

## **BUCHANAN RENEW - ENVELOPE UPGRADE**

source: Buchanan Renew; Busby Perkins Will



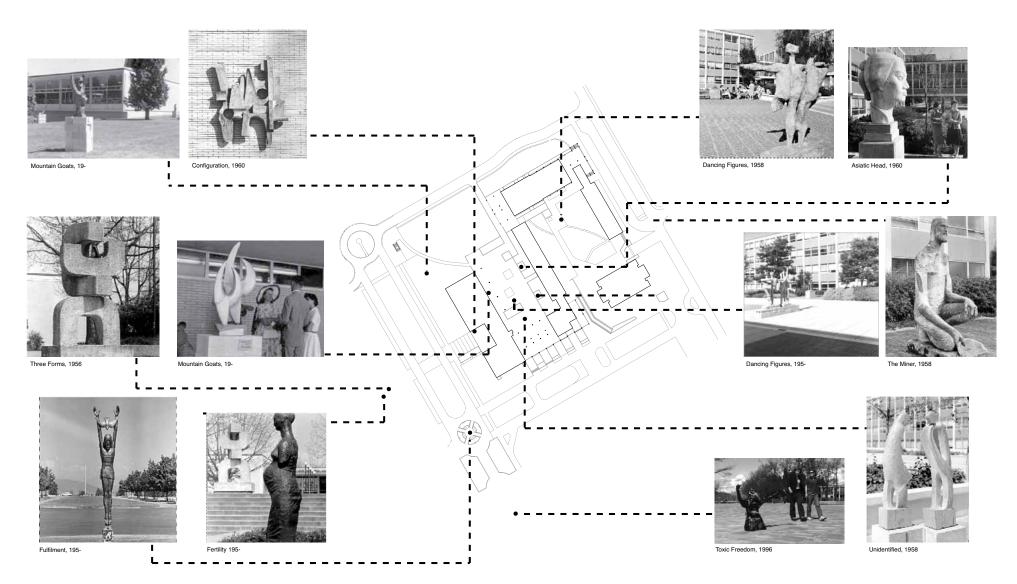
VIEWS ALONG UNFOLDED SECTION



BUCHANAN BUILDING PLAN: 1958 BLOCKS A, B & C

## SITE CHARACTER AND HISTORY

source: Environmental Design 401 studio

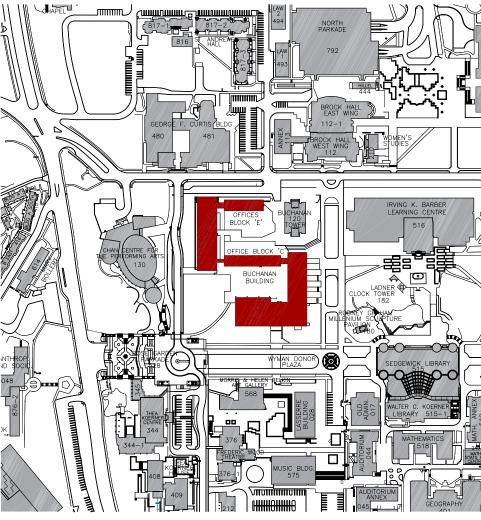


HISTORIC OUTDOOR SCULPTURE

source: Environmental Design 401 studio

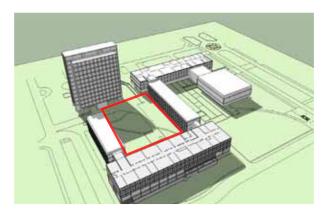
UBC Buchanan Courtyards





**CONTEXT - AERIAL PHOTO** 

**CONTEXT - CAMPUS BUILDINGS** 



Buchanan east courtyard











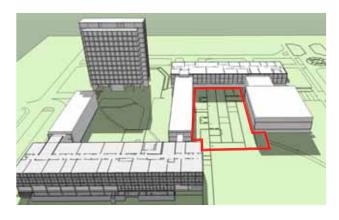






SITE PHOTOS AND KEY SIGHTLINES

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING



Buchanan west courtyard



















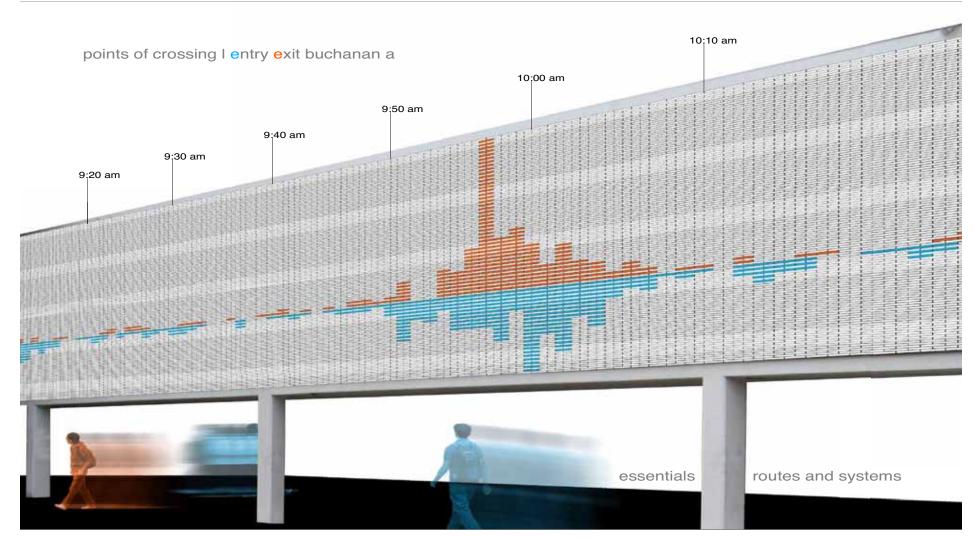
## SITE PHOTOS AND KEY SIGHTLINES

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

UBC Buchanan Courtyards

Site Analysis

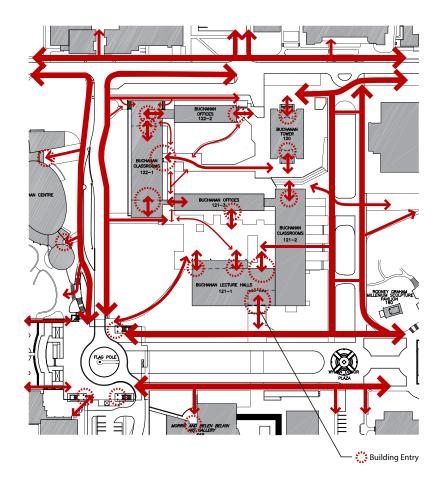
Design Report

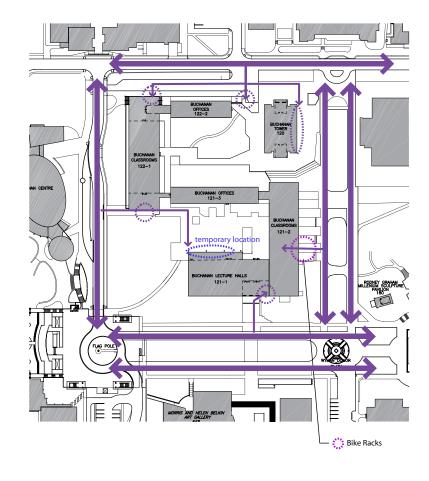


## INTENSITY OF DAILY ACCESS

source: Environmental Design 401 studio

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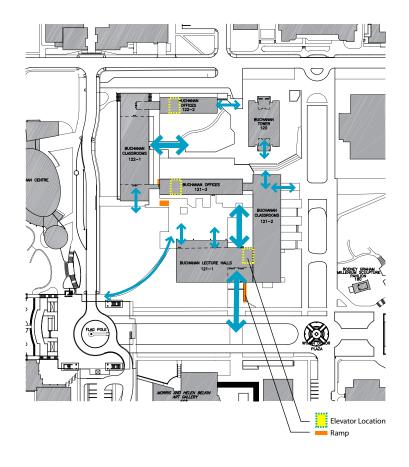


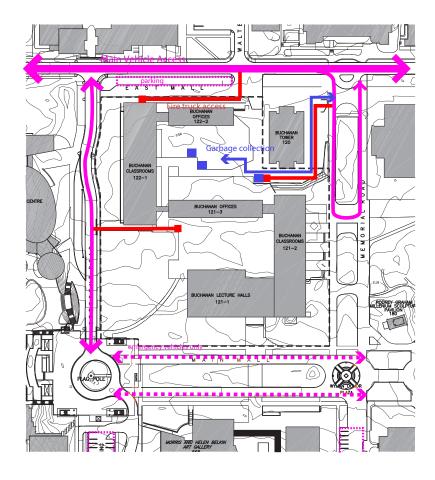


## PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION AND GROUND FLOOR PLAN

## **BICYCLE CIRCULATION**

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING



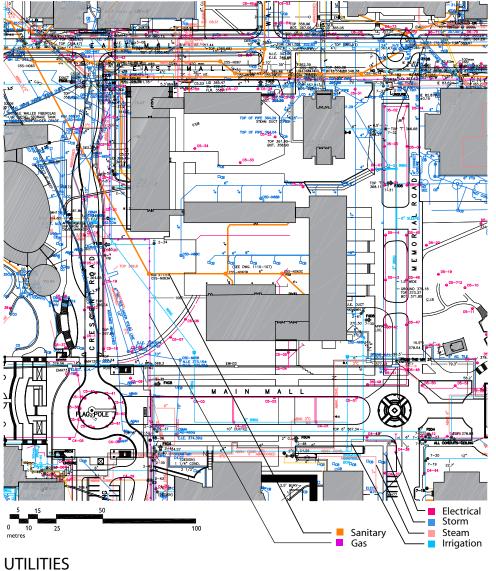


## **UNIVERSAL ACCESS**

## **VEHICLE CIRCULATION / Services**

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING





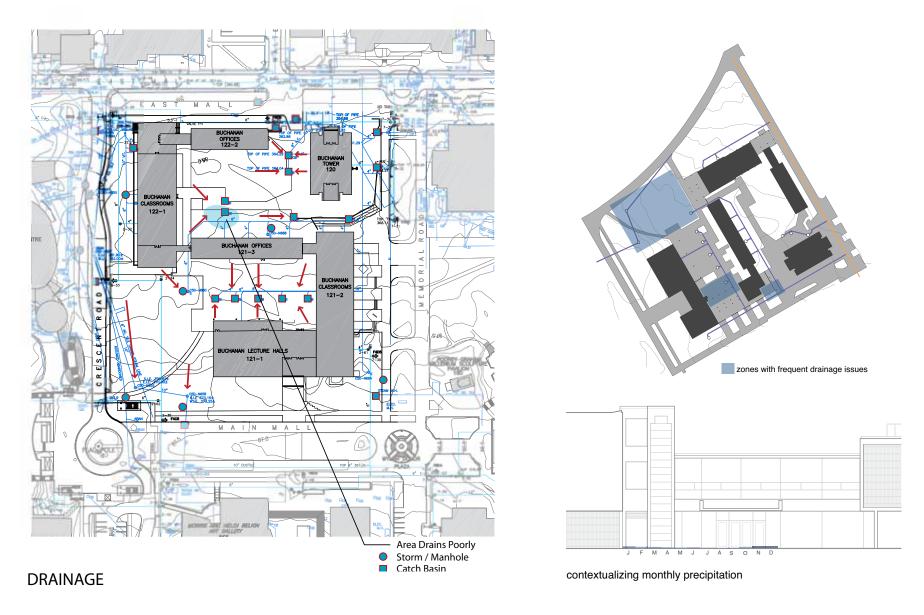
## **PREVAILING WINDS**

source: Environmental Design 401 studio

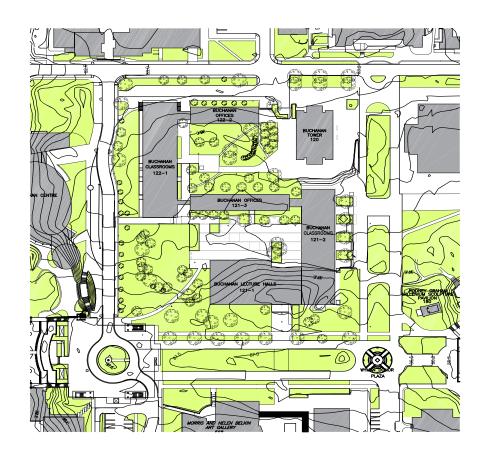
VAILING WINDS

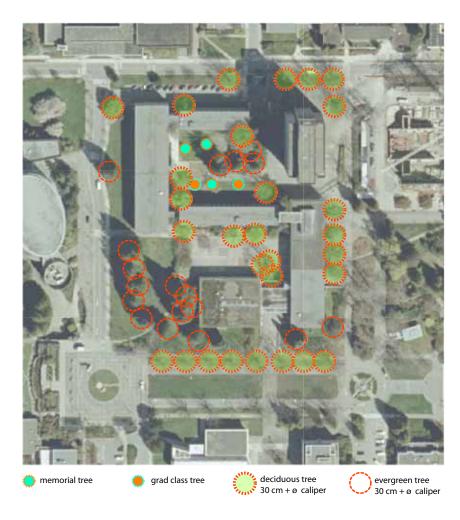
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Design Report



source: Environmental Design 401 studio





TREE LOCATION

SIGNIFICANT TREES

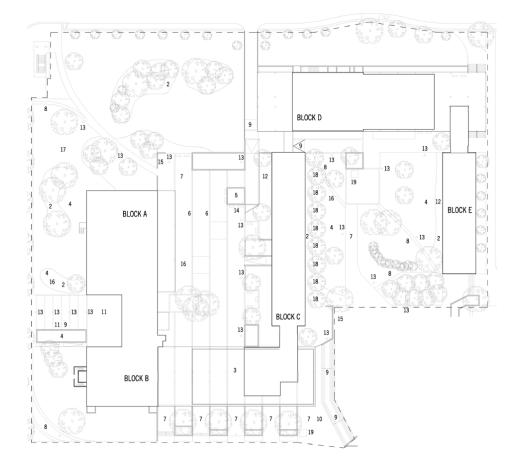




FIGURE 3.1.6.2: ITEM 2, 4 AND 5



FIGURE 3.1.6.2: ITEM 19





FIGURE 3.1.6.4: ITEM 9



#### 3.1.6 Site Design

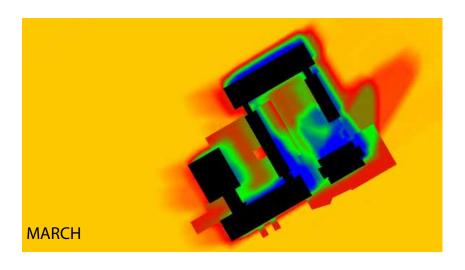
The site design is based on preservation and overall improvement. The courtyard and other landscape features need retrofitting to provide a sustainable and healthy environment for the users of Buchanan, and the renovation provides an opportunity to set an example for green design on the campus, and creating a beautiful setting for these heritage buildings. Aside from refreshing what is already there, these measures will help the site function better in relation to the surrounding ecosystem by improving drainage and capturing rain water for irrigation usen. The following steps are proposed:

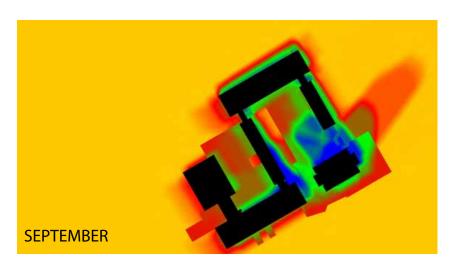
- General: preserve existing plant material and open space. Prune where necessary, eliminating dead material and hazardous branches.
- Remove unsightly shrubs.
- Encourage moss to grow on all gravel roofs.
- Top all planters with 50 mm Nutri-mulch. Over-seed disturbed areas of lawn.
- General: remove tagged plant materials for replacement in planting areas as needed.
- Storm water management: remove concrete strips in courtyard paving and replace with 150 mm wide galvanized steel trench drains to eliminate puddles.
- Power wash existing concrete paving in courtyards, as well as planter boxes with raised sides, with water only.
- Install two rows 500 mm X 500 mm concrete precise pavers with 50 mm grass joints on traffic generated cut-through paths.
- Replace railings on ramps and steps.
- 10. Renew paving to match existing.
- 11. Remove paving and repair membrane above large lecture room with new concrete paving, poured in place. Replace ramp and build new planter.
- 12. General: install 500 mm perimeter gravel strips held in place by 100 mm x 100 mm wooden header around all buildings for easy access to drains, allowing more light to come into the building where shown on drawing.
- 13. General: install new down-lighting throughout site to prevent light pollution.
- 14. Remove old wooden benches and replace with tables and chairs, in proximity to new
- 15. Install bicycle racks as per specification.
- 16. Repatriate historic or possibly new works of art in courtyard.
- 17. Design and install new exterior signage. 18. Plant new Acer Rubrum 'Bowhall' Maple 5 - 6 m.
- 19. Relocate garbage bins.

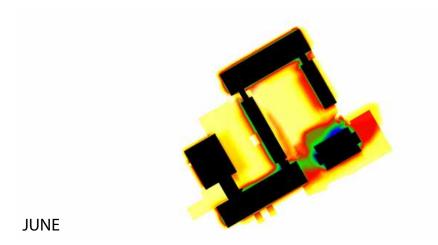
preserve legibility of original architecture

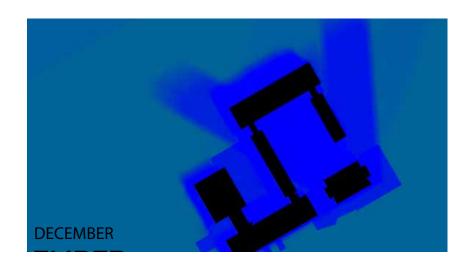
SITE DESIGN

Prepared by Cornelia Hahn Oberlander source: Buchanan Renew; Busby Perkins Will







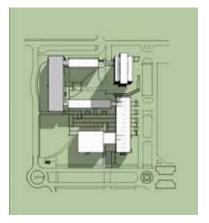


**SOLAR GAIN** 

source: Environmental Design 401 studio

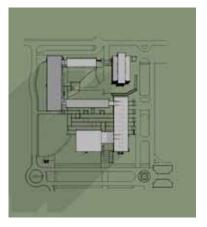
UBC Buchanan Courtyards Site Analysis Design Report

## spring equinox

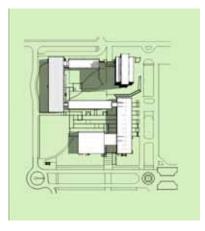


March 20 9 AM

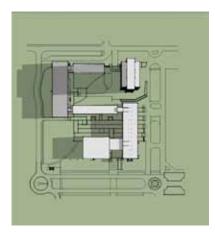
## winter solstice



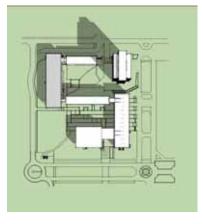
December 21 9 AM



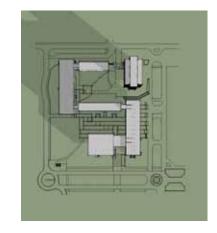
March 20 Noon



December 21 Noon



March 20 3 00 PM

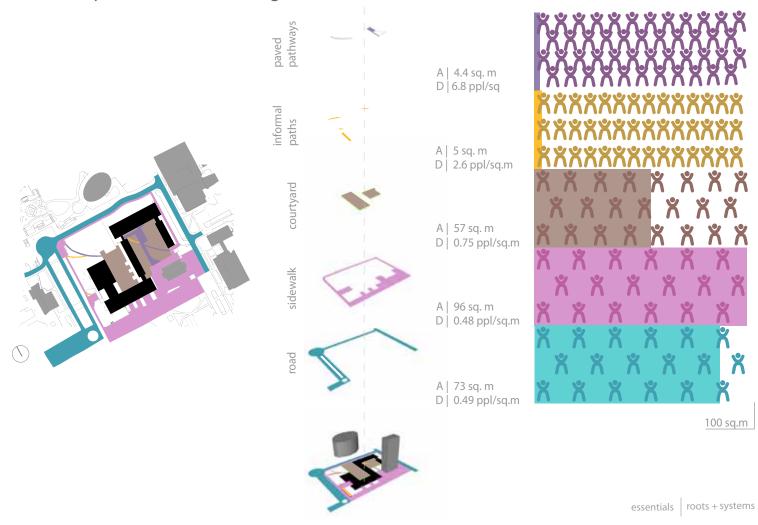


December 21 300 PM

SHADOW STUDY

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

## buchanan prestinct area vs usage



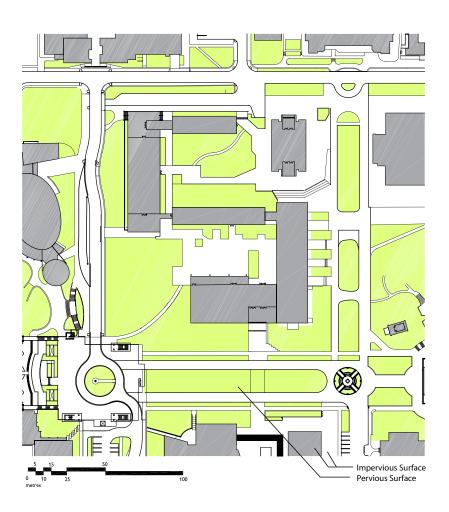
## **PUBLIC REALM MATERIALS**

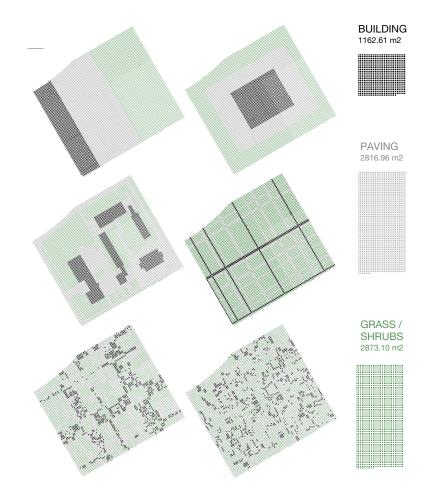
source: Environmental Design 401 studio

UBC Buchanan Courtyards

Site Analysis

Design Report





VECT**ORWORKS** EDUCATIONAL VERSION

BUCHANAN SITE SURFACE MATERIAL AREA STUDY HYPER-RATIONALITY TOWARDS ENTROPY

## PERVIOUS AND IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

source: Environmental Design 401 studio

UBC Buchanan Courtyards Site Analysis Design Report



## SURFACE LEXICON

source: Environmental Design 401 studio

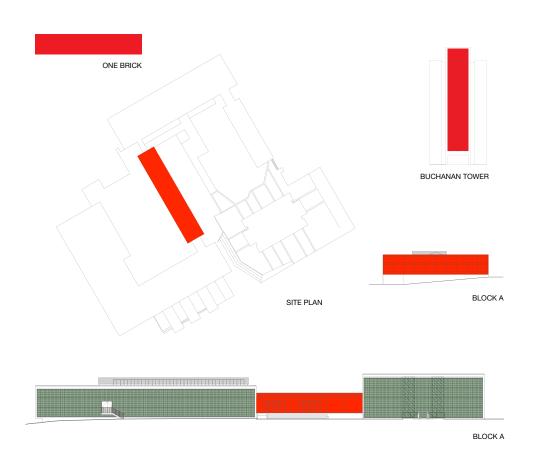
UBC Buchanan Courtyards

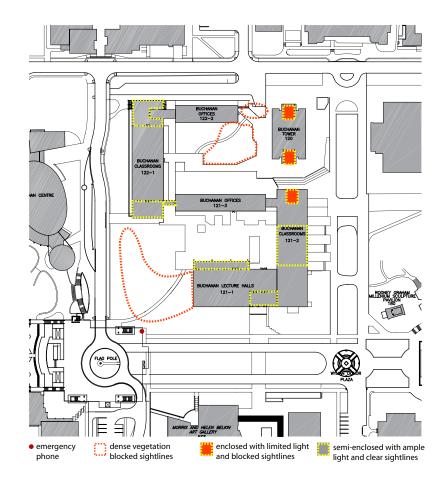
Site Analysis



## **NIGHT LIGHTING**

source: Environmental Design 401 studio





## **SCALED GEOMETRY**

## PERCEPTUAL SPACE

source: Environmental Design 401 studio

UBC Buchanan Courtyards Site Analysis

Design Report

UBC Buchanan Courtyards

User Activities and Directions

Design Report

## **User Activities and Directions**

Input Generated by the UBC Community

**UBC Buchanan Courtyards** User Activities and Directions Design Report













On March 22nd, a workshop was held in the Meekison Lounge in the Buchanan Building Complex, with members of the UBC Arts Community led by consultant Stanley King and his Co-Design group. The purpose of the workshop was to generate the activities and users of the courtyards would like to see take place in the Buchanan courtyards. A series of trained facilitators and artists recorded community input both in annotated drawings.

The ideas that emerged were voted upon both at the end of the workshop and in an exhibit running from date to date in the foyer of Buchanan April 1st -3rd. Students, faculty and staff of the Arts community viewed and rated the ideas, indicating which should move forward in the development of the concept plan. Campus and Community Planning then took these ideas and grouped them into the categories shown on the following page. The size of the circles represent the number of positive votes for the ideas that fall into each of the categories. These categories will provide the main themes and ideas that will move forward in the concept design development.

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING