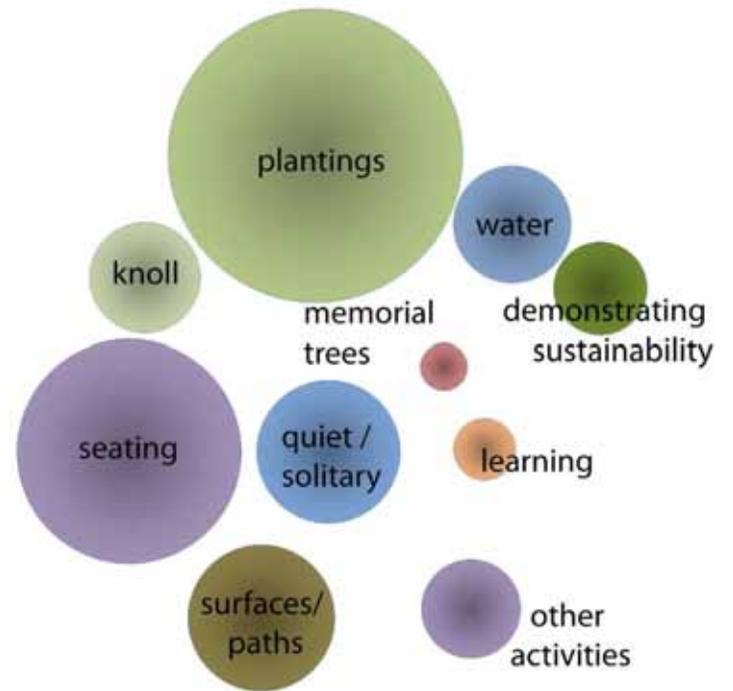
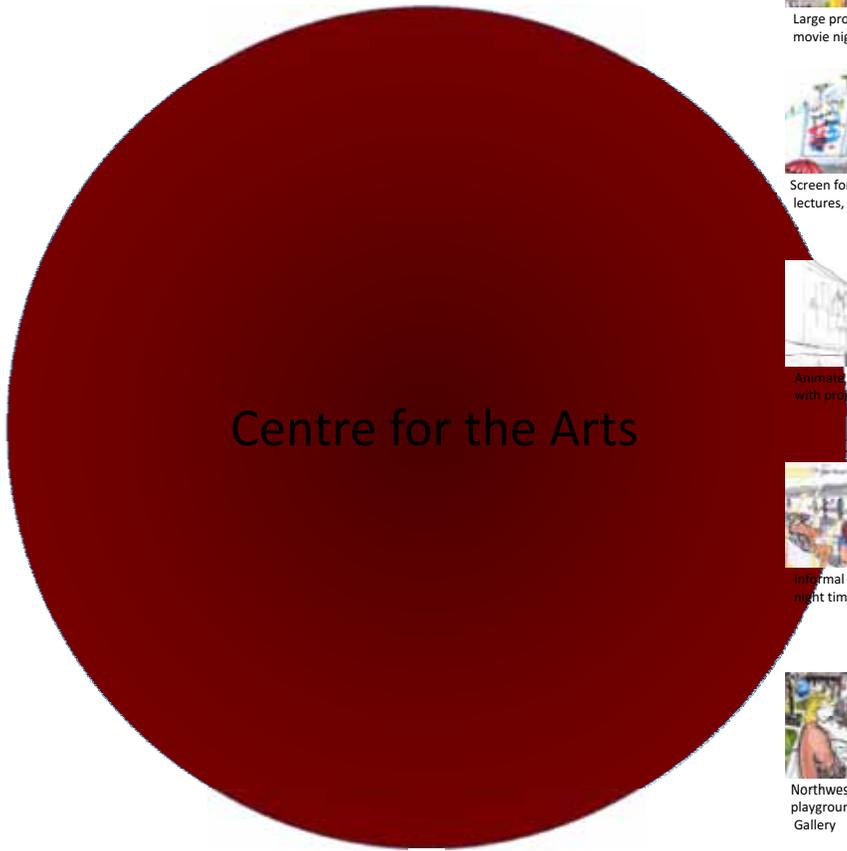


WEST COURTYARD



EAST COURTYARD

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING



Centre for the Arts



Large projection screen for movie nights



Viewing student films



Showcase student films (cinema under the stars)



Screen for projecting Art, lectures, student films



Expressing yourself on the digitally projected ideas wall



Animate facade of Block A with projected light & images



Year round changing mural (rotating 4 times / year). Retractable canopy



Discussing ideas through spontaneous interaction



Informal learning through night time social interaction



Support Faculty of Arts Creative Arts Showcase (e.g. Design Fashion Show)



Rotating Displays (e.g. Arts Week Exhibition)



Attending outdoor night time lecture



Northwest corner as sculpture playground to tie to Belkin Gallery



Sculptures / alcoves



Information Kiosk

WEST COURTYARD

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

• knoll



Grassy landscaped knoll (allows seating and lounging, viewing, showing)

plantings



Heavy selective pruning to open views to the north



Green walls – growing up and down

water



Fish pond with grey water filter



Shallow pond with edge seating to dip your feet

surfaces / paths



Ramps and stairs access



Mixed paving and grass for service vehicle access

WEST COURTYARD

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

cafe

seating

special events and celebrations

performance



Café spilling into courtyard, protected by canopy



Turn café into bar at night



Café activity spill onto courtyard surface



Moveable table and chairs



Moveable chairs



Support Academic events and rituals (e.g. Grad ceremony)



Flowers/blossom spring event (e.g. cherry trees)



Support cultural parades (eg. Chinese New Year's Celebration, Japanese festival)



Thematic gathering celebrating culture (e.g. International Food Day)



Large cultural events (eg. Canada Day celebration)



Evening events (eg. festival of lights)



Special events



Outdoor performance stage



Performing (eg. theatre, dance, poetry slam etc.)



Elevated platform to support presentations- multi-use platform



Stage



Buskers

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

design ideas



Flexible spaces allow multiple uses



Open courtyard with river of people moving through breezeways



Strengthen Visual connection to Chan Centre



Maintain formal and open and urban character of west courtyard



Connection between ground floor recreational activity and courtyard



Bike rail locks under breezeway



Integrate playful elements such as lighting

other activities



Sports on roof

WEST COURTYARD

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

Knoll

Plantings



Watching people from the mound



Grassy knoll feature protected from wind



Sunny grassy mound as courtyard focal point



Expansive grassy area



Potted Plants under breezeway



Ornamental wild grass



Picking native berries



Using native plants/wildflowers



Tall grasses that move in the wind



Expressing art/ words through flowers



Flowering trees and bird houses



Canopy of trees



Privacy hedge



Hanging vines

EAST COURTYARD

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

memorial trees



Cluster memorial trees in one area



Memorial trees- concentrate memorial trees in one area

water



Cascading water feature



Stepping rocks in pond



Small water feature with water spouting sculpture



Fish pond



Wooden Bridge

demonstrating sustainability



Learning about stormwater management in the landscape



Integrate recycling centres to promote sustainability



'Dry' creek to celebrate rain & accommodate drainage

learning



Learning in solitary & small group environments



Impromptu discussions in small groups

EAST COURTYARD

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

seating

quiet / solitary



Playful, moveable elements for seating



Informal seating areas throughout to reflect natural character



Seating benches adjacent to building and Meekison Lounge



Lots of seating but not by offices or classroom windows



Bench Seating



Café seating



Sitting under a rain canopy



Lights and heaters



Quiet activities



Quiet reading area



Contemplative courtyard



Solitary activities



Relax/enjoy courtyard



Gardening on the rooftop



Open area for sunbathing



Stroll through the sculpture garden



Napping in a hammock

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

surfaces/
paths



Wheelchair accessible



Walking path



Soft surface pathway



Permeable paving with grasses



Informal, meandering pathways

other
activities



Active sport opportunities integrated in design



Running through the courtyard



Hosting classes on the rooftop



Specialty food outlet (e.g. gelato, bubble tea, chocolates)

EAST COURTYARD

source: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING

Concept Design

Project Principles

The following principles were developed and refined over the course of the concept development phase, in order to inform and guide the design.

Principle #1

Support the activities and features desired by the user community. Express the identity of the Arts by showcasing culture, collections, research and learning.

Strategies:

- Evaluate the concept design against the user voting results from Workshop 1 (user directions and activities)
- West courtyard: provide for activities relevant to the Arts Faculty; provide places for socializing
- East Courtyard: provide for solitary/quiet activities

Principle #2

Foster memory of the past and awareness of our campus landscape history by conserving important heritage values especially for the west courtyard.

Strategies:

- Develop a conservation plan which will conserve Character Defining Elements (refer to Statement of Significance, located in the 'Site Analysis' section for details).
- Buildings and landscape should read as a single entity (e.g. similar geometries, proportions and imagibility).

West Courtyard

- work with the strengths of original design and transform with subtle interventions (esp. orthogonal grid) that support user activities and express renewal
- Provide for the following uses to conserve the civic nature of the space:
 - A "Centre for Art"
 - Exhibition (including sculptures) and performances
 - Celebrations
 - Café activity
 - Amenities – e.g. water feature
- Reference the historic connection of the courtyard with the landscape to the north. Provide a social connection with the Chan

Centre

- Preserve the scale of the courtyard while providing openness / connections (physical, visual and perceptual) to the north and south (under building); resolve the connection at the northeast corner; consider appropriate uses of west rooms of Block C
- Reinststate or re-invent the reflection pool using simple geometric lines and low lying shoulder at or near the original location
- Qualities of the courtyard should portray a dignified, civic space for the university. Café design to support this should be considered in seating, lighting (to support small groups), acoustics, materials, shelter, degree of flexibility).

East Courtyard

- Memorial trees should support the quiet introverted nature of the space. Their exact location is not critical.
- Design interventions are open to reinvention

Principle #3

Respect existing uses and ensure activities do not have an undue impact on indoor activities (e.g. noise management).

Strategies:

- Limit the west courtyard noise to day-to-day café noise
- Formalize event approval process (staff and AUS)
- Schedule amplified performances for “off hours”
- Manage noise through technology (e.g. diffusers, speaker locations)
- Provide audio for movies etc. in west courtyard through radio/ wi-fi headphones
- Locate performance noise away from Block B and C (e.g. north of the west courtyard)
- Make a multi-use platform instead of a formal stage and seating
- Limit vehicular access to courtyards
- Reduce cart noise through smooth paving surfaces
- Note: building upgrades will enhance acoustic performance through double glazed office windows and fan white noise for classrooms.

Principle #4

Design ideas from users.

Strategies:

- Increase connection between courtyards (lighting or ribbon)
- Explore and celebrate rainwater detention
- Protection from rain under trees in east courtyard; under café canopy in west courtyard
- Semi-moveable seating in east courtyard; moveable seating in west courtyard, managed by steward (e.g. café)

Principle #5

Balance the technical requirements with user needs

Strategies:

- Utilize durable and high quality materials to minimize maintenance costs and vandalism
- Provide low maintenance plantings, furniture and materials

- Incorporate life cycle costs into choice of materials and design
- Approach stormwater management and solutions to drainage issues in ways that conserve resources and support learning

Principle #6

Foster on-going support for Arts-focused programming of the courtyards

Strategies:

- Create a “University Circle” or “Buchanan Circle” to manage and direct programming

Principle #7

Apply the design principles from the Public Realm Plan not covered by the above.

Information Gathering

Resource Team Session 1

This information gathering session brought the Resource Team together to identify key technical requirements and concerns that would set parameters on the proposed design. Representatives of faculty, students, food services, maintenance and others discussed a range of issues that were broadly grouped into the following three categories: Heritage, Noise, and Activities and Technical Requirements. The following is a summary of this first Resource Team Session:

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Heritage

- Heritage of site to be considered, with the underlying intent in the original design to be incorporated into re-design where appropriate
- The historic value of the west courtyard is having a 'civic' nature and offering an 'elevated experience' to visitors
- West courtyard was design to be an enclosed space with physical / visual /perceptual connections to the north and south
- Geometry of the west courtyard is important

- The east courtyard is open to reinvention, as its history has been developed over patterns of use rather than an original design intent
- The memorial trees may be relocated where appropriate

Noise

- Block B is more noise-resilient than Block C (Block B has white noise)
- Classrooms are used till 10pm weeknights and on Saturdays
- Sequencing of activities is important and is to be managed accordingly
- Performances and events with amplified sound are to be scheduled and coordinated through an event approval process
- Platform for informal theatrical events to be located to minimize noise in Blocks B + C
- East wall of Block A may be suitable for projections, preferably with no amplified audio (earphone use only)

Activities and Technical Requirements

- Fire trucks require access up to block D entry
- Develop strategies for limiting vehicle access in courtyards, eg. collapsible bollards
- Consolidate garbage and food composting in two locations: the SE corner of east courtyard and the SE corner of Block B along Memorial Rd.
- Accommodate easy movement of carts through west courtyard
- Drainage of courtyards to be amended, with consideration of canopy runoff (Block A)
- Security and storage of moveable café furniture overnight requires a solution
- Opportunities for additional rain protection
- Limited resources for maintenance, drought-tolerant species preferred
- Café is currently closed weekends and summers, and usually closes at 8:30 pm
- Strengthen connections / programming with surrounding cultural precinct
- Develop strategies to provide secure and dry bike storage: eg. If bike parking is centralized in Rose Garden, a variety of smaller bike parking opportunities

- should be provided across the site
- Potential vandalism and skateboarding damage a concern

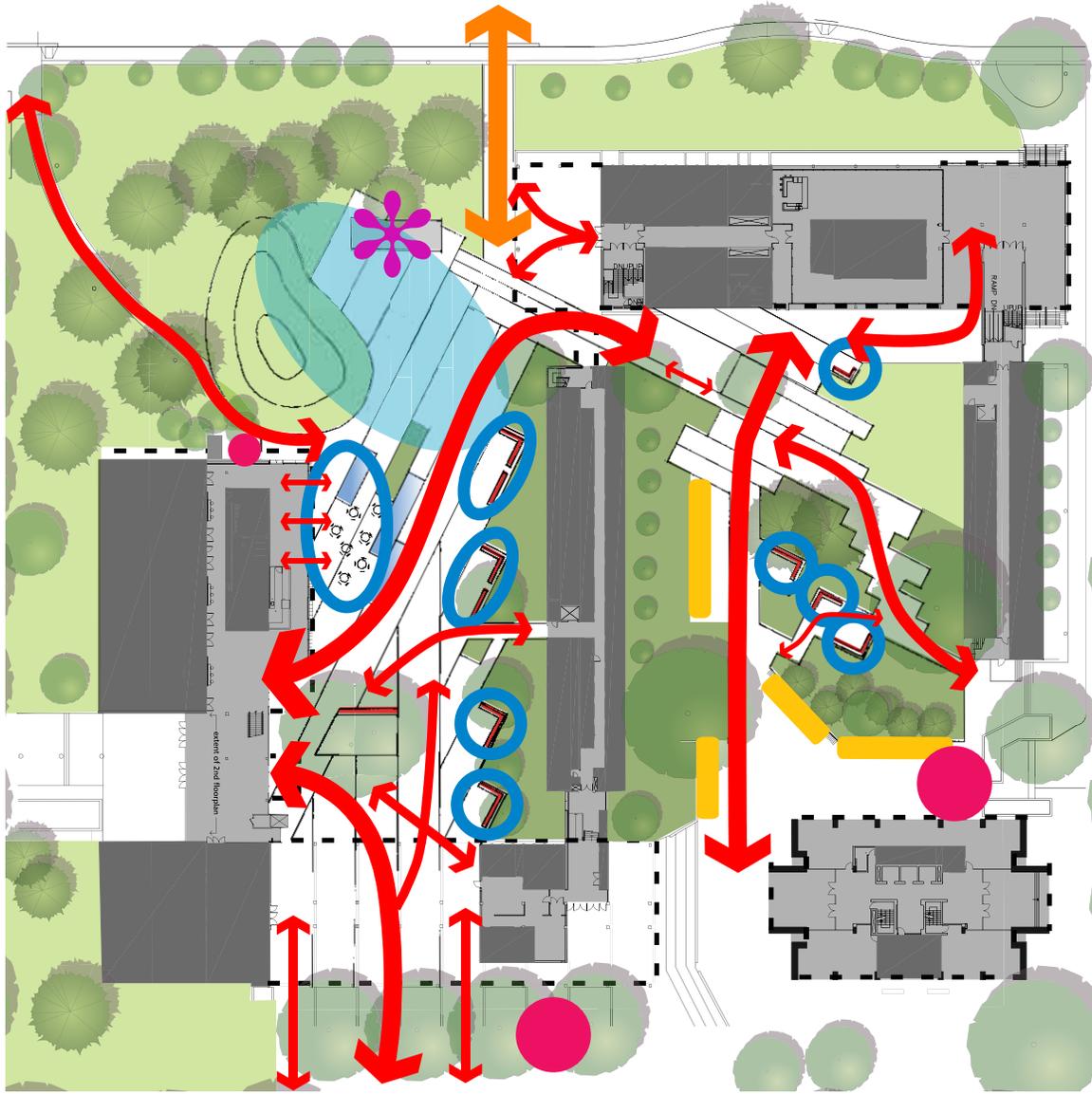
ITEMS REQUIRING FURTHER CLARITY, COORDINATION or CONFIRMATION

- Café deliveries to enter Block A via Main Mall to avoid vehicle access in west courtyard
- Block A and Café to use garbage collection area located in SE corner of east courtyard
- Café in Block A is to use composting area located in SE corner of east courtyard
- Café hours to be extended to for summer, weekend and evening use, in coordination with programming at the Chan Centre and Belkin Gallery
- Opportunities for bike storage in the Rose Garden
- Process for noise management to be established

Design Concept Options

Resource Team Session 2

The following two design concepts were presented to the Resource Team at the second session - one had a linear structure and the second had an organic geometry. The Resource Team divided into the three groups established at the first session, to critique each design concept from the following perspectives: heritage, programming and activities, and technical issues. The session concluded with the selection of the 'Ribbon Concept' as the preferred option to be refined in the next phase of development.



Linear Approach - Concept Diagram

Legend

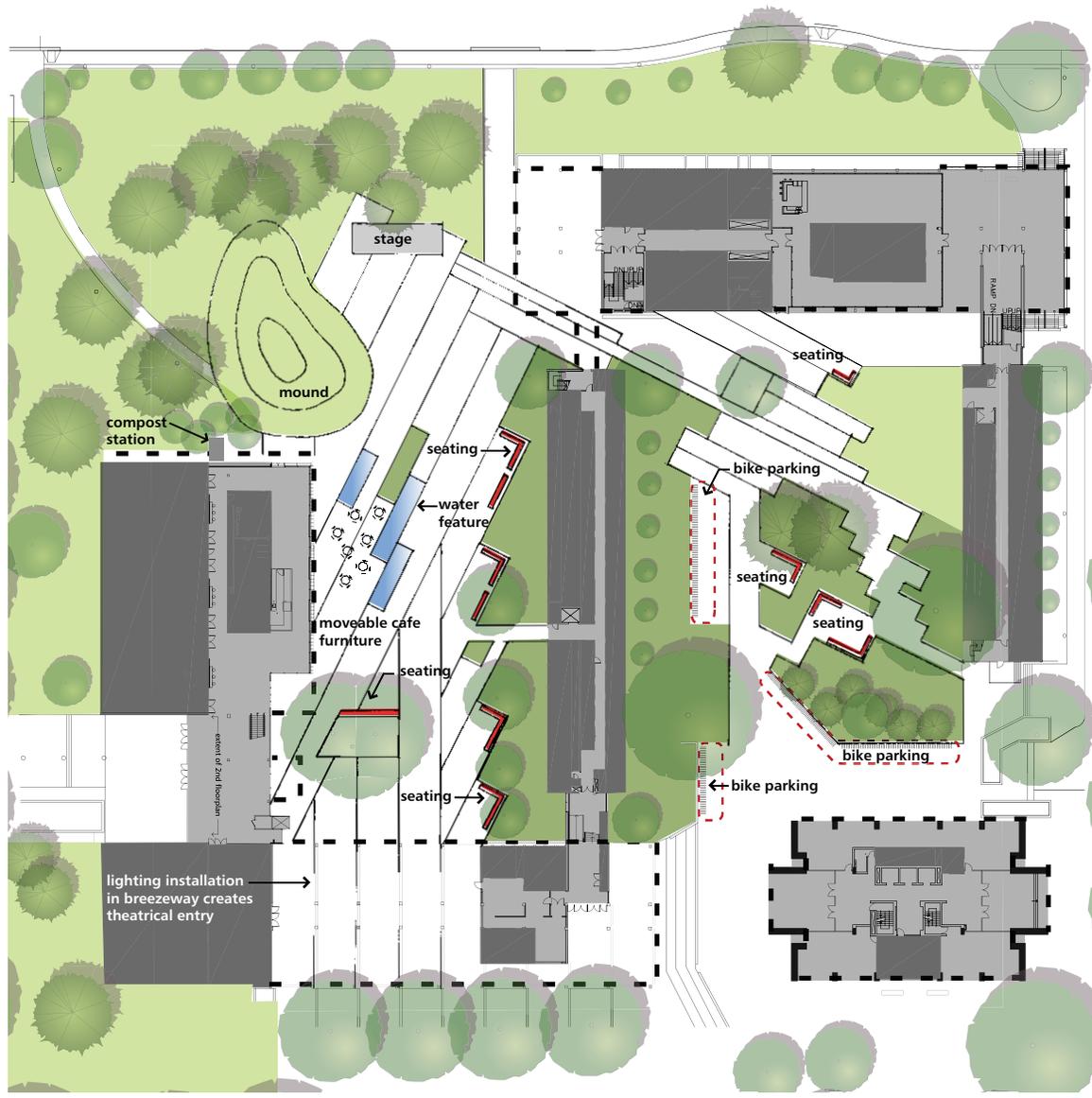
- Pedestrian Circulation 
- Social / Seating Areas 
- Site Feature / Stage 
- Gathering Areas 
- Emergency Access 
- Bicycle Parking 
- Garbage / Recycling 

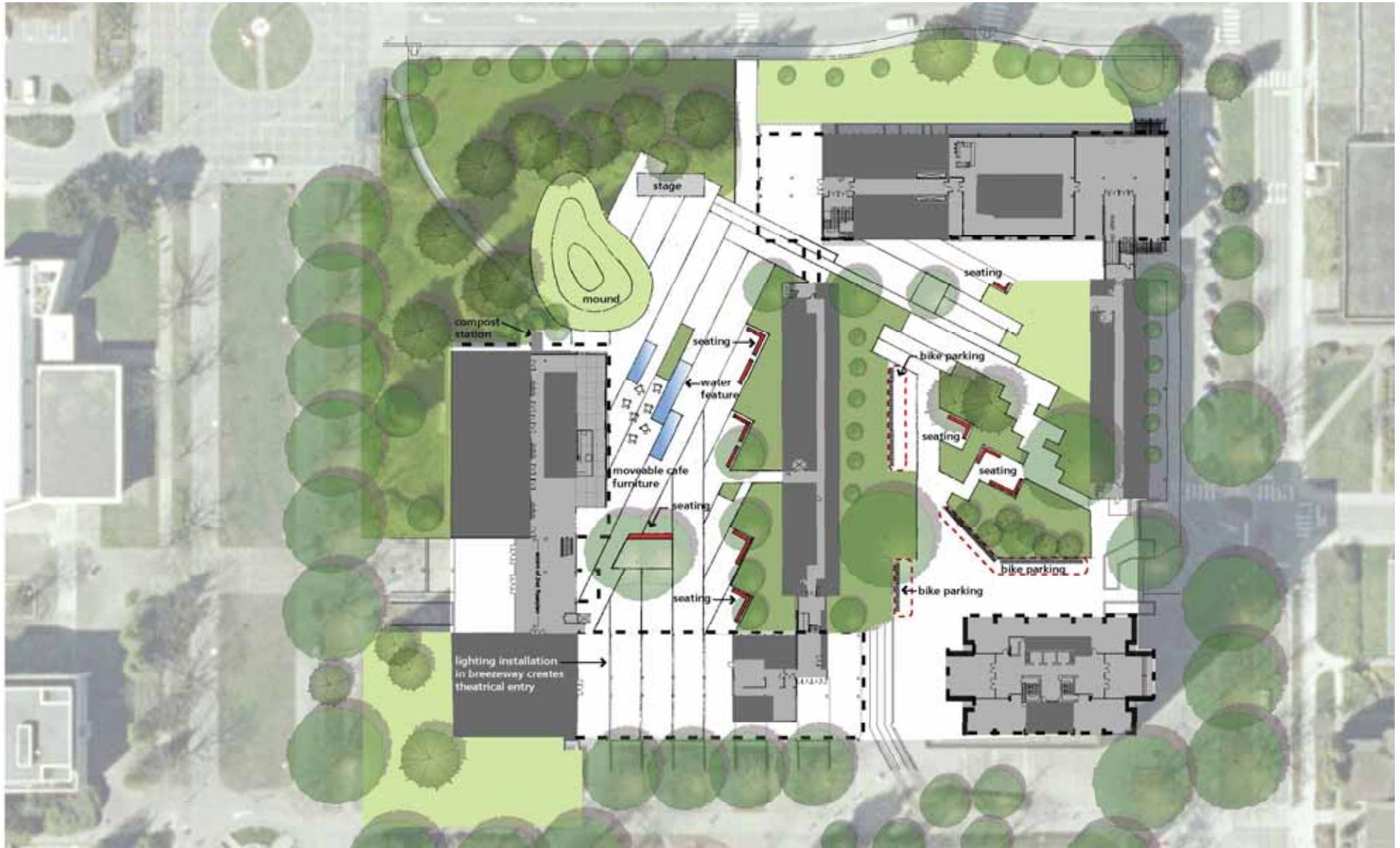


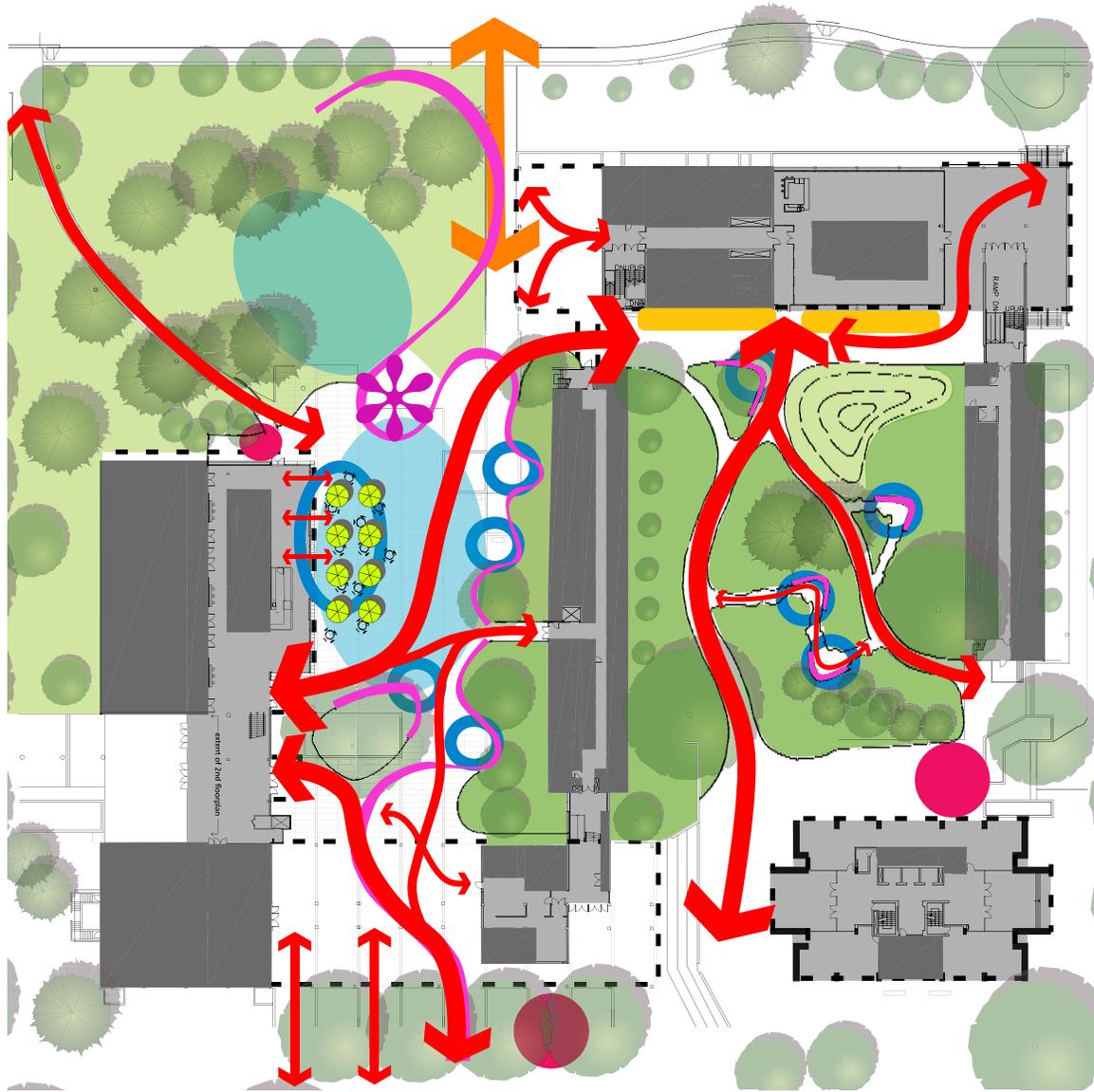
UBC Buchanan Courtyards

space  place

June 2009







Ribbon Approach - Concept Diagram

Legend

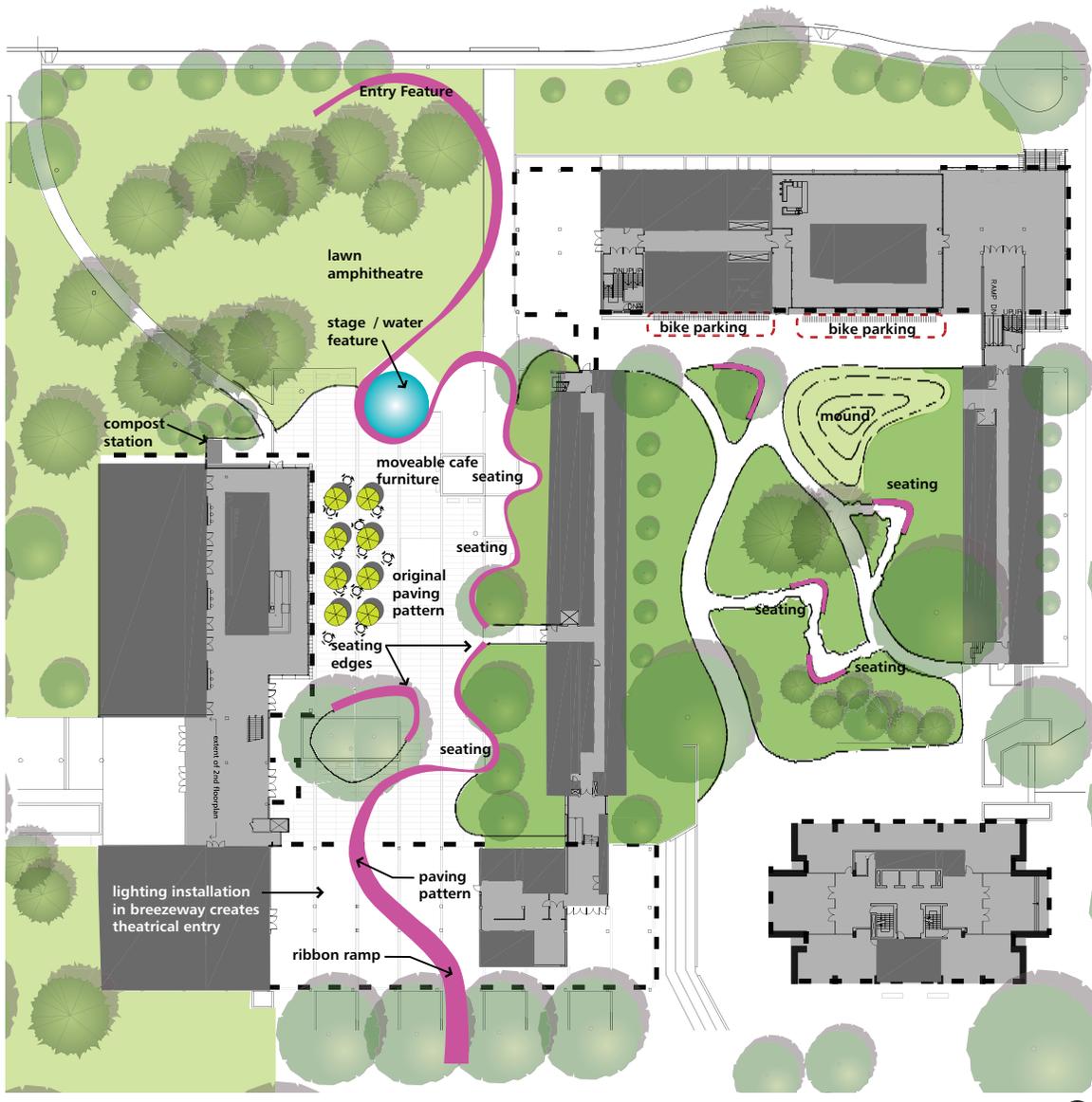
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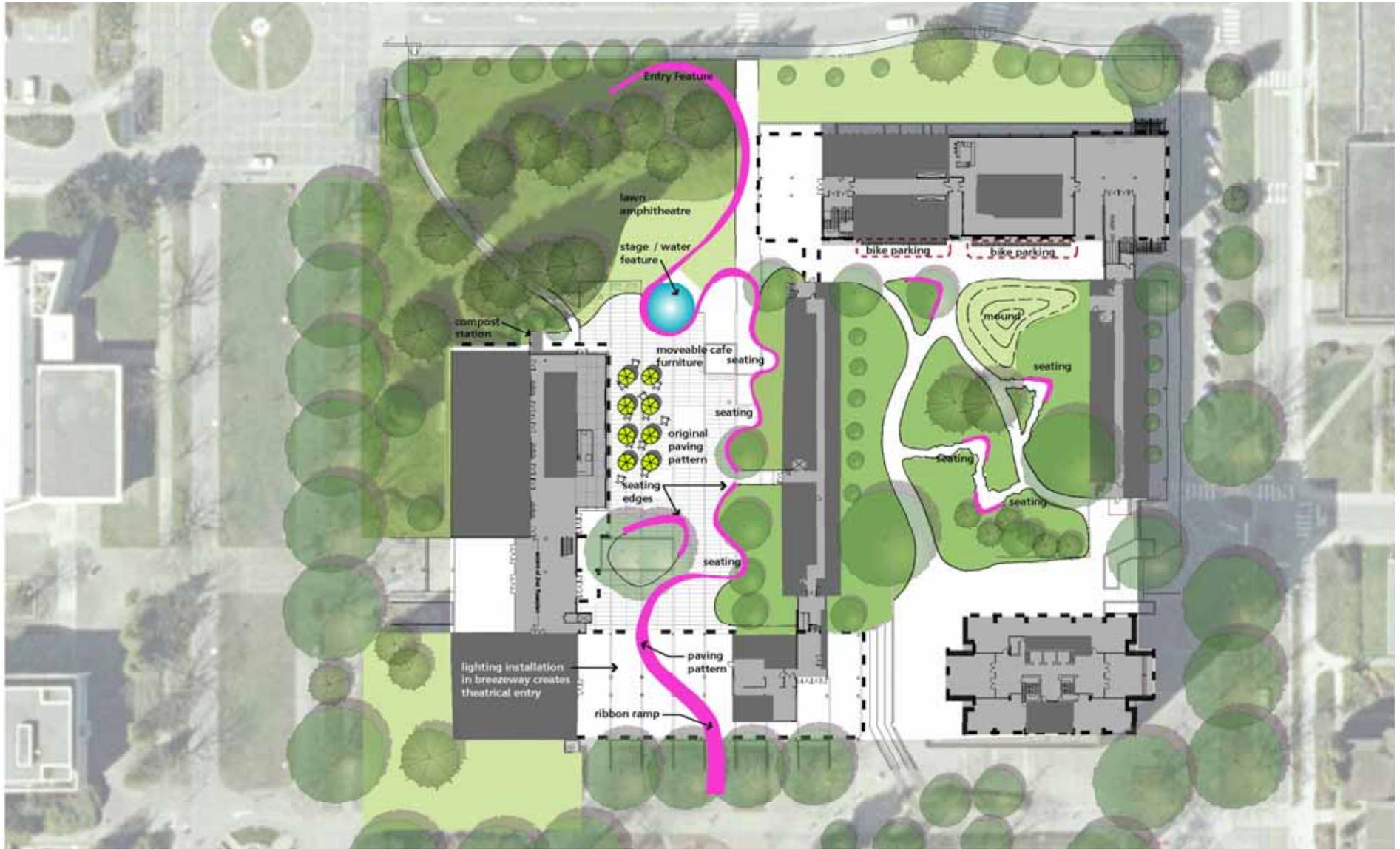


UBC Buchanan Courtyards

space ₂ place

June 2009





Resource Team Responses

GROUP 1 TECHNICAL FUNCTIONALITY

- There should be another option explored – orthogonal
- In Option 1 (linear), the water feature in the courtyard perhaps has a conflict with use of the space
- Space needs to be successful on a day-to-day basis
- Overhead protection should be considered along Block A – perhaps a glass canopy
- Rain protection between A, B & D should be considered
- Canopies are a problem due to funding considerations; not maintained
- Proper pedestrian traffic count should be documented especially if canopy is considered
- Enhance ability to move between buildings
- A small percentage of students move through C to get to D during rainy periods
- Potentially move pathway tight to Block C with integrated canopy
- Snow removal is a concern for the water feature in linear concept

- Potential to extend mound and nestle stage into it
- Mound should not be too steep
- Increased paving a concern for environmental benefits
- Explore use of covered areas for bike parking
- Movable furniture is a concern – either missing or relocated. Also collection is an issue
- Fixed site furniture is preferred
- Install bar code on chairs and set alarm when removed
- Umbrellas not seen as a critical element
- If chairs are movable, they should be easily moved
- Perhaps a combination with fixed and movable furniture
- Multi uses for stage good idea – i.e. water feature
- Perhaps use movable furniture to test out configuration of café furniture that would be made permanent
- 6 tables
- Smaller garbage cans needed
- Service access of memorial with layby an option
- The group prefers option 2 (ribbon) as it is not as forced

GROUP 2 ACTIVITIES

East

- Allow for southerly expansion of Meekison into east courtyard and enliven breezeway to the east
- Attention to programming to ensure it is used
- Careful location of garbage and services so not intrusive to the users
- Locate knoll more centrally so it is a/the focal point
- Protect knoll from wind w/plantings
- Ribbon design much more successful for organic nature plantings and contemplative activities and features
- Explore bike parking in place of parking stalls on East Mall
- Explore rain water detention and expressing and celebrating it through the organic east courtyard e.g. take the Memorial Rd runoff and run it on other rain source through the east courtyard
- Dry creek expression when not raining
- Permanent seating that promotes conversation versus movable that has no steward

- Explore semi-movable seating
- Rain protection to be provided through good tree choice w/bench below and canopy off future expansion of Meekison
- Where is the hammock?
- Movable courtyard seating only in west courtyard

West

- Art areas needed for rotating display
- Develop night time scenario
- Ribbon w/movable chairs allow very good face-to-face
- Operating hours of the café are important
- Prune to open views to north
- Wireless in courtyard very important
- Mound v. good in north corner v.g w/seating built into mound w/good drainage

Overall

- Increase connection between courtyards (e.g. augment w/features that connect such as stronger path and strong ribbon)
- Ribbon could be a branding for arts; could extend to outer edges of Buchanan complex and beyond
- Ribbon could be lite or a focus for lighting welcoming
- Lighting and/or ribbon could be used to help knit the complex together and bring life

GROUP 3 HERITAGE

In the West Courtyard, heritage review more germane, since it was the space with the original strong design intent; the East Courtyard had much less original design thought put into it, making it an environment more accepting of new design thinking.

West

- Good heritage conservation principle: Work with the strengths of the original design, and layer with subtle interventions for accommodation of contemporary needs.
- Orthogonal grid is key to the original design
- Conservation best practices would be to use the grid, rather than introducing new geometry
- Original design integrates landscape and architecture as a single, integrated whole
- Original function as 'great room' of seriousness and formality
- Original intent: paved room w/nature beyond. The 2 knit together at the water feature
- Rhodos and Japanese maples to be removed to open up views to north
- The use of materials in the expression of paved room vs. nature beyond
- A place of great stature unlike any other place on campus
- A consistent use of orthogonal language

- In a single gesture to change space, cover the west courtyard (and maintain original design)
- An overlay is key but w/consideration of: contemporary function/meeting current needs and to what degree you take it... (the overlay)
- Original notion of sculpture garden only if the sculpture makes the space memorable. If curated, adds to the dignity of the space.
- Seats as sculpture (e.g. MOMA)
- To support informal life, but not informal play more of a dignified space changes to support this - yet Smithsonian courtyard supports both
- Original location of water feature creates threshold (vs. extending plaza further north)
- Sculpture and potential competition w/other programme activities more ephemeral?
- Temporal? Artist in residence?
- Start a tradition of high caliber art installations e.g. a rotating/annual competition
- Environmental overlay e.g. use of materials, water
- Is a range of social seating places needed?
- What is the monolithic scale
- Wasn't broken down into smaller parts
- The life/activities create the non-orthogonal spaces...

East

- A new narrative, not necessarily connected to west as 1 space formal spaces w/elevated, civic spaces

- Functioning at the level of the everyday of the formal events

Commentary on the 2 options presented

1. General – Departure vs. overlay

- Looking at things in plan only can lead to missing of opportunities
- How literal to make a functional overlay; how much is seen in materials?
- What might the space be like in Nov/Dec?

2. Linear option

- Replaces a substantial area of the original gridded pavement, rather than being a subtle overlay – not ideal conservation of heritage character
- Landscape forged into being one continuous space with buildings separate from that landscape – misrepresents the distinct histories and qualities of the two courtyard spaces

3. Ribbon option

- More of an overlay over the original than the linear option – potentially better from the perspective of conservation of heritage character
- Ribbon reads that the existing geometry lacks seating spaces
- Assumes existing formality needs to be softened does it need to be softened?

- Seating on the east side was part of the original design, but it never happened... (partly b/c of shelter?)
- Informality of organic form: does the informality necessarily have to be from the built elements, or can it be generated by the people within the space? E.g. movable furniture vs. the fixed ribbon.
- What formal activities take place here?
- To accommodate formal use while also providing informal spaces
- Perhaps ribbon's informality is better suited to the qualities of the East Courtyard?
- Desired conservation of character would indicate the need for a subtle transformation of the West Courtyard
- Principle: to work w/the strengths of the existing and transform it w/subtle interventions
- The least amount one can do with the greatest effect?
- Ask how necessary are various big design moves: e.g. introducing mound? Changing location of water feature?
- West courtyard: a surface as well as a space
- To participate in a history/tradition

Conclusions from all participants

- Areas to sit down comfortably
- Provide rain protection to promote social activities and programming
- Cover should have outdoor feeling/subtle

- Forgotten spaces – seek to improve w/lighting, seating?
- Nature of café to be discussed
- Meekison serves function of beer
- Food Services upscale café
- Connection/coordinating w/Chan activities
- Upscale like Perugia and Ike's
- West courtyard – intensity of overlay
- Need to create sub spaces
- East edge important
- Day and night overlay
- Night buildings light dominate therefore has low lighting for way finding
- Ribbon has an organizing theme
- Use imagery to help define experience of the place and overlay
- Embrace the (historic-lay)
- Explore less cartoonish version of ribbon theme
- Needs boldness to speak to Renew. New life
- Need to create a theme that builds continuity (address the disconnection)
- Dynamic exchange between new expression that connects courtyard and allows preserves the heritage values of the place
- Transcend and include
- Not just an aesthetic pretty up
- Make sure that the east courtyard is not underused – heavy on programming
- Seating = more outdoor classroom space

- Increase attention to lighting
- Trees in east courtyard to be utilized as rain protection
- Utilize original geometry with blending/overlay of ribbon design rather than departing from the original design
- Lighten up ribbon intervention (lower the intensity)
- Provide a place for faculty to congregate
- Provide for night activities/connect with Chan Centre
- Ribbon concept should be natural evolution - include but transcend the original idea of rectilinear courtyard
- Look into repairing modern architecture concept by providing more comfortable and inhabitable spaces (repair vs. remove)
- Students and faculty prefer ribbon concept – even a usage of a more distinct colour (e.g. purple ribbon – arts)
- More boldness but at the same time sophistication
- Provide imagery to support design ideas (e.g. photos, sketches)

Preferred Option

Resource Team Session 3

The preferred 'Ribbon Concept' was refined in response to the Resource Team's feedback, linking the forms directly with the orthogonal geometries of the courtyard and preserving the rectilinear form of the water feature. The following plan and character images were presented at the third and final Resource Team Session.

connecting to culture

the ribbon pathway extends to Main Mall, the Chan Centre and the Belkin Art Gallery beyond.

extended sightlines

selective pruning and the relocation of the Japanese Maples and rhododendrons opens up views to the north.

knoll

contoured grass area provides seating opportunities.

water feature

an elevated platform functions as an informal stage and echoes the original reflecting pool.

covered café

a proposed transparent canopy accommodates greater patio use throughout the seasons.

social seating

a curving edge along east side of courtyard provides a variety of seating opportunities, taking advantage of a sunny microclimate.

lighting feature

the covered breezeway provides an opportunity to creating a theatrical entry into the courtyard.

accessible ramp

accommodates wheeled access to the south.



bicycle parking

concentrated along the north edge of the courtyard.

mound

social gathering area, positioned to take best advantage of the sun.

rain garden

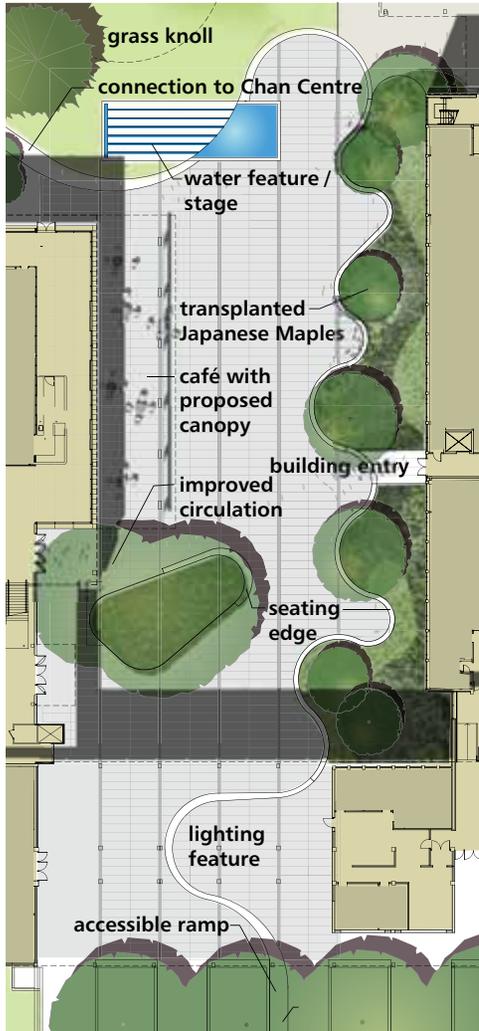
collects and infiltrates rainwater.

seating alcoves

curved seating compositions carve out quiet, sheltered areas for smaller gatherings.

memorial grove

memorial trees and Rhododendrons transplanted from the west courtyard are gathered to support the contemplative nature of the east courtyard.



WEST COURTYARD

1:500



VIEW TO SOUTH



WEST COURTYARD - VIEW TO NORTH



⬆ EAST COURTYARD

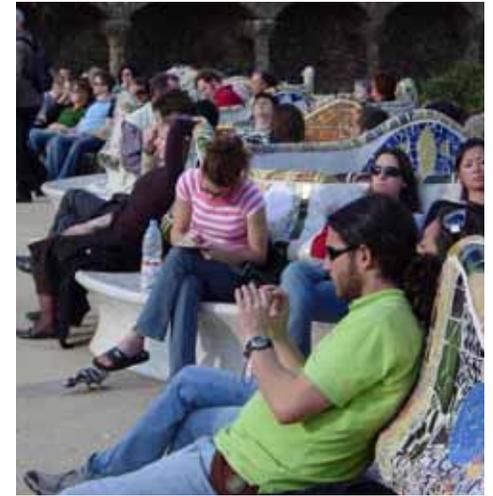
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VIEW TO NORTHWEST



EAST COURTYARD - VIEW TO SOUTHEAST



social seating

the organic form of the seating edges provides a variety of social environments, including outward-oriented spots to observe activity in the courtyard, and inward-oriented pockets where smaller groups may gather. The extended linear form allows people to shift with the sun, and accommodates larger group seating during events.



night character

as night falls, the character of the ribbon seating edge may be transformed to become a glowing feature that animates the courtyard in the evenings and dim winter afternoons.



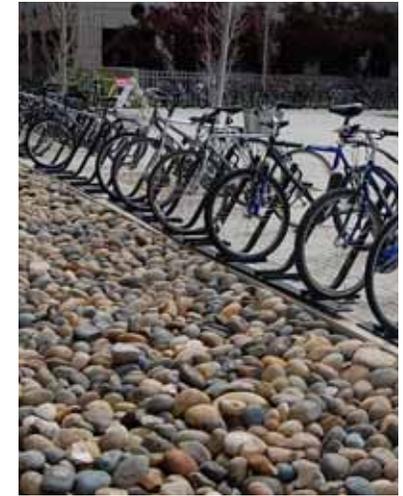
water

the original reflecting pool has been re-created, bringing the reflective, refined and playful qualities of water back into the courtyard.



moveable furniture

a limited number of cafe chairs and tables balances the need for flexibility with the challenges of security and storage.



animated spaces

the theatricality of movement through and in the courtyards may be emphasized through the animated form on the ribbon emerging from the ground plane, the activity of bikes through the courtyards, and programmed events. A light feature may create a theatrical entry into the courtyard, and the faces of Buchanan A and D may be used as projection screens.

Resource Team Responses

West Courtyard

- Planting on edge of west courtyard now provides more continuity
- Café canopy now provided, as well as six moveable tables and chairs
- More heritage elements are integrated (retention of existing surface, redesign of pool)
- Water feature in west courtyard now has same dimensions as original pool, but moved to the west to improve circulation; higher level is both water feature & stage
- Geometry of ribbon has been tightened up to respond to the geometry of the grid; provides a variety of seating opportunities in both courtyards

East Courtyard

- Mound in east courtyard kept in same location as it best responds to sun
- A possible “rain garden” has been added to the east courtyard
- Memorial trees clustered to the south of east courtyard, and maybe the perimeter

East Courtyard - Character

- Seating in centre to be more natural and contemplative in character e.g. stepping stone path, smaller seats vs. benches
- Character around seating is important
- Broadcast “contemplative”
- Looser seating arrangements. Look to use grade/slopes to achieve this.
- Create intimacy and privacy for individuals or smaller groups
- Explore using a windbreak near Buchanan Tower. Examine wind patterns beside tower
- Retain surface paving in front of Buchanan D where possible and broadcast “renewal” with new interventions.

Review of the Preferred Concept based on User Activities and Directions Vignettes:

- Water feature in east courtyard as Rain Garden
- Seek to capture rainwater runoff from west courtyard and Memorial Road. Express dry creek at other times
- Expression of water drainage should be used as a

way to highlight the distinct nature/character of the 2 courtyards.

- Re-instate original pool shape in west courtyard
- Does existing pool location really have to be moved?
- Strengthen the retention or the expression of the reflecting pool and allow sufficient vehicle and pedestrian passage. Ensure safety at night.
- Planter at entrance to Buchanan A
- Explore retention vs. changing shape of planter
- Consider movement issues e.g. modify existing to respond to new realities
- Café canopy
- Explore extending rain protection all the way to Buchanan B

Ribbon Character

- 3 separate natures of ribbon
- Ribbon character to clearly convey “something has happened” as an overlay
- Shape should be distinguishable but compatible with orthogonal grid
- Light up at night

- Purple is an Arts colour. Red would contrast with green landscaping
- Explore colour, texture and boldness
- Needs to be comfortable to sit on
- Material palette, patterns, colour needs to work with architecture
- Various images were shown to indicate options for the character & material for the ribbon

Bikes

- Aggressively explore bike shelter parking in existing parking lot east of Buchanan D. Make it proper bike parking and celebrate it

Conclusions and Next Steps

- Accept revised principles with the addition of Character Defining Elements
- Response to revised ‘ribbon’ concept was positive, with comments noted above
- An open house will be held in September and Resource Team members will be notified

cafe special events perform
nnection knoll formal flexib
wanting memorial trees watc
sport seating quiet learning
activities classes celebration
platform buskers open bikes
grassy Chan Centre watching
heaters relax garden access
all **Buchanan Courtyards** ar
river evening flowers stage
culpture academic recreatio