

BUCHANAN COURTYARDS

SITE ANALYSIS DIAGRAMS May 14/2009 version

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### **Public Realm Design Principles**

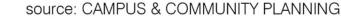
- Employ landscape treatments as the major unifying visual elements of the campus, using both manicured and natural treatments to create a cohesive whole.
- Embrace local vegetation and design for natural systems.
- Design for low, lifecycle, maintenance costs and GHG footprint.
- Create places and passageways 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.

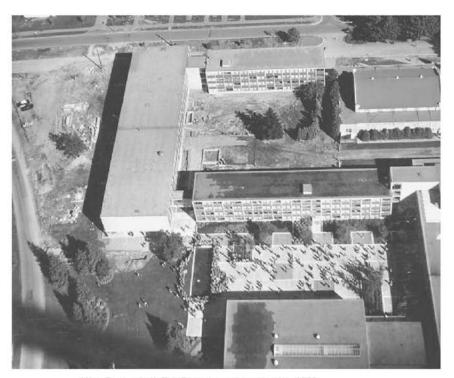
### **Objectives**

#### 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





West Courlyard with East Courtyard under construction, 1960





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

its southeast corne

(1958) Bottom: View of East Courtyard today



Birmingham & Wood Denise Cook Design

Statement of Significance

The University of British Columbia

**Buchanan Courtyards** 

1958-60

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

#### 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 rallies of the 60s and early 70s, which utilized the court as a conveniently raised stage adjacent to the mall.

#### 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.

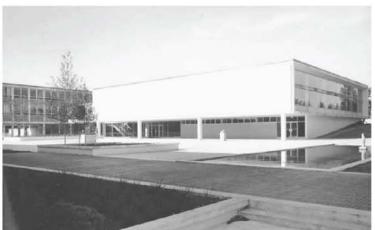
The courtyard is also valued for its site-specific engagement with the wider natural landscape that is the hallmark of Vancouver Modernism: the courtyard was deliberately designed to embrace the mountain view that defines the north end of the campus, making the reflecting pool and lawn intermediary elements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





#### 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





Top: View loday from West towards East Countyard Bottom: West end of Block D

#### 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**

#### West Courtyard



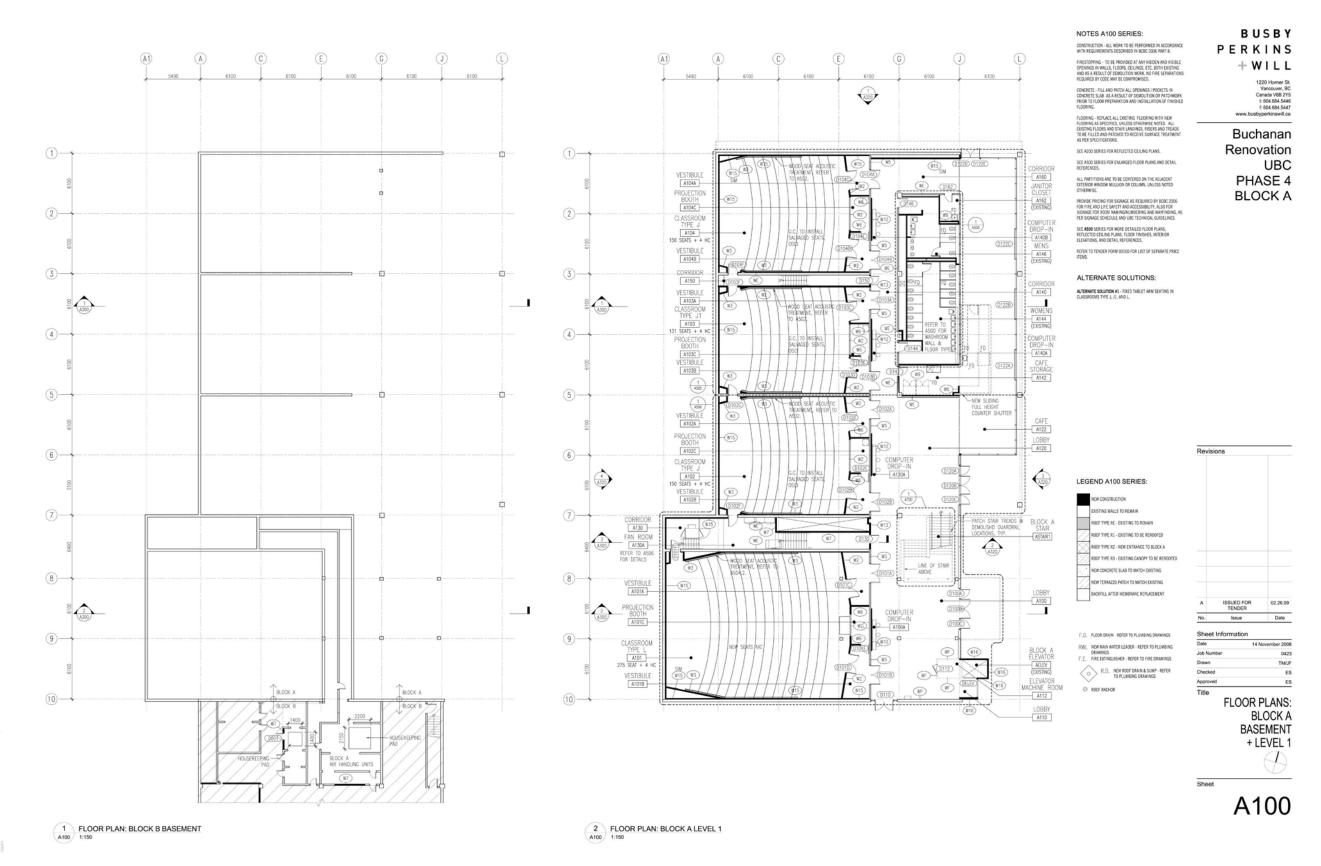






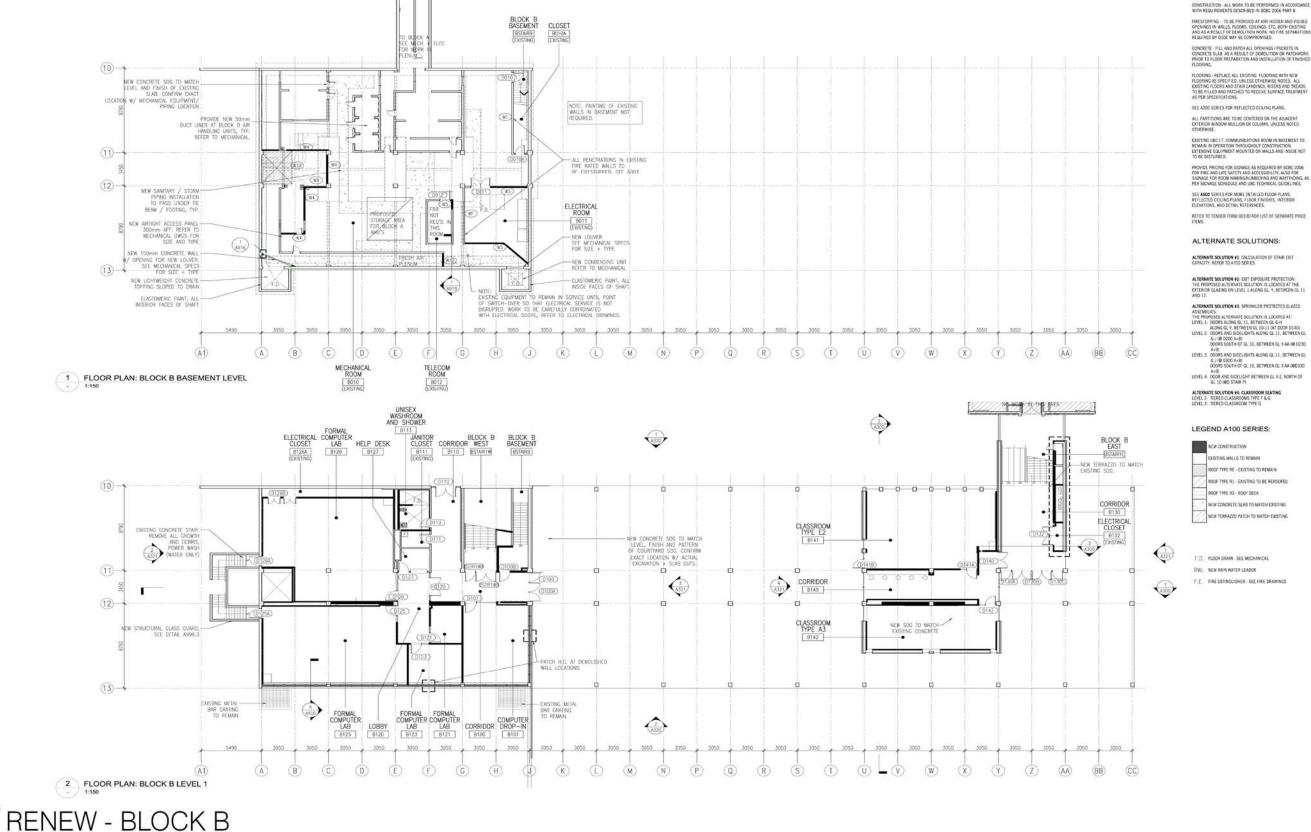


Sculpture in West Courtyard (196-)



**RENEW - BLOCK A** 

Site Analysis - Buchanan Courtyards
University of BC
11.05.2009



NOTES A100 SERIES:

FIRESTOPPING - TO BE PROVIDED AT ANY HIDDEN AND VISIBLE OPENINGS IN WALLS, FLOORS, CELLINGS, ETC. BOTH EXISTING AND AS A RESULT OF DEMOLTRON WORK, NO PIRE SEPARATIONS BEQUIRED BY CODE MAY BE COMPROMISED.

REFER TO TENDER FORM 00100 FOR LIST OF SEPARATE PRICE

A+8)
LEVEL 4: DOOR AND SIDELIGHT BETWEEN GL Y-Z, NORTH OF GL 10 (60 STAIR P)



F.D. FLOOR DRAIN - SEE MECHANICA

BUSBY

1220 Homer St. Vancouver, BC Canada V68 2Y5 1: 604.684.5446 f: 604.684.5447 www.busbyperkinswill.ca

Buchanan Renovation UBC

PHASE 3

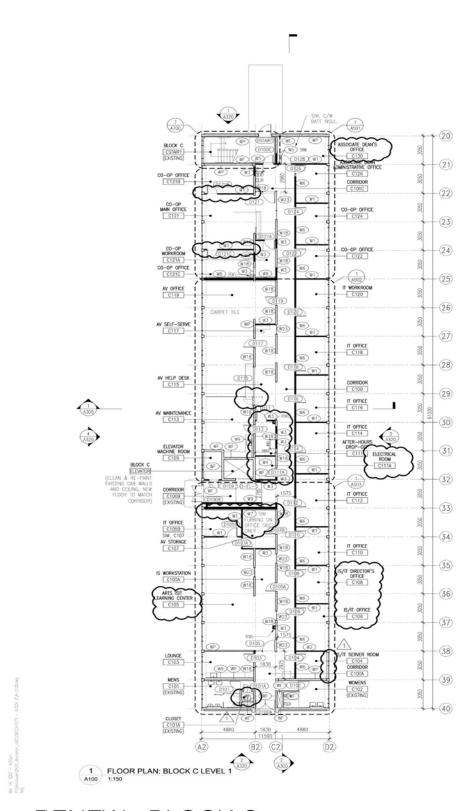
**BLOCK B** 

PERKINS + WILL

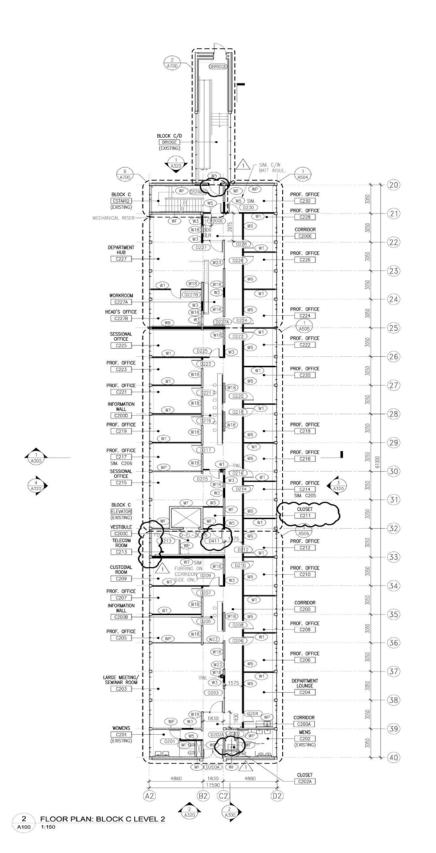
TEAM

FLOOR PLANS: **BLOCK B BASEMENT** + LEVEL 1

A100



RENEW - BLOCK C



#### NOTES A100 SERIES:

CONSTRUCTION - ALL WORK TO BE PERFORMED IN ACCORD
WITH REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN BOBC PART 8.

WALLS, FLOORS, CEILINGS, ETC. NO FIRE SEPARATIONS REQUIRED BY CODE MAY BE COMPROMISED.

RESILIENT FLOORING, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

EXISTING STUDENT LOCKERS - ALL STUDENT LOCKERS TO ASSESSED FOR RE-USABILITY. THE BEST QUALITY LOCKED BE CLEANDE AND REINSTALLED REFER TO PLANS FOR IN OF LOCKERS REQUIRED). UNUSED LOCKERS TO BE DISPO OF PER LEED REQUIREMENTS.

EXISTING DOES IT. SERVICES COMMUNICATIONS HOUSE REMAIN IN OPERATION THROUGHOUT CONSTRUCTION, EXTENSIVE EQUIPMENT NOUNTED ON THE WALLS AND II MUST NOT BE DISTURBED.

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ALL PARTIONS ARE TO BE CENTERED ON THE EXTERIOR WINDOW MULLION OR COLUMN, UN OTHERWISE.

#### UBC PHASE 2 BLOCK C

Buchanan Renovation

BUSBY

PERKINS + WILL

LEGEND A100 SERIES:



F.E. FIRE EXTINGUISHER CABINET - SEE FIRE DRAWINGS



 Sheet Information

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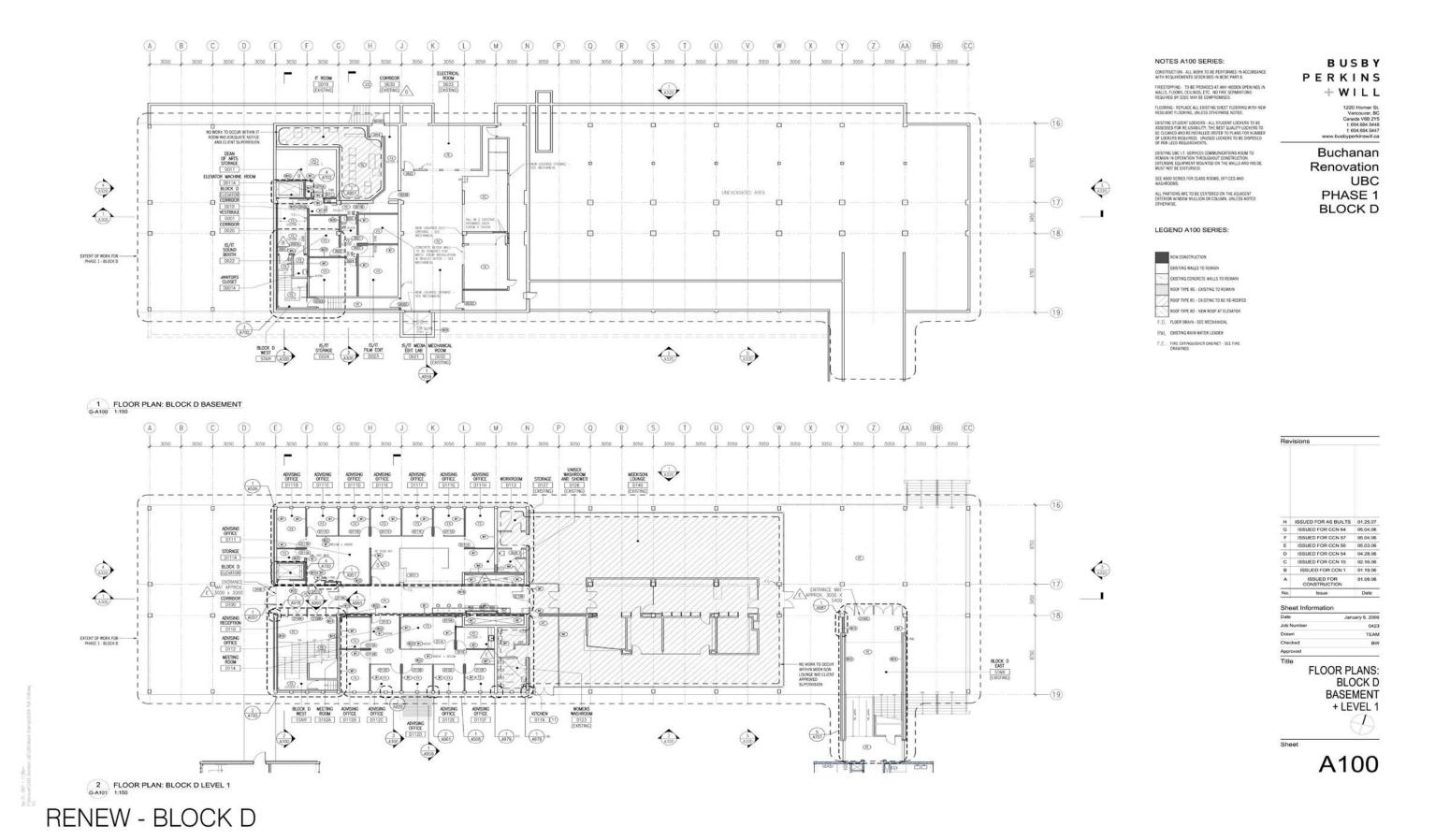
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FLOOR PLANS: BLOCK C LEVEL 1 + LEVEL 2

Shee

A100



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

G ST	1000		45		10
economy / economic	557	production	45	sociological	19
geography / geographic / geographical	382	theatre	44	digital	18
asia / asian	325	nation	43	income	18
social	324	structure	42	market	18
psychology / psychological	271	women	42	trade	18
french	260	classical	40	understand	18
philosophy / philosophical	242	human	40	democracy	17
engl	233	literacy	39	ethnographic	17
literature	204	text	39	feminist	17
china	203	america / american	38	sculpture	17
history	198	europe	37	fiction	16
anthropology / anthropological	194	paint	37	govern	16
language	183	design	36	jewish	16
political	168	math	36	non-heritage	16
cultural	164	war	36	relationship	16
chinese	150	britain / british	35	creative	15
culture	139	environ	34	draw	15
modern	134	family	34	east	15
research	121	korea / korean	34	health	15
write	113	latin	34	islam / islamic	15
contemporary	111	architecture	33	moral	15
work	110	comparative	32	phonetic	15
policy	104	present	32	poetry	15
politics	86	organization	31	print	15
relation	84	science	31	region	15
system	79	state	30	urban	15
society	78	thought	30	behaviour	14
international	76	ancient	29	consult	14
canada / canadian	73	public	29	nest	14
century	73	gender	28	north	14
historical	72	linguistic	28	theoretical	14
japan / japanese	72	spanish	28	cinema	13
(B)	70	intensive	27	columbia	13
german visual	70	growth	24	india	13
	69	medieval	24	interdisciplinary	13
change	67	russian	24	listen	13
first		studio	24	open	13
problem	61		24	performance	13
grammar	60	survey media	23		13
tradition / traditional	60		23	syntax website	13
greek	59	techniqu	23		12
art	57	world	22	costume hindi	12
context	57	logic		institution	12
religion / religious	56	pronunciation	21		
translation	56	drama	20	intellectual	12
reading	55	heritage	20	labour	12
skill	53	knowledge	20	mandarin	12
archaeological / logy	52	law	20	physical	12
oral	49	period	20	processe	12
roman / rome	49	revolution	20	punjabi 	12
italian	47	semantic	19	city	11



























relative student populations of departments in arts

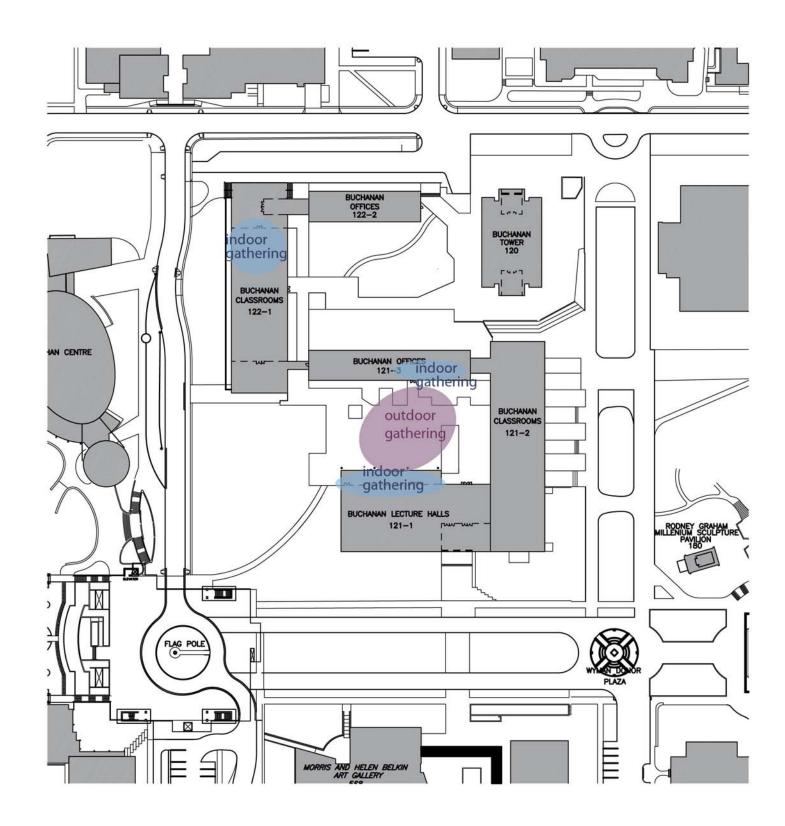




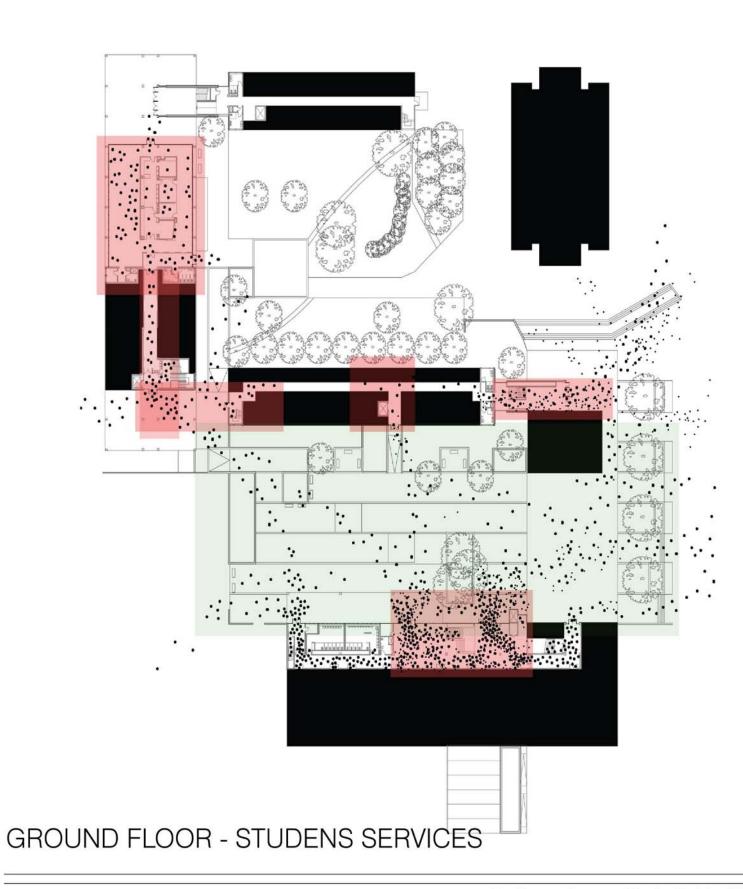


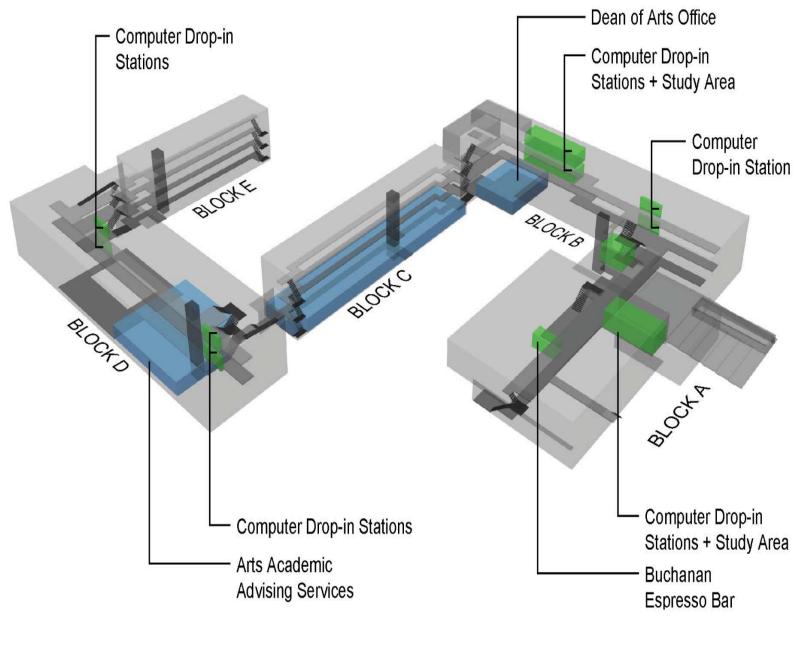






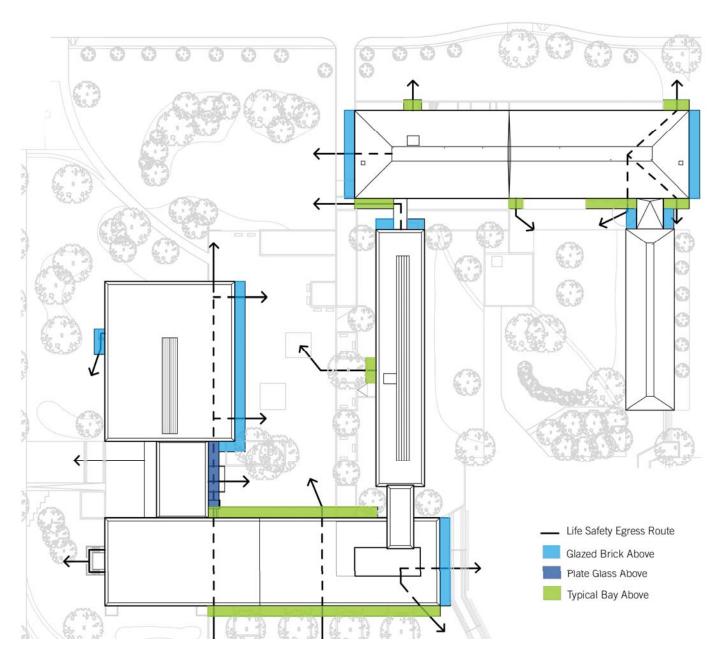






provide a healthy, comfortable, safe environment for working and teaching: clean air, access to fresh air and sunlight, user-controlled systems, access to nature, good acoustics

FIGURE 3.1.4.1: ENVELOPE UPGRADE DIAGRAM

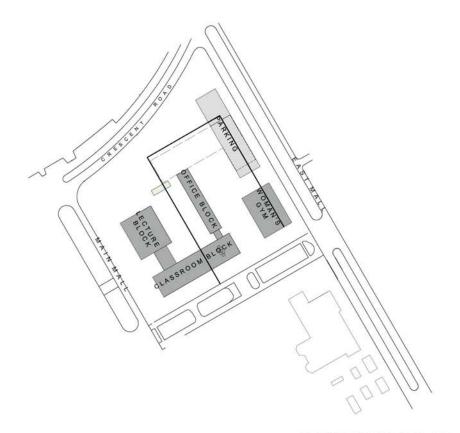


### **BUCHANAN RENEW - SIGNIFICANT SPACE PROGRAMMING**

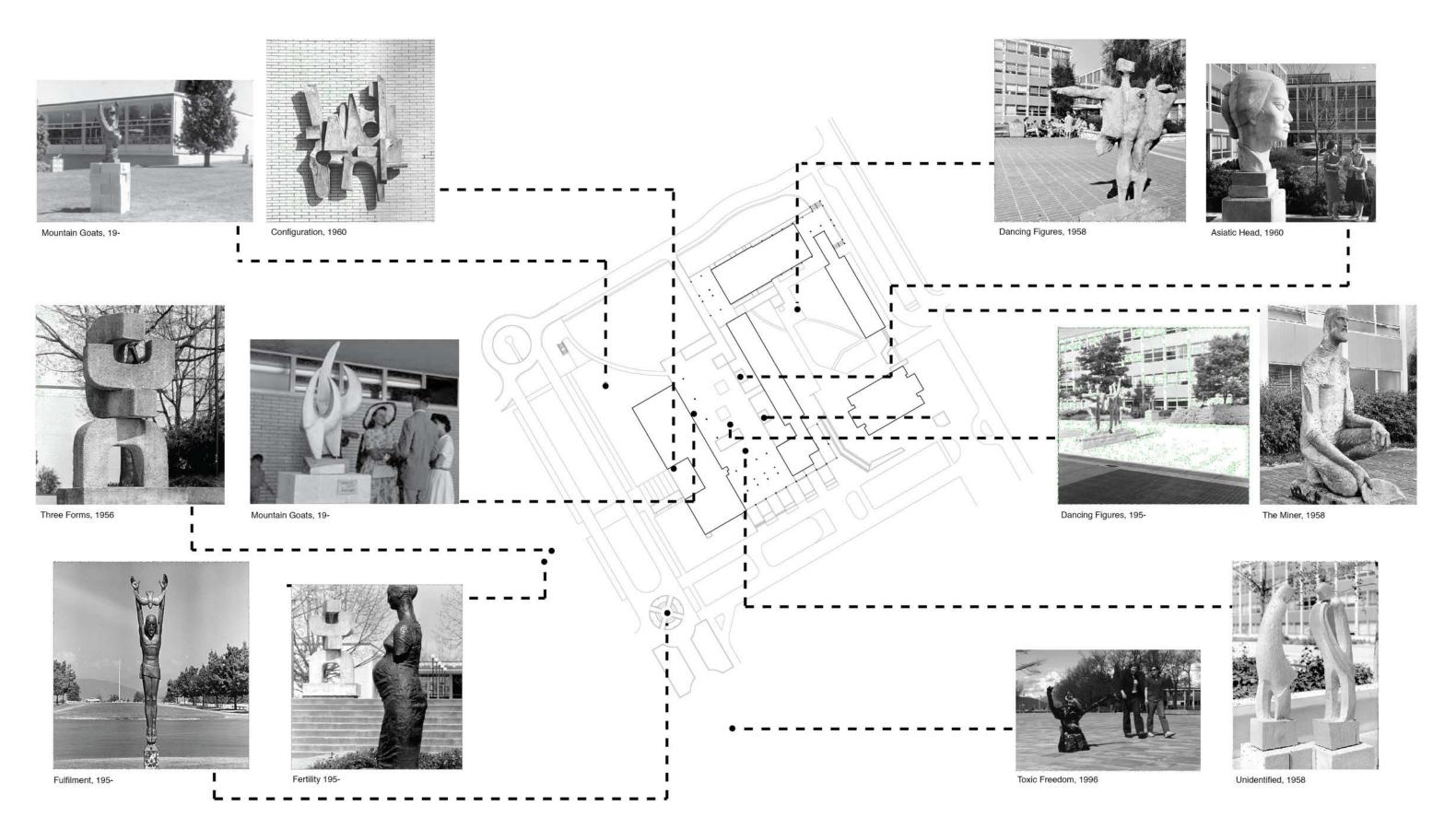
**BUCHANAN RENEW -ENVELOPE UPGRADE** 



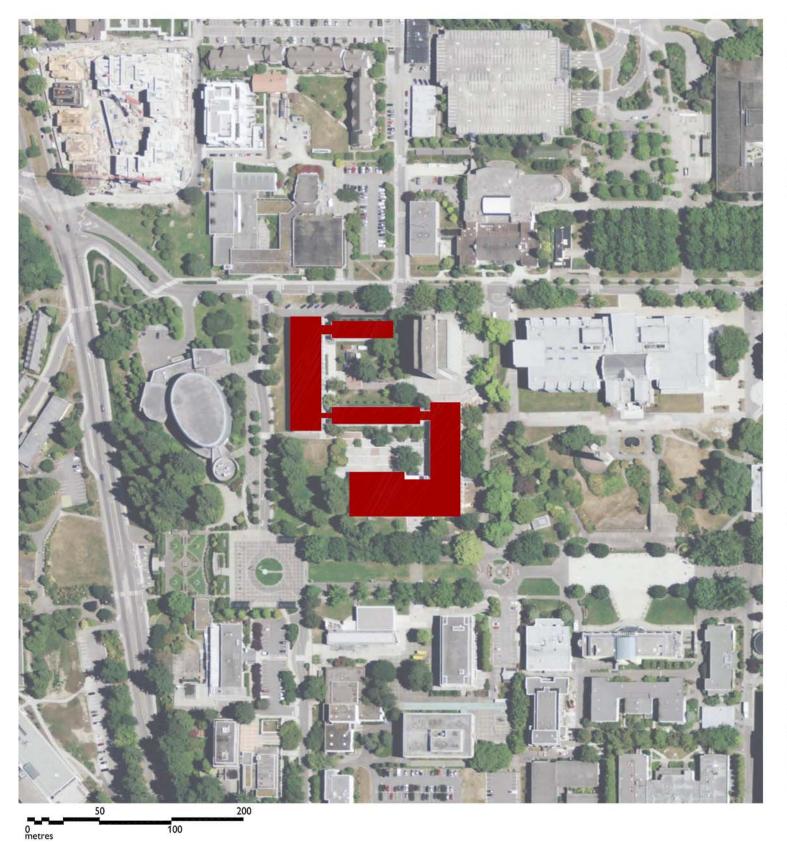
VIEWS ALONG UNFOLDED SECTION

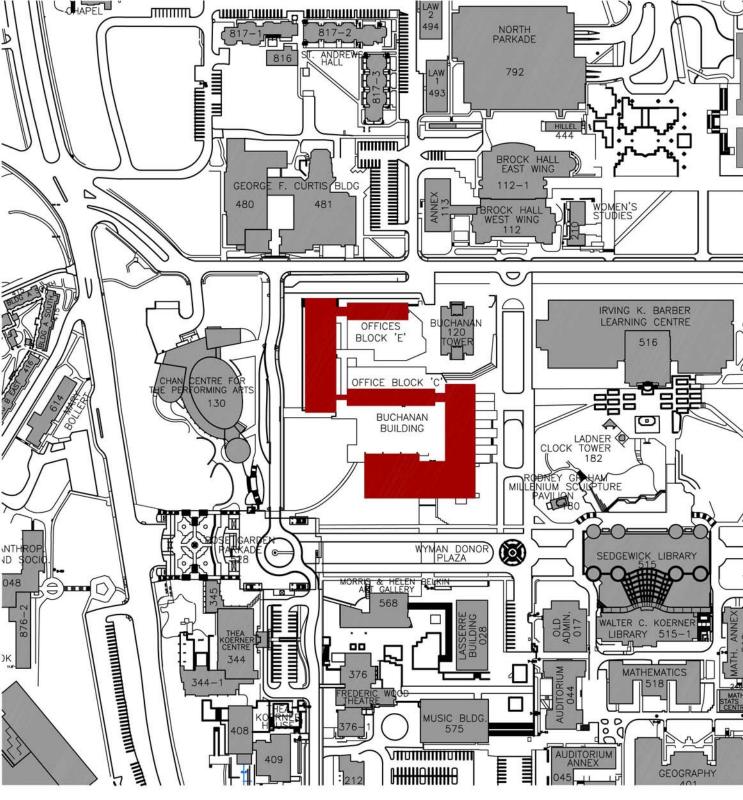


BUCHANAN BUILDING PLAN: 1958 BLOCKS A, B & C



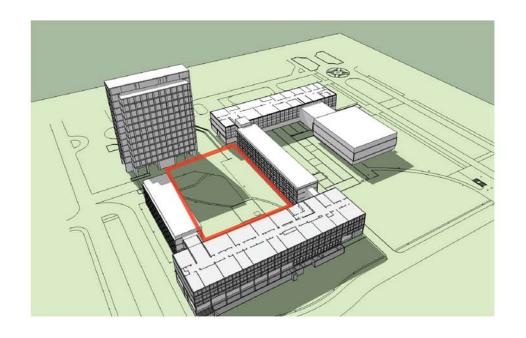
### HISTORIC OUTDOOR SCULPTURE





**CONTEXT - AERIAL PHOTO** 

CONTEXT - CAMPUS BUILDINGS



Buchanan east courtyard











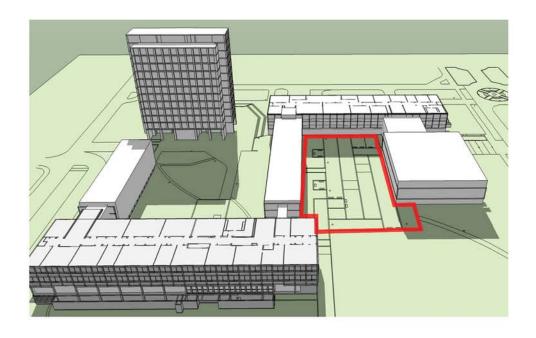












Buchanan west courtyard











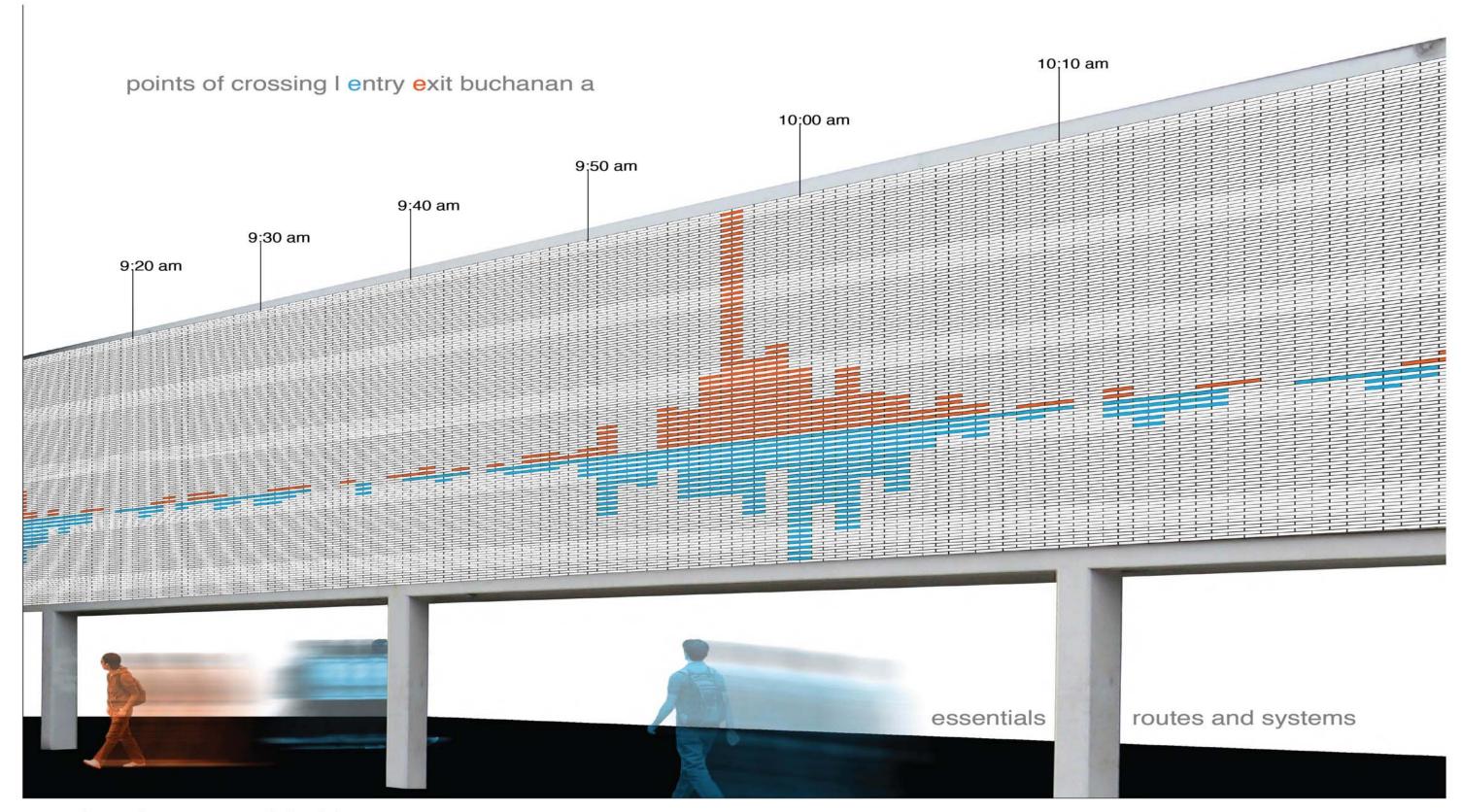




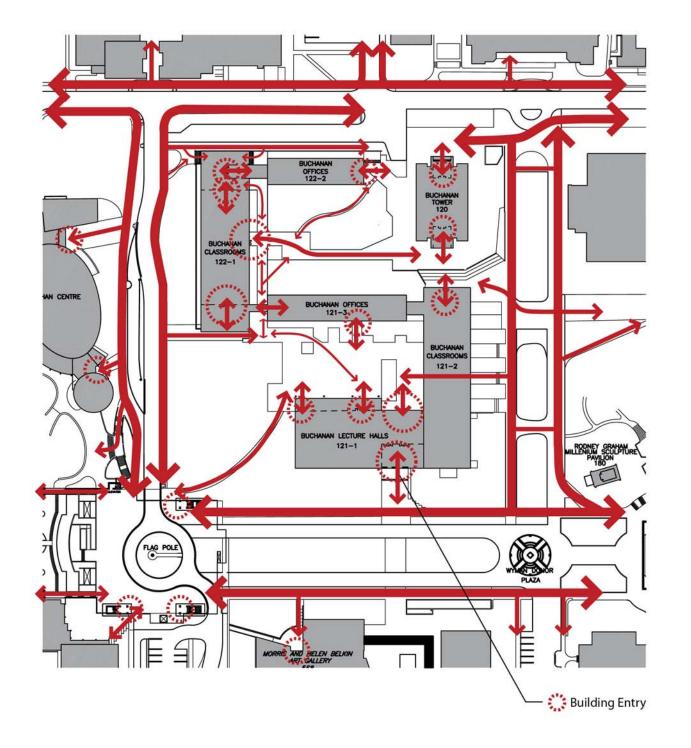


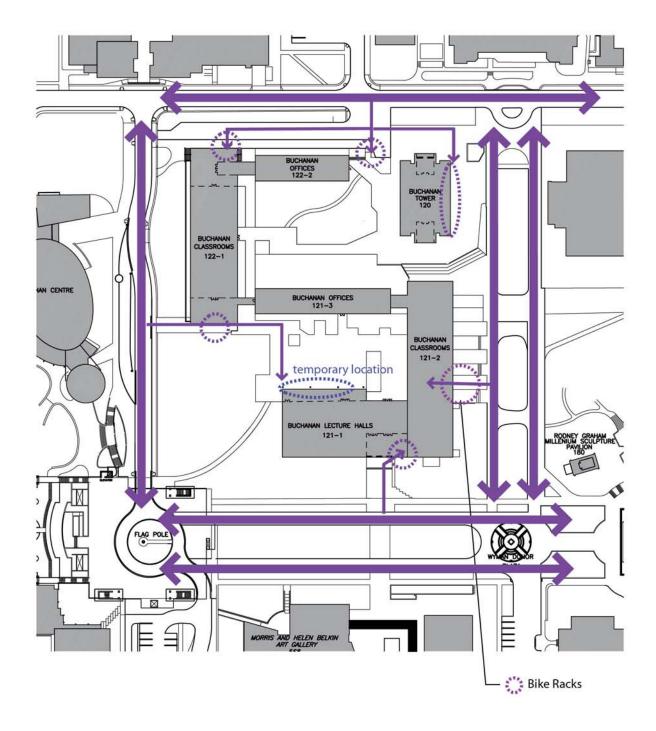


SITE PHOTOS AND KEY SIGHTLINES



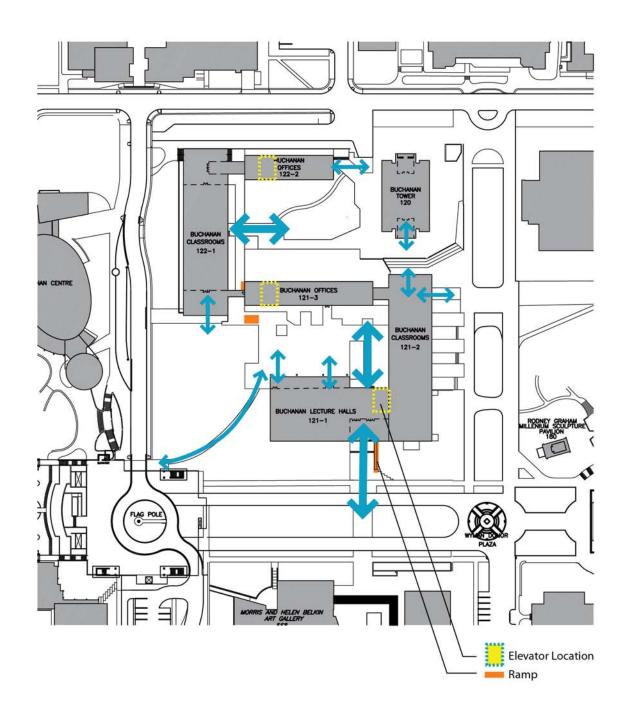
### INTENSITY OF DAILY ACCESS

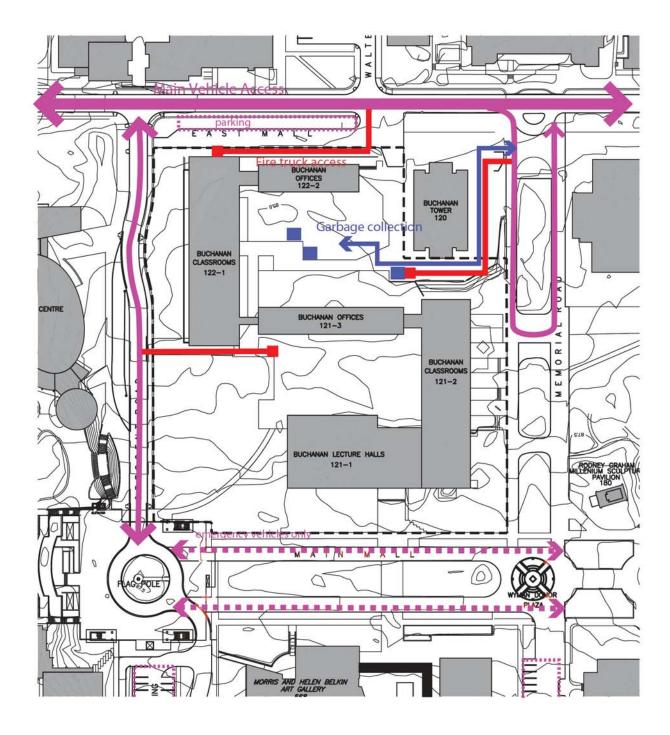




PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION AND GROUND FLOOR PLAN

**BICYCLE CIRCULATION** 

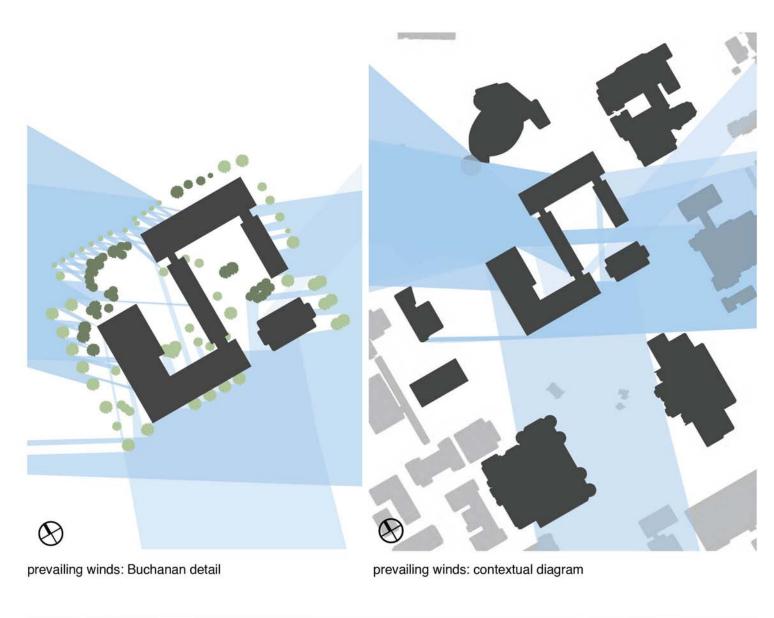




### **UNIVERSAL ACCESS**

VEHICLE CIRCULATION / Services

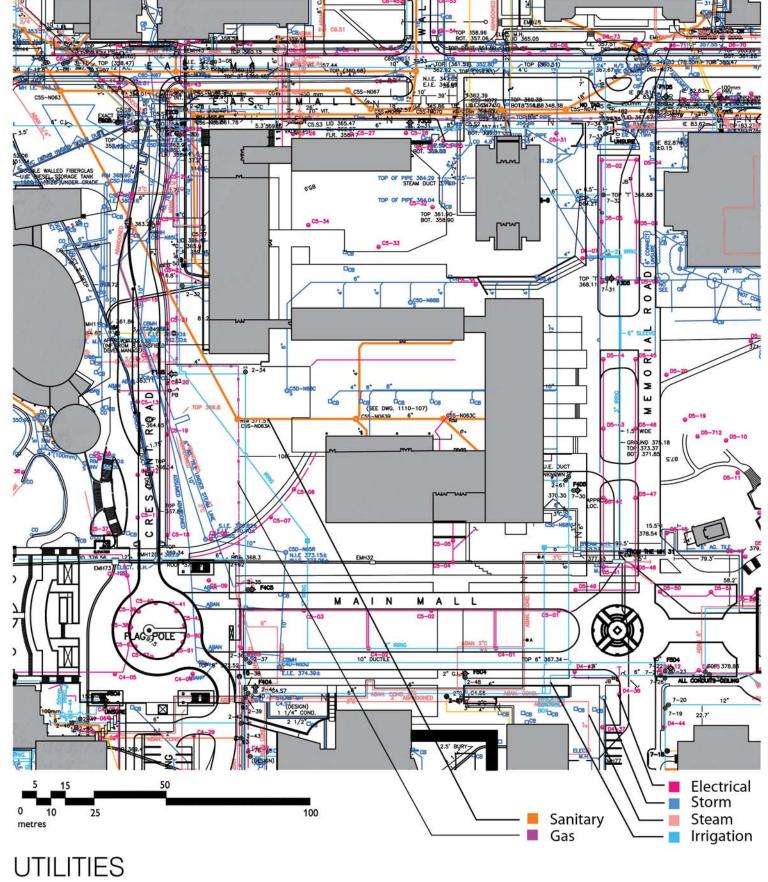


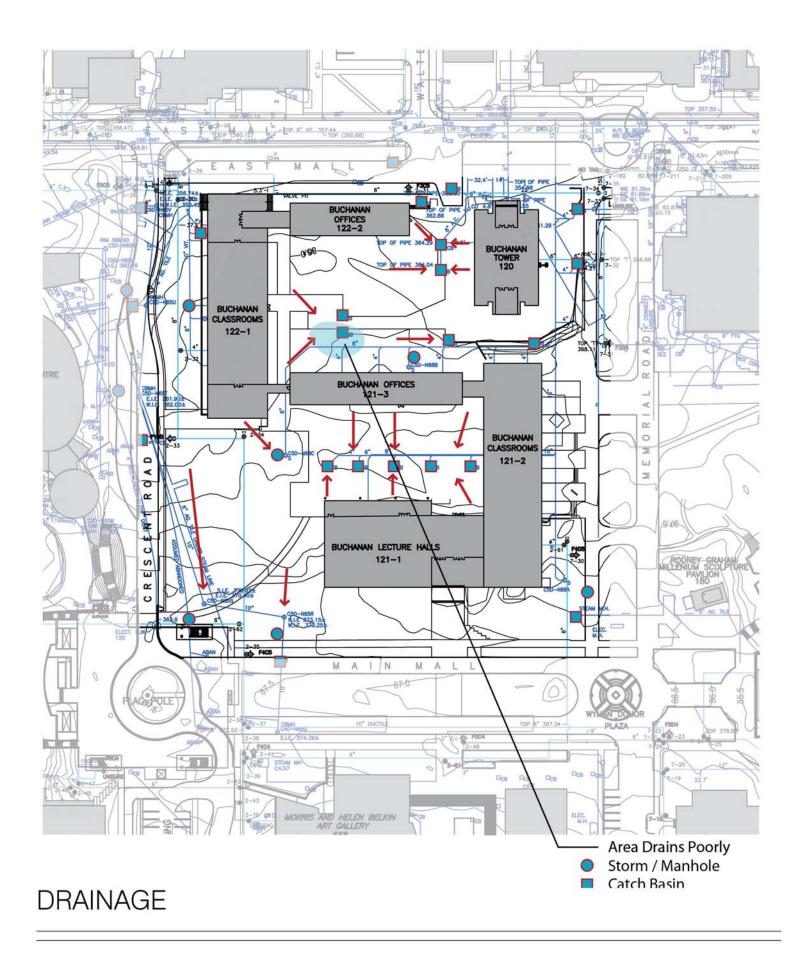


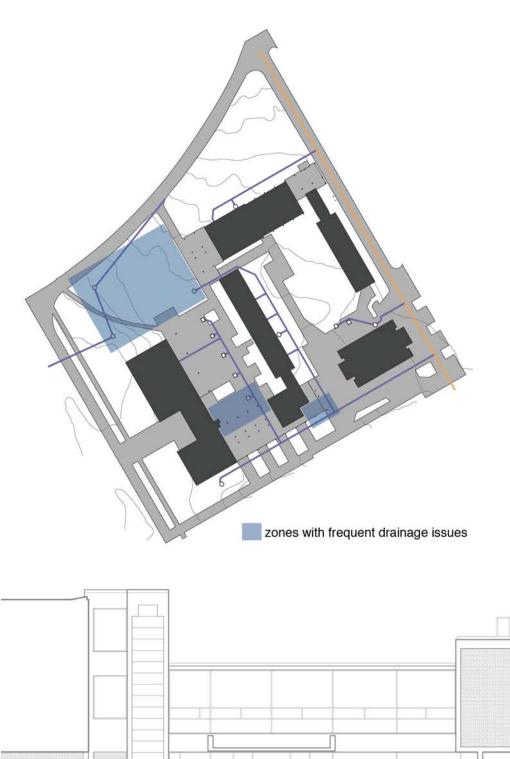
high intensity low intensity

### PREVAILING WINDS

source: Environmental Design 401 studio

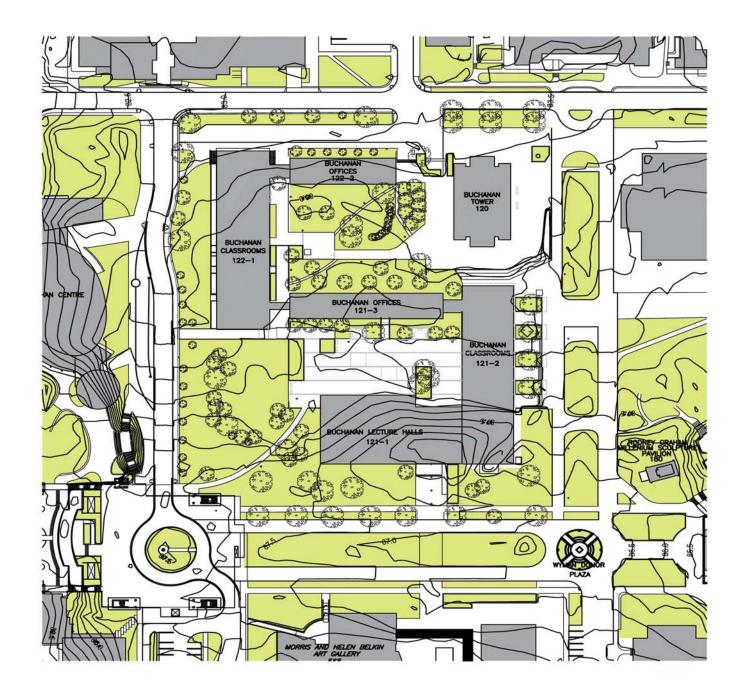


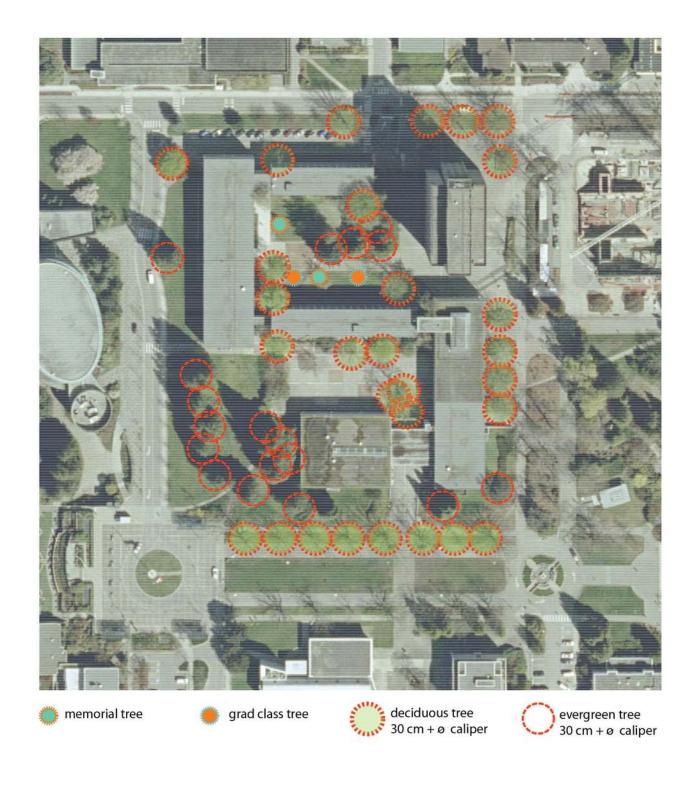






contextualizing monthly precipitation





TREE LOCATION

SIGNIFICANT TREES





FIGURE 3.1.6.2: ITEM 2, 4 AND 5



FIGURE 3.1.6.2: ITEM 19



FIGURE 3.1.6.3: ITEM 8



FIGURE 3.1.6.4: ITEM 9



FIGURE 3 1 6 5: ITEM 13 AND 14

#### 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:

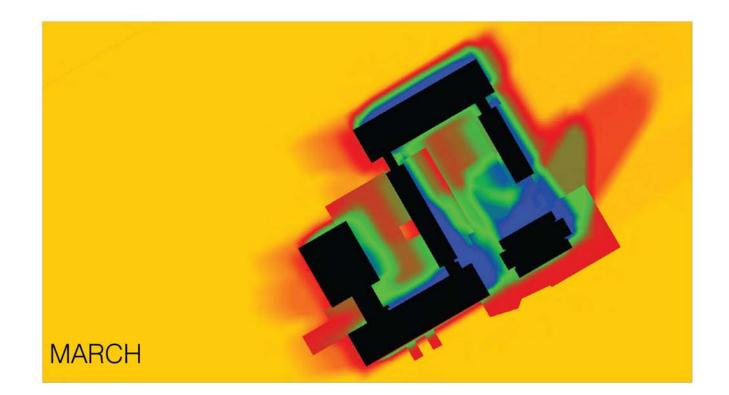
- 1. General: preserve existing plant material and open space. Prune where necessary, eliminating dead material and hazardous branches.
- Remove unsightly shrubs.
- Encourage moss to grow on all gravel roofs.
- Top all planters with 50 mm Nutri-mulch. Over-seed disturbed areas of lawn.
- General: remove 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.
- 8. Install two rows 500 mm X 500 mm concrete precise pavers with 50 mm grass joints on traffic generated cut-through paths.
- 9. 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.

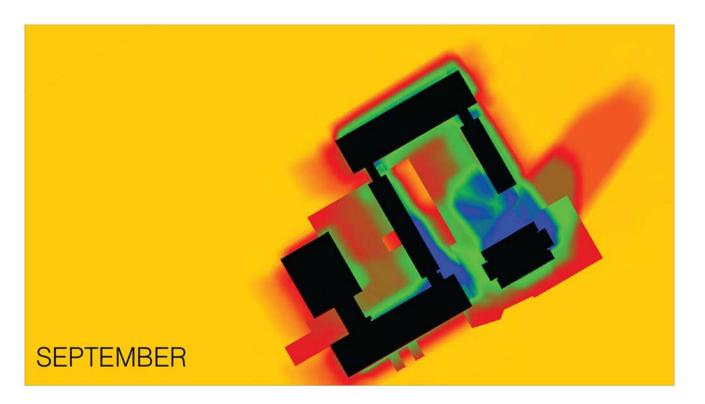
preserve legibility of original architecture

SITE DESIGN

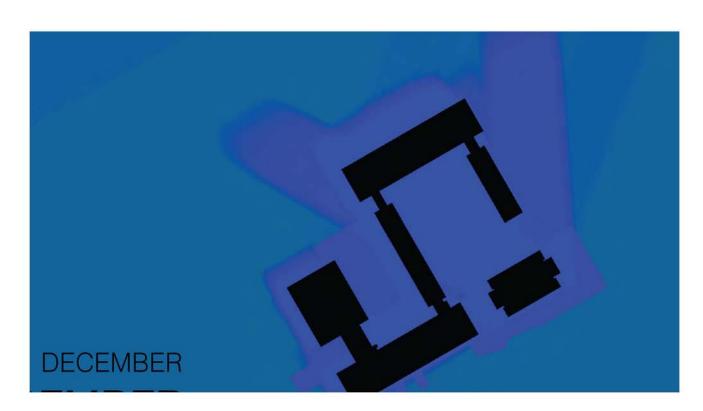
University of BC 11.05. 2009

Site Analysis - Buchanan Courtyards



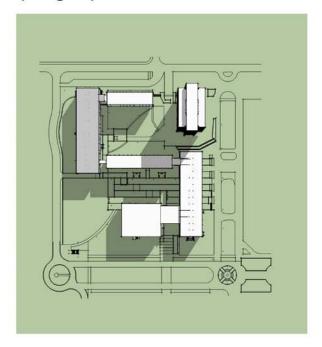






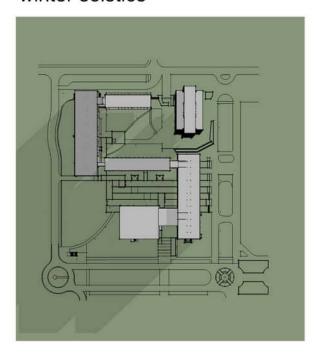
SOLAR GAIN

### spring equinox

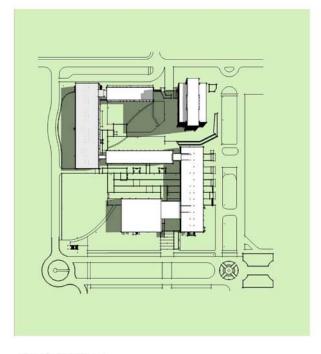


March 20 9 AM

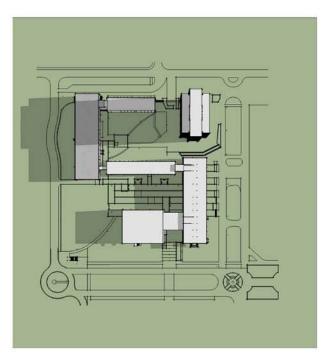
### winter solstice



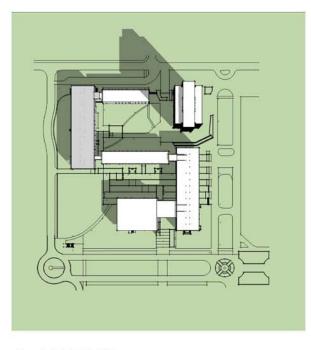
December 21 9 AM



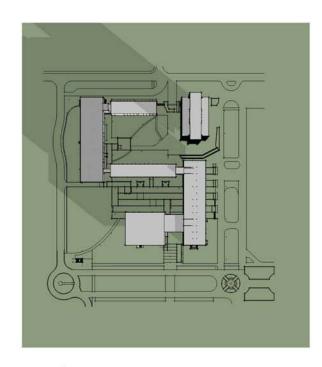
March 20 Noon



December 21 Noon

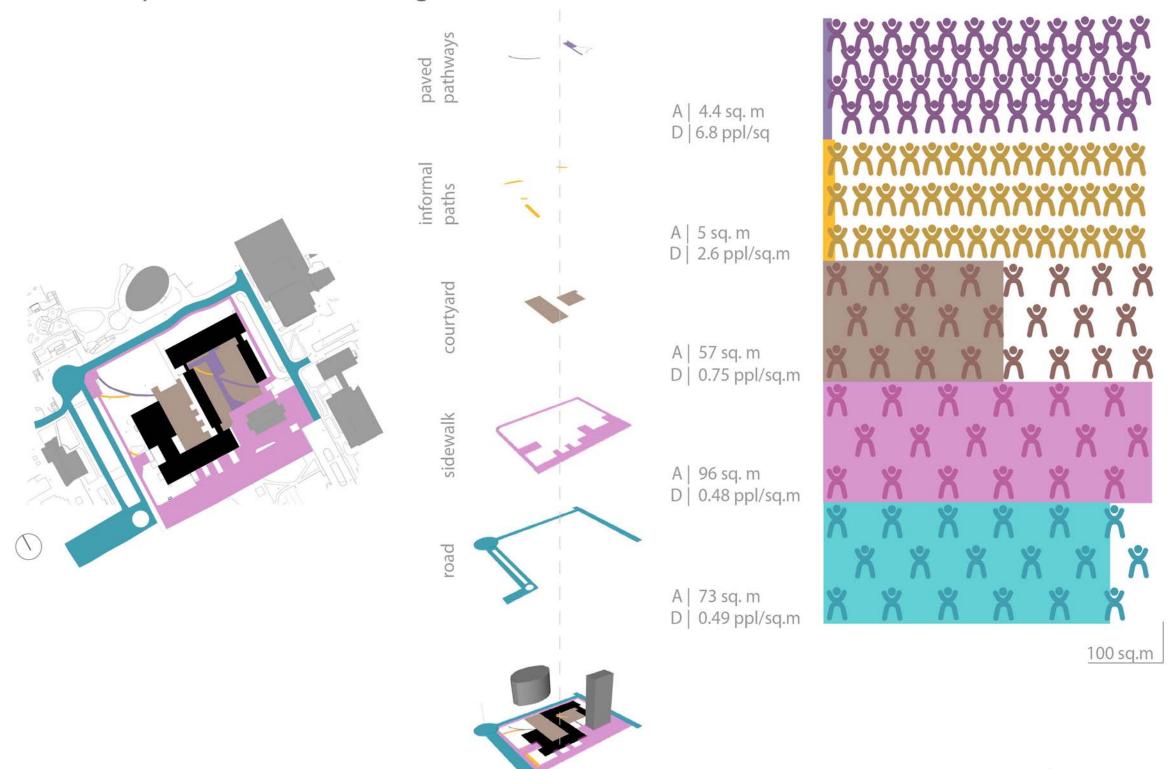


March 20 3 00 PM



December 21 300 PM

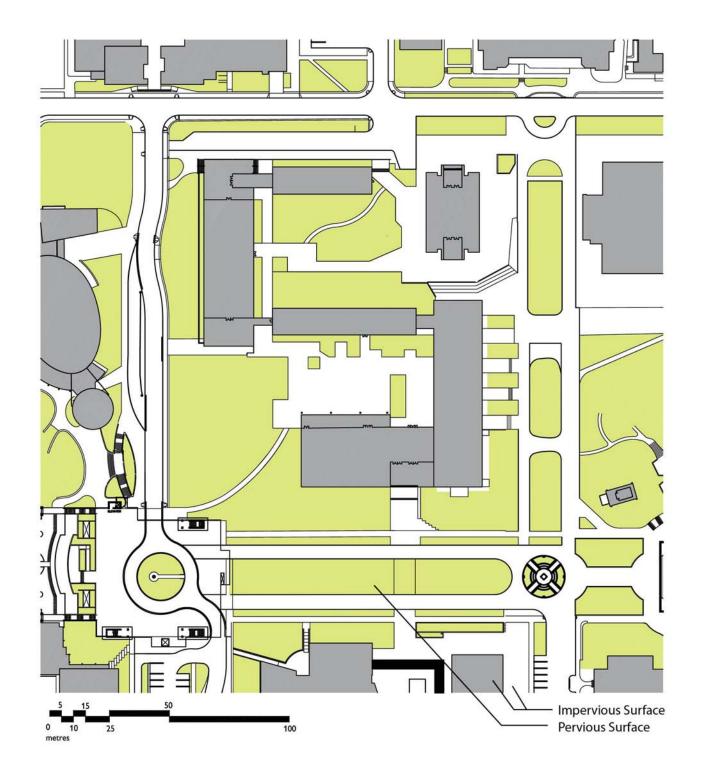
## buchanan prestinct area vs usage

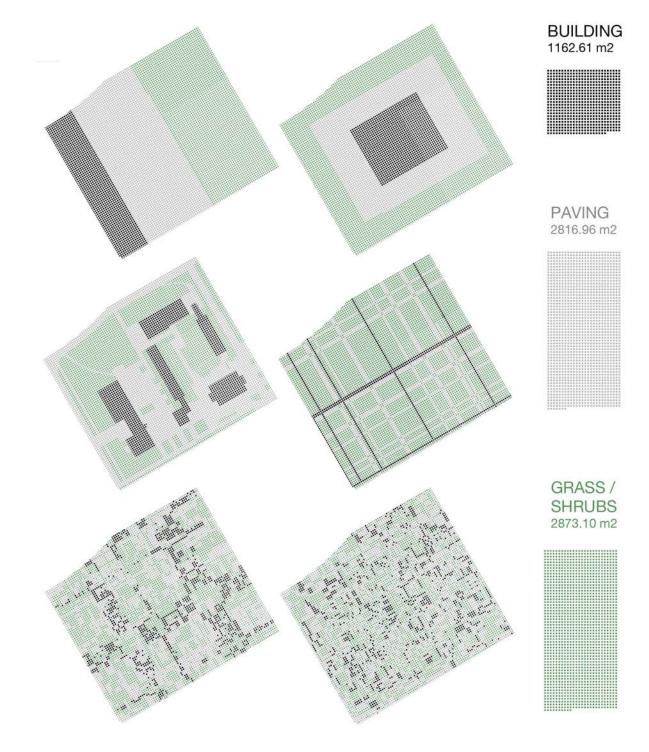


essentials roots + systems

### PUBLIC REALM MATERIALS

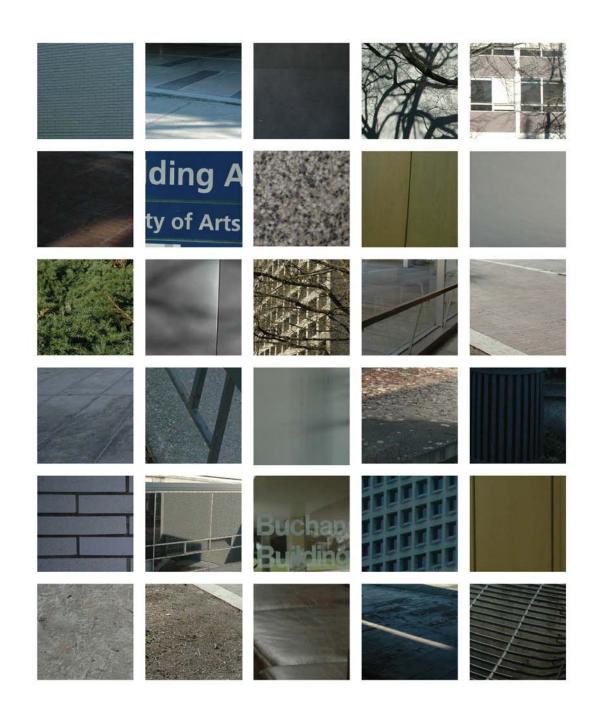
31





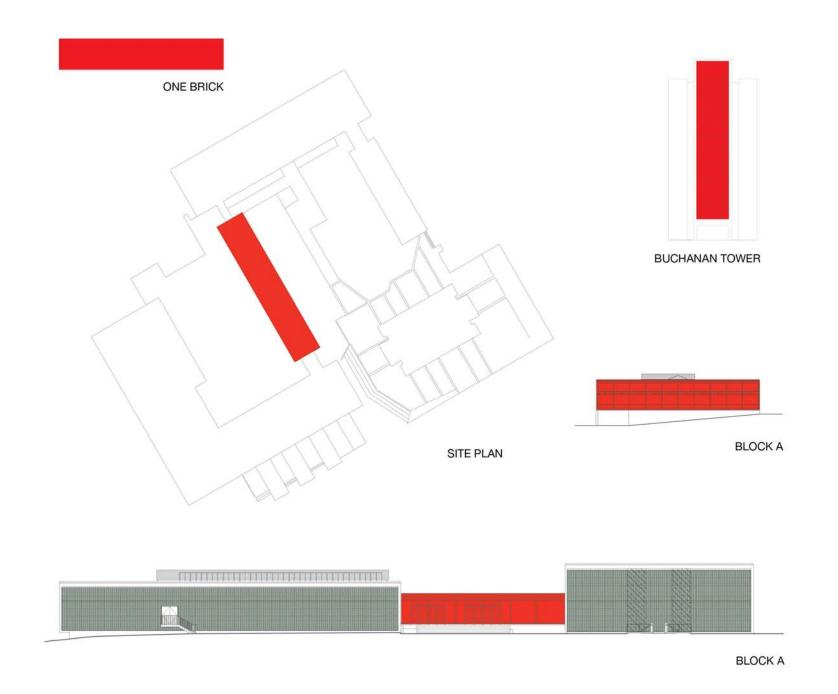
BUCHANAN SITE SURFACE MATERIAL AREA STUDY HYPER-RATIONALITY TOWARDS ENTROPY

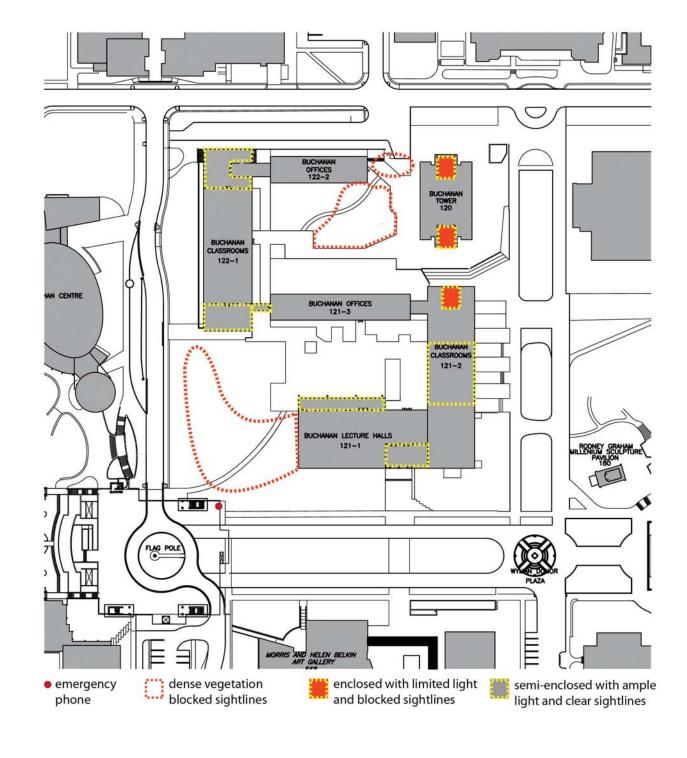
### PERVIOUS AND IMPERVIOUS SURFACES





### **NIGHT LIGHTING**





### SCALED GEOMETRY

PERCEPTUAL SPACE