

Post Centennial a Time for Change: Redevelopment of Selected Areas of the UC Davis Campus



**A Senior Project by
Paul Maginnity
June 11, 2010**

Post Centennial a Time for Change: Redevelopment of Selected Areas of the UC Davis Campus

A Senior Project
Presented to the Faculty of the
Landscape Architecture Department
University of California, Davis
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Bachelors of Science of
Landscape Architecture

Accepted and Approved by:

Faculty Committee Member, Monica Perrone

Committee Member, Christina De Martini Reyes

Committee Member, Gerrie Robinson

Senior Project Faculty Advisor, Mark Francis

Paul Maginnity
June 11, 2010

Abstract

This project will present a plan to bring identity to the Post Centennial University of California, Davis. With the University entering a new age and development reshaping the campus area, the campus needs a new area that students, faculty, and visitors can identify with. The UC Davis campus has been in need of redevelopment over the years. It lacks a sense of identity in the heart of campus.

Many consider the Quad and Memorial Union area of campus to be the heart. Yet there is nothing in that location that can provide a strong sense of identity. For now the campus is identified with the water tower and or the Vanderhof Quad located near the Mondavi Center. First time visitors find themselves on the north end of campus. When they exit the North Entry Parking structure they are trapped in one of the busiest areas of campus, the Memorial Union bus terminal.

The constant traffic of busses, bicyclists, and pedestrians can cause confusion and fear for the visitors. The problem with the bus terminal is that there is no definitive path or direction to campus. Visitors must take it upon themselves to find their way to campus. Any future development must make it easier for visitors and residents to find their way to campus without danger or confusion. This project hopes to make the correct suggestions so that future development will provide definitive pathways and unique architectural aspects that will provide an identity to the area.

About the Author

Paul Maginnity was born in Fresno, California and grew up in Sacramento, California. The oldest of three children, he has spent his whole life in the central valley. He comes from a family of UC Davis Aggies, following his uncle (Class of 1987; Civil Engineering) and mother (Class of 2000; Community and Regional Development). After high school he attended Cosunmes River College in South Sacramento where he began taking architecture courses. When looking to transfer to UC Davis, he found the Landscape Architecture major in the university catalog. Paul was accepted into the Landscape Architecture program in the spring of 2008. His future plans are to look for experience working for the state of California and eventually attend Graduate school. As of June 13, 2010 he will join his family legacy (Class of 2010; Landscape Architecture). Both his younger brother and sister plan to attend UC Davis in the future.

Dedication

This project is dedicated to my parents who have supported me in all that I have done in my life. This project or all the work I have done at UC Davis could not have been done without their help.

Acknowledgements

This project would not be what it is without the help and support of
my three committee members:

Christina De Martini Reyes

Monica Perrone

Gerrie Robinson

Last but not least, a special thanks goes to the rest of my family and friends
for all of their support over the years.

Thank You

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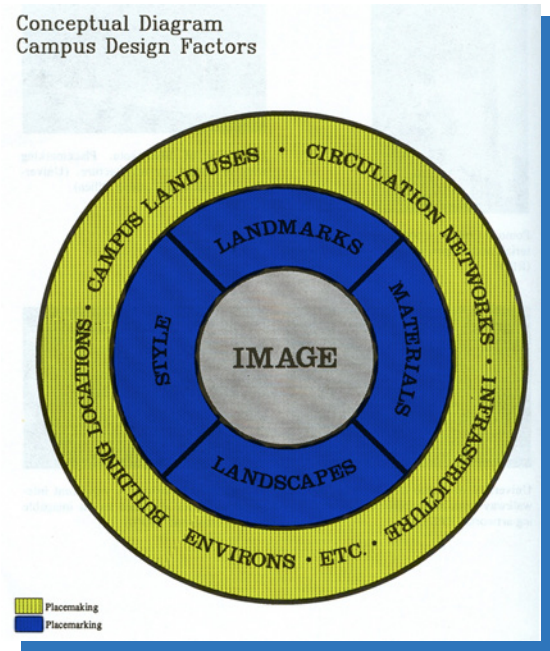
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Introduction

Campus design is what makes a campus recognized throughout the academic world. Beyond a University's success in academics, research, and sports is its ability to develop effective architectural and spatial designs. In order to achieve this a university must carefully plan out its development and make sure each space is used effectively. Richard P. Dober says, "Campus design is the art of campus planning, the culminating act of those processes and procedures that give form, content, meaning, and delight to the physical environment serving higher education' (Campus Design, p.3).

A campus must be planned out effectively in order to make sure all areas of campus are used to their full potential. But over the years it becomes more difficult to adhere to everyone's needs during a redevelopment stage. To plan out a full plan for a university campus is a very difficult task. Aymar Embury II said it best, "The Average American University is an architectural mess" (Campus as a Work of Art: Introduction, p. x).

Not only must the campus be planned out effectively throughout its development, certain aspects of the campus must have unique elements that can burn into the memories of any person who visits the campus. In essence it is not about placemaking, attracting the attention of visitors requires placemarking. Richard P. Dober suggests that placemarking, "involves the definition, conceptualization, and orchestration of certain physical attributes which give a campus a visual uniqueness appropriately to its own" (Campus Design, p. 5). The four important elements of placemarking are landmarks, style, materials, and landscapes.



(Figure 1)

Landmarks, according to Richard A. Dober, involve five landmarking techniques; buildings, architectural elements, monuments, color, and special spaces. It is evident that some landmarks were meant to have a landmark role since their installment. But some landmarks arise from the simplest of forms. Landmarks, according to Dober, “Capture the eye and are readily recalled because of size, grandeur, and position; others are attention getting eccentric designs, whose quirky character make it difficult to ignore them when visually scanning the campus” (Campus Design, p.17).

Style is important in that it provides a definitive visual base to the aspects of the design. Choosing a style that works with the area will help improve the identity of the campus. “Style is a powerful placemaker, charged with visual energy and symbolic import” (Campus Design, p. 39).

Materials are what give a design its physical character. The materials used are what people will see, touch, and smell. It is important that the materials chosen appeal to the people that will be using the area. “Building materials are the elementary stuff of campus architecture. Wood, stone, brick, concrete, glass, metal—colored, textured, and formed, they constitute the design fabric, a building’s immediately perceptible aspect” (Campus Design, p.94).

Landscapes on a campus are very important. Lacking an open green space on a campus takes away a very important aspect of college life. Landscapes provide the necessary areas for privacy, boundaries, and areas of leisure. Students need a place to relax and be one with nature. In essence, since students spend a majority of their time in the classroom, an open space is the escape that many students need. (Campus Design, p. 167)

Birth of the UC Davis Campus

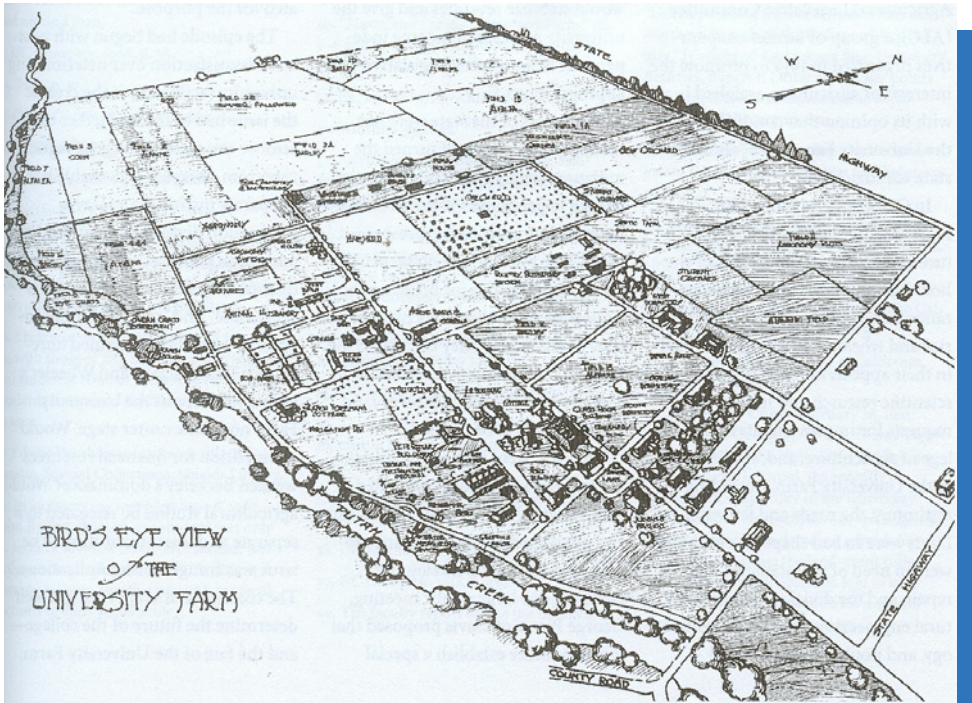
The University of California, Davis started out as an extension of the University of California, Berkley. California in 1890 was quickly emerging as a leader in the agricultural world. The state was quickly improving its knowledge of crops, crop technology, and irrigation. This brought a very successful and friendly agriculture economy to the state. In 1891, the College of Agriculture at Berkley began sponsoring Farmers' Institutes which sent professors and lecturers to farming communities throughout the state. Due to the immense success of the program, the University of California Regents approved the Department of University Extension in Agriculture. The College of Agriculture at Berkley had grown to an enormous size. "From 1898 through 1901, more than 80 Farmers' Institutes each year attracted an average of 250 people each. In 1904, attendance at 113 institutes came to an astonishing total of 43,680 – about 18 times the resident enrollment at Berkeley that year" (Abundant Harvest: p. 9).

Therefore the College of Agriculture began a mission to create a University Farm. Legislation began in 1905 and soon Yolo County was being endorsed by the Sacramento Valley Development Association. Newspapers like the Sacramento Union, the Woodland Democrat, the Marysville Appeal, and the Colusa Sun began supporting Davisville as the perfect site for the new farm extension. "On April 27 Pierce and Jacob La Rue submitted a formal proposal to the State Farm Commission, offering the Sparks ranch for \$120 an acre" (Abundant Harvest: p.17).

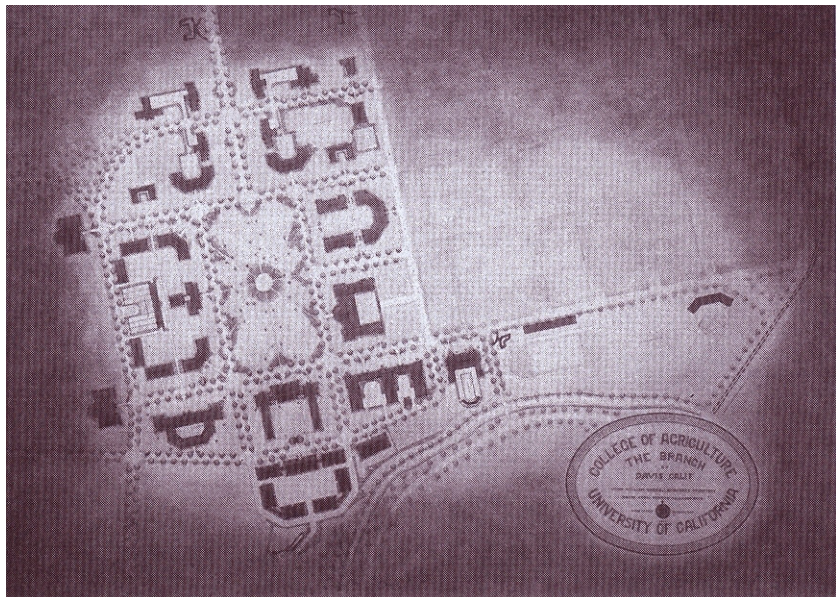
On April 6, 1906 Governor Pardee made it official when he formally agreed with the Davisville Chamber of Commerce. Sparks ranch was 730 acres and sold to the state for a final cost of \$104,250. On September 1, 1906 the Regents of the University of California officially took over the property.



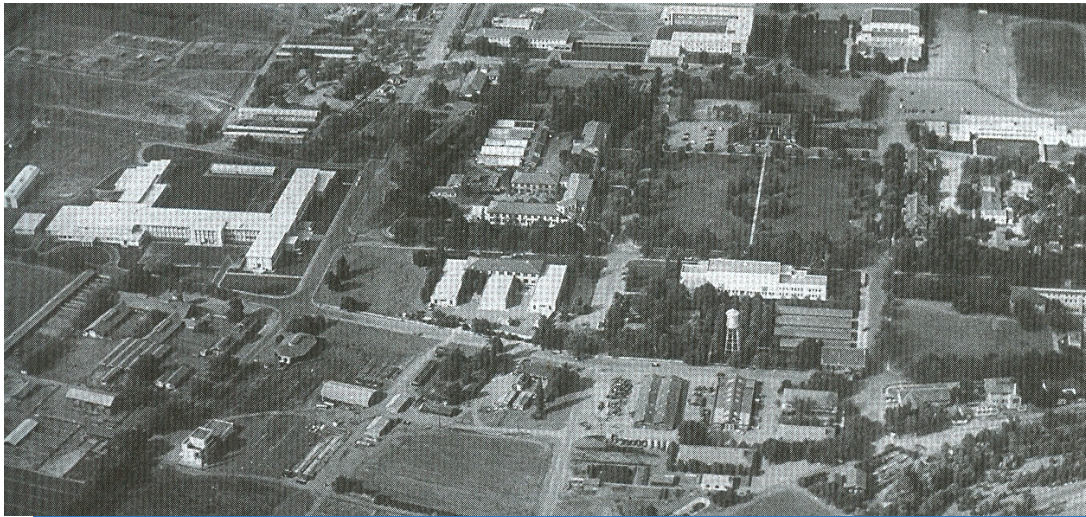
(Figure 2: UC Davis East Gate 1908)



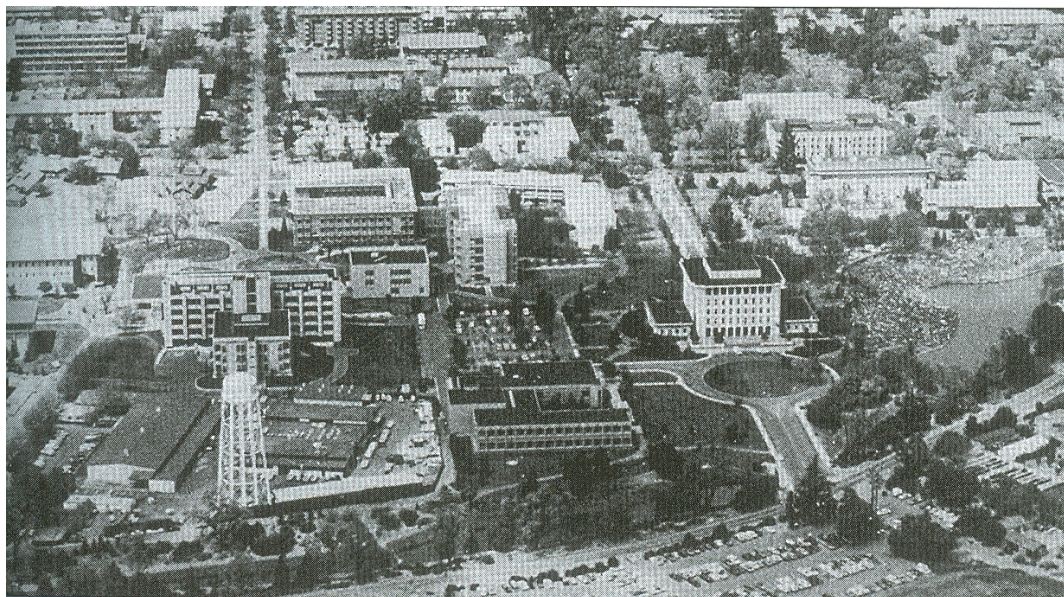
(Figure 3: UC Davis Sketch 1917)



(Figure 4: UC Davis Concept Plan 1922)

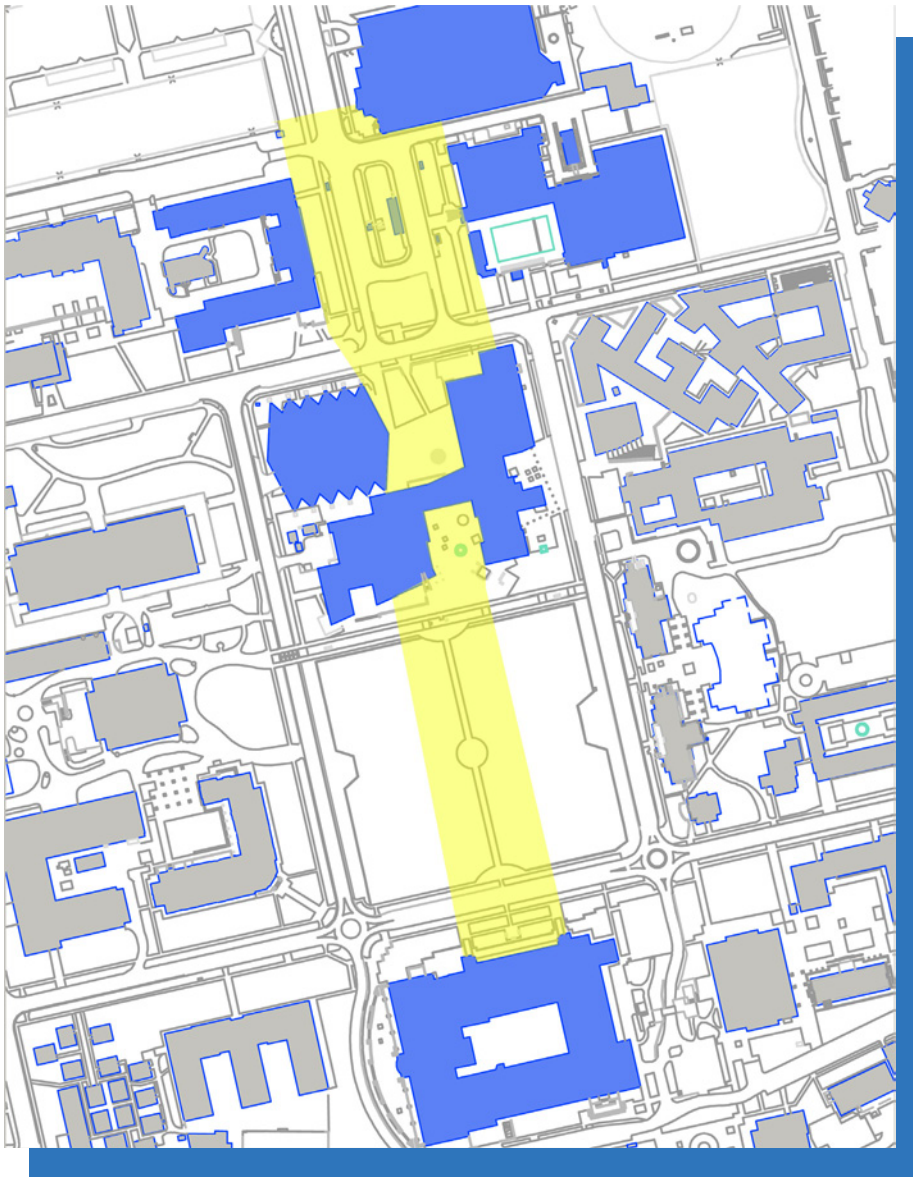


(Figure 5: UC Davis Aerial Photo 1951)



(Figure 6: UC Davis Aerial Photo 1982)

Study Site

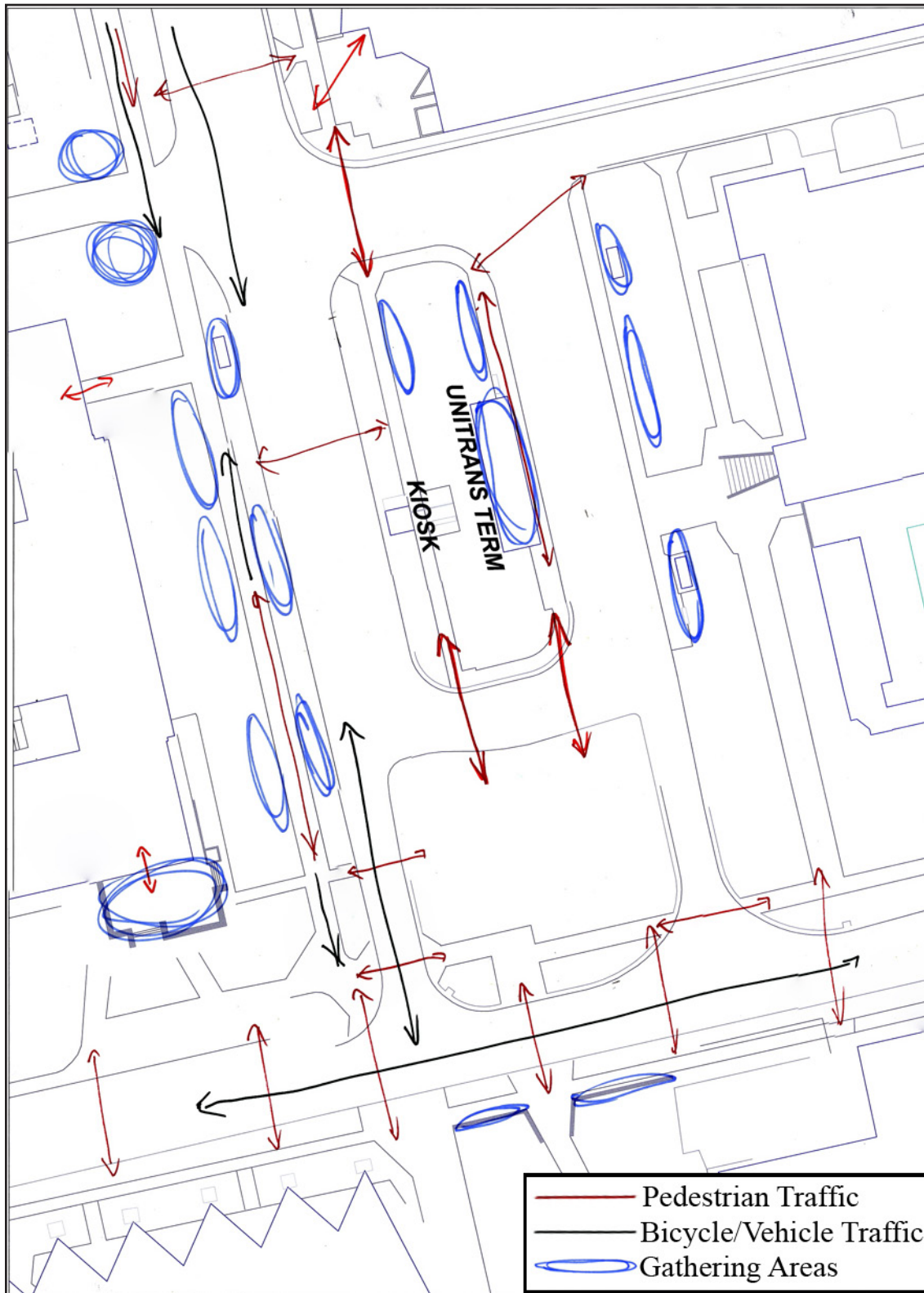


(Figure 7)

Major Areas of Site:

- North Entry Parking Structure
- Memorial Union Bus Terminal
- East Side of Hunt Hall
- Freeborn Hall and Bookstore
- Memorial Union
- Centennial Walkway and Quad
- North Side of Shields Library

Site Analysis



(Figure 8)

This area of the site includes a lot of traffic; pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles. Visitors to campus were observed walking in a state of confusion. They did not know where to go or where to cross. Many attempted to cut through the traffic but soon found themselves lost or disoriented. When exiting the North Entry Parking Structure, there is no distinguished direction or pathway evident to first time visitors.

If visitors come to campus during the late morning and afternoon, they are met by heavy bicyclist traffic. The problem for bicyclists is that pedestrians do not use distinguished crossing areas. Pedestrians can cross into the bicyclists path at any moment.

People waiting at the bus terminal must fight for seating spaces or cover. There is a lack of cover from the sun or rain. Many people attempt to take cover under the small bus terminal.

Others take cover under the awning on the east side of Hunt Hall.



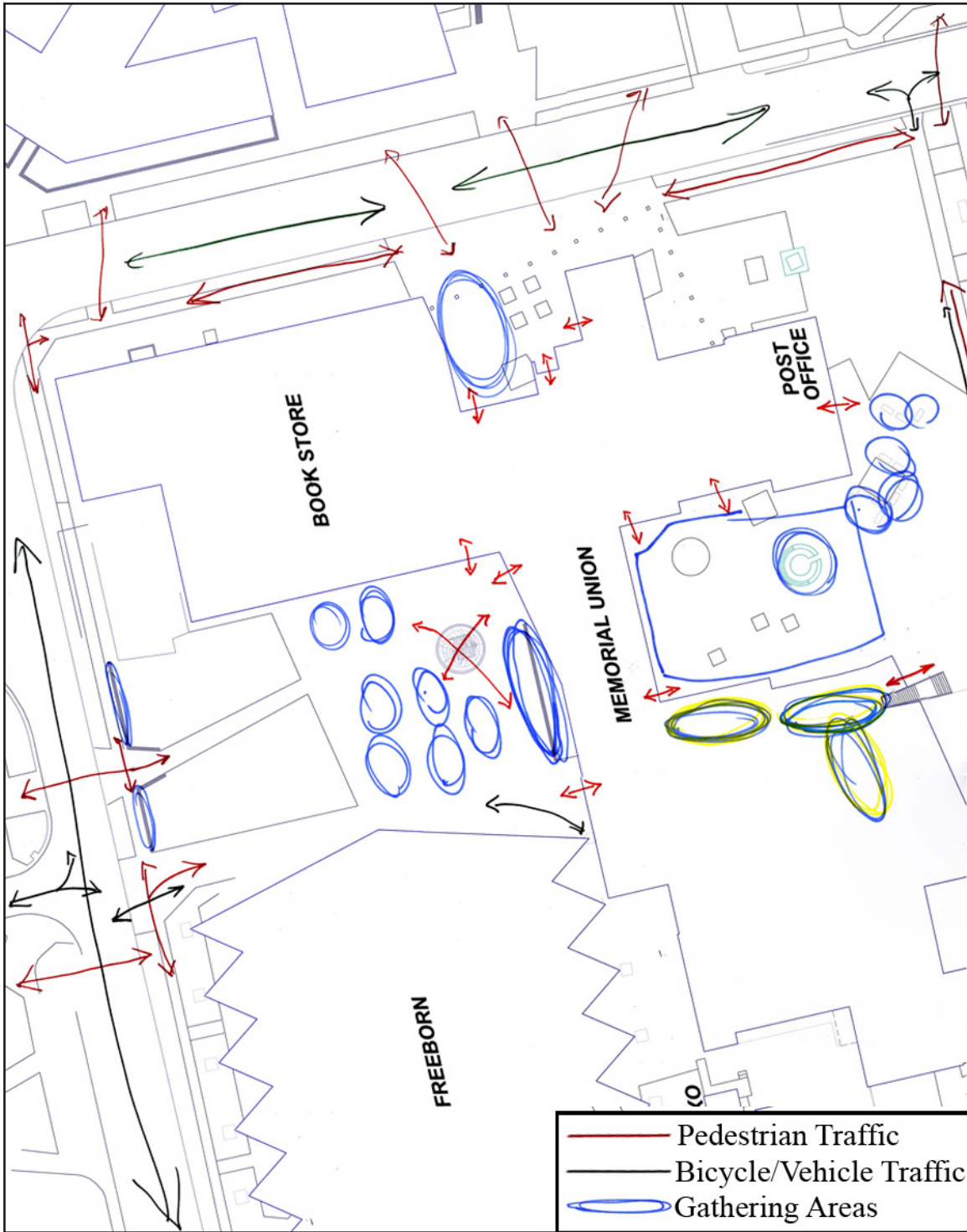
(Figure 9)



(Figure 11)



(Figure 10)



(Figure 12)

Upon entering the area between Freeborn Hall and the Bookstore, a visitor will be directed towards the Memorial Union. Tour groups gather on the seating walls and can watch the foot and bicycle traffic. Many tables and benches are provided for the open space, which provided many people with gathering areas.



(Figure 13)

There are no barriers to protect the UC Davis seal, therefore many pedestrians walk across the seal instead of going around it.



(Figure 14)

On the south end of the building another gathering area is provided. People gather and sit at the picnic tables or around the water fountain.



(Figure 15)

People that cannot find a place to gather will go to the second floor patio. Walking up to the patio can be difficult because the stairway is narrower as people make their way up the stairs. When arriving at the top, visitors will come face to face with another person and must make way for that person.



(Figure 16)

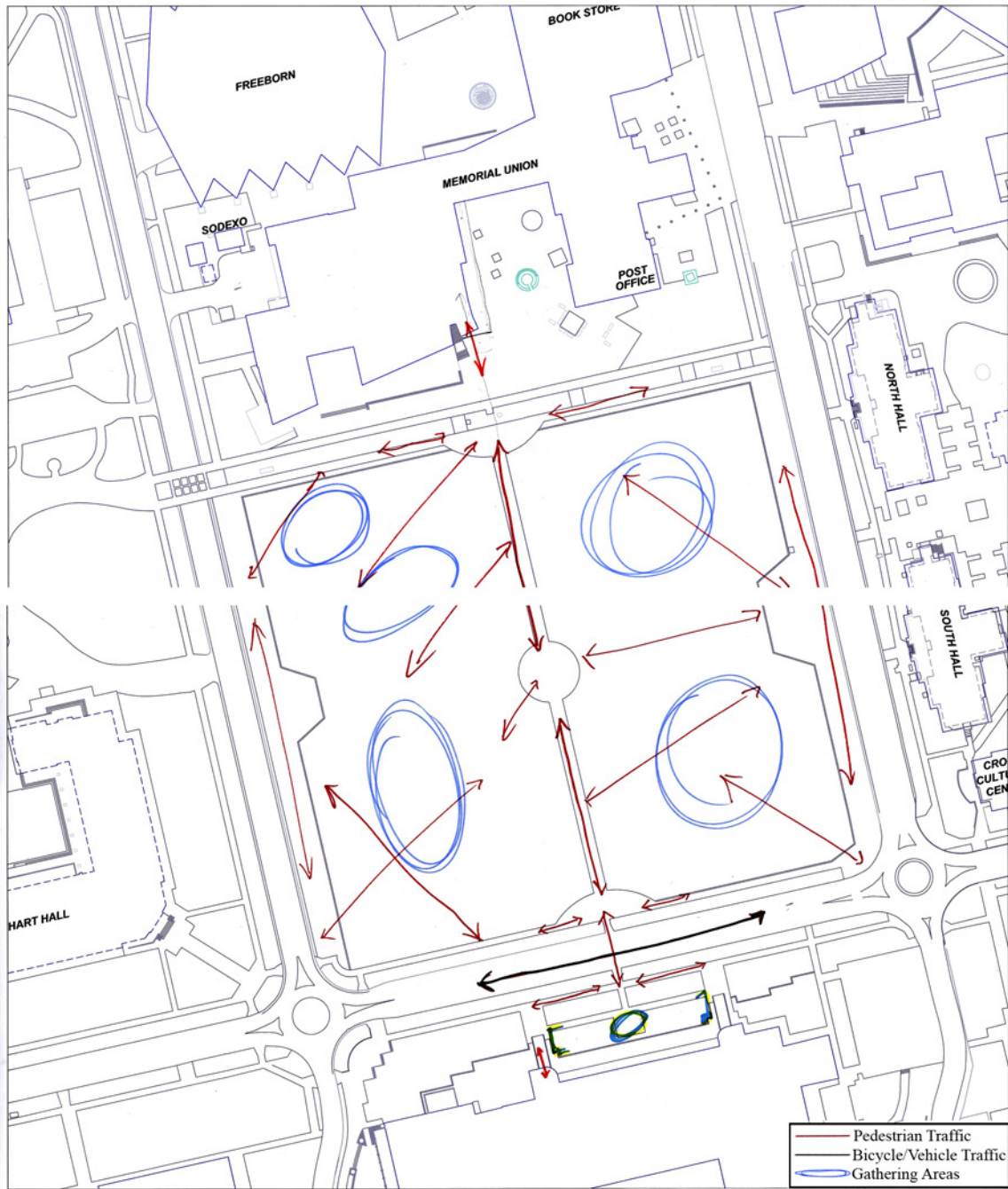


(Figure 17)

Below the second floor patio is the Campus Unions Coffee House where students can buy their meals during the day. This main entrance connects the north and south ends of the building.



(Figure 18)



(Figure 19)

The quad is one of the most open spaces on campus. Many students and visitors come to this place to rest, socialize, and participate in campus activities.



(Figure 20)



(Figure 21)

The walkway ends at Shields Avenue and the north face of Shields library. This end of the library is for access to the Twenty-four Hour Study Room. In front of Shields Library is a seating area that is mostly used by people taking a cigarette break.

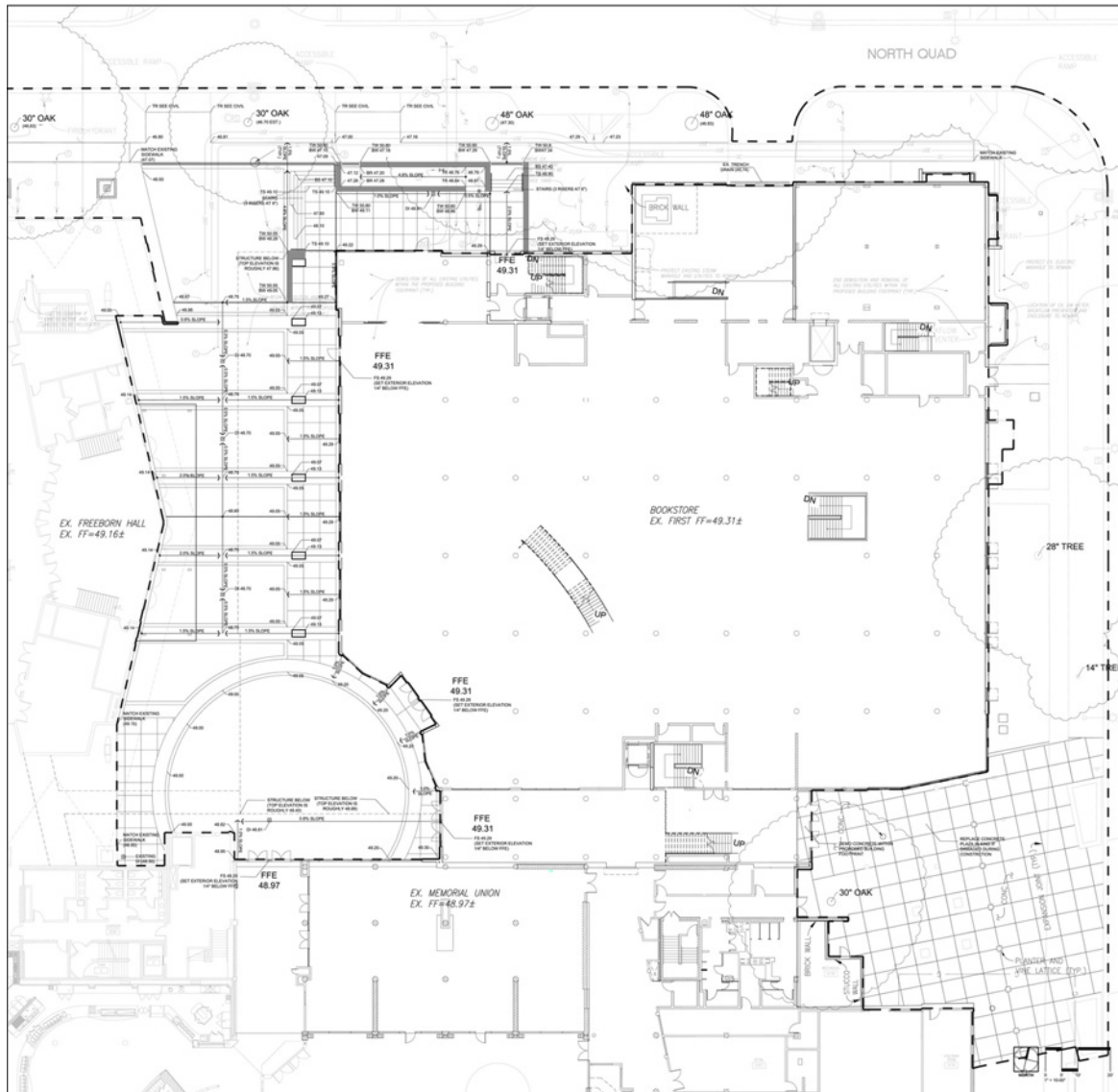
The Centennial Walkway connects the Memorial Union and Shields Library. The path cuts right down the middle the quad and allows pedestrians to get from one of the quad without having to go around. Despite this, students continue to cross through the quad and rarely use the walkway.



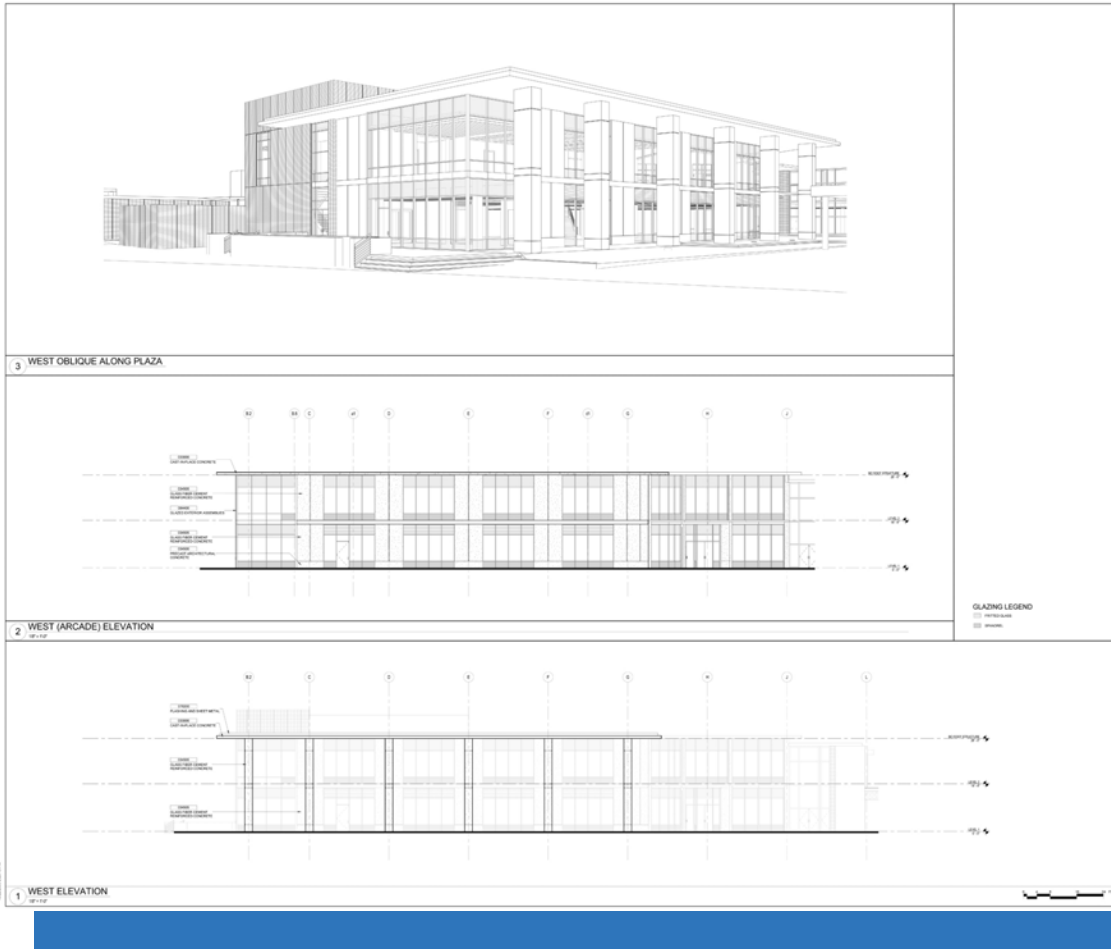
(Figure 22)

Bookstore Expansion

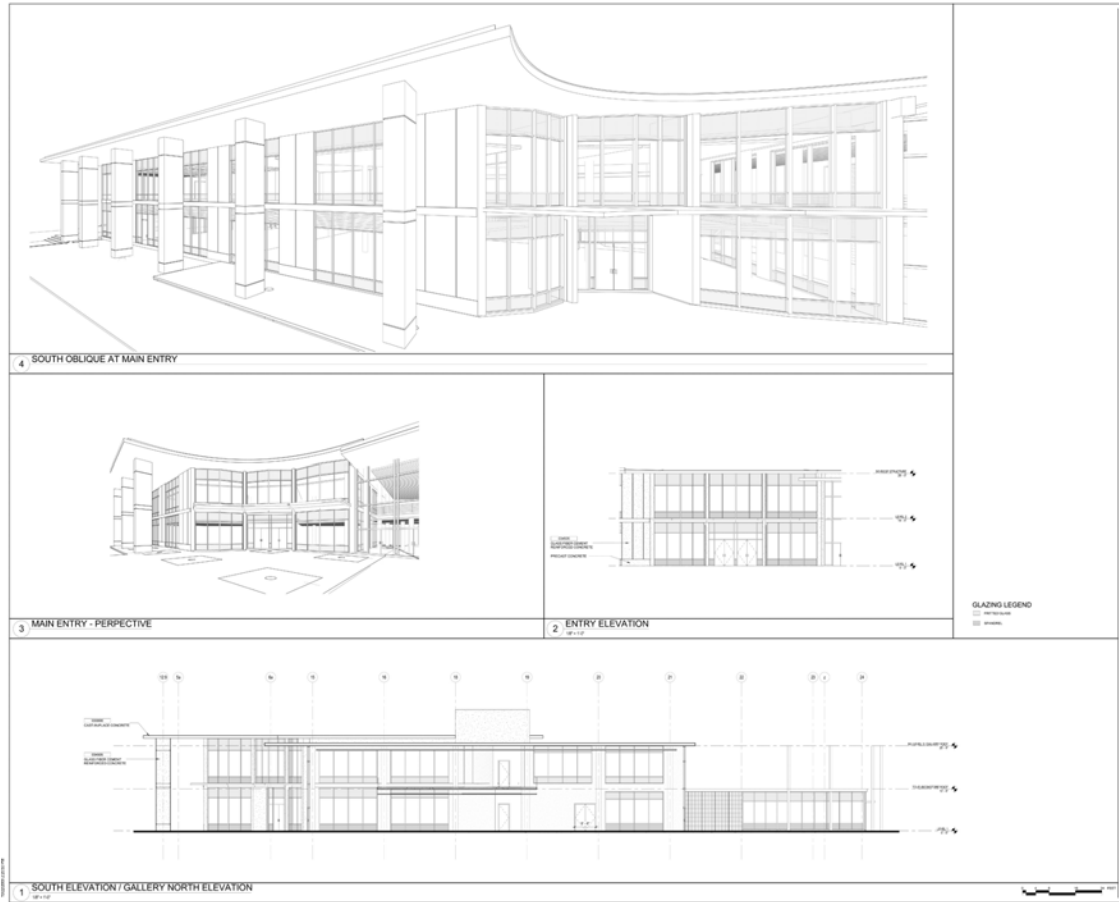
The UC Davis Bookstore is planning a very large expansion that will cause a great change to the area between the Bookstore and Freeborn. The following are plans and elevations provided by Field Paoli Architects. These documents were used during the design process.



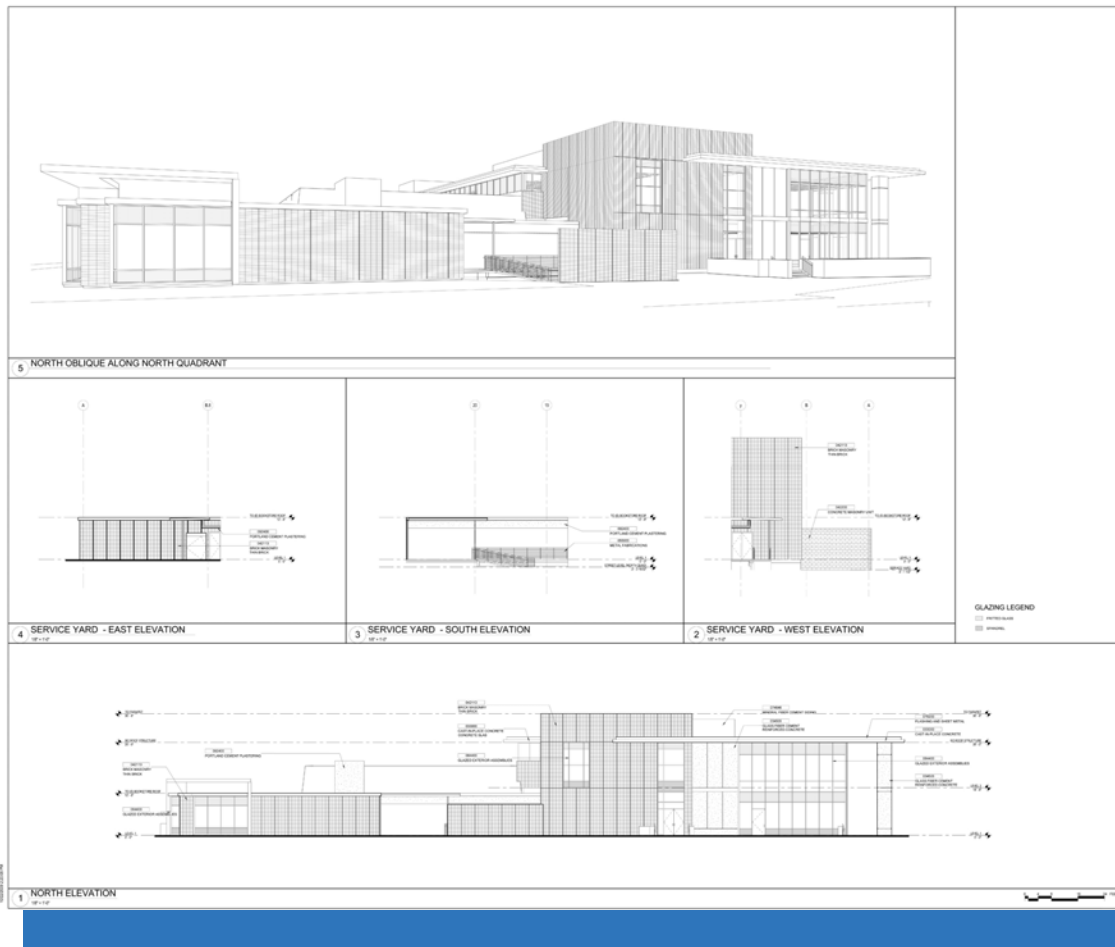
(Figure 23)



(Figure 24)

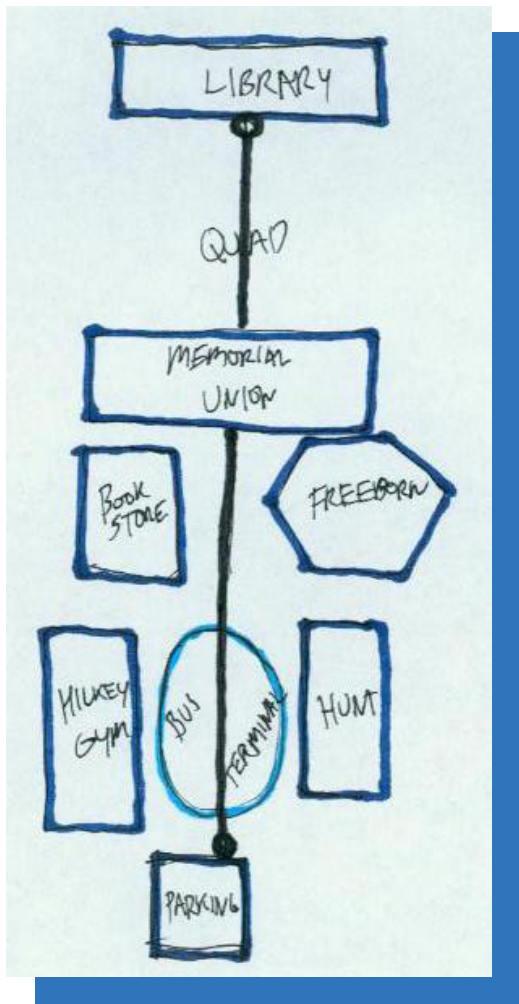


(Figure 25)

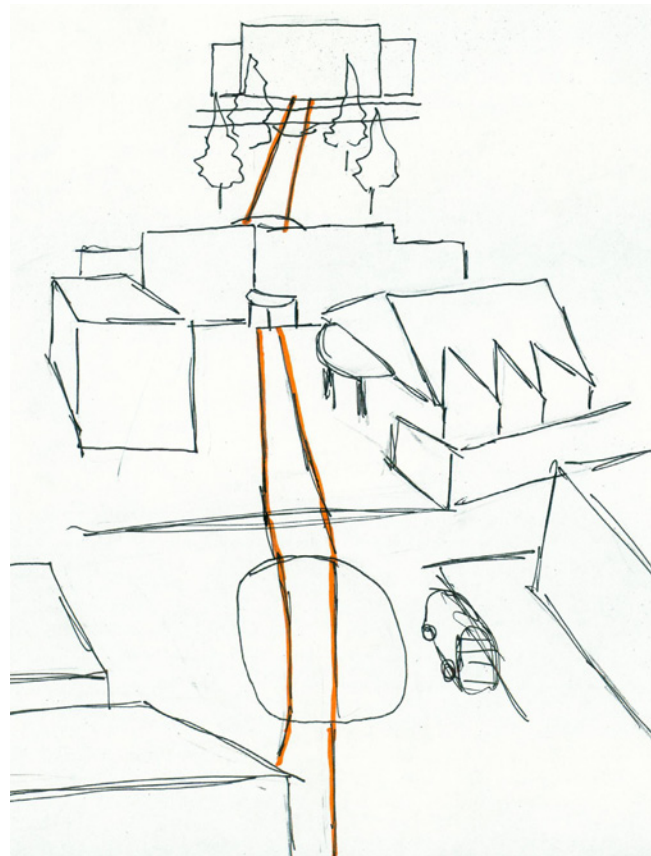


(Figure 26)

Concept Drawings

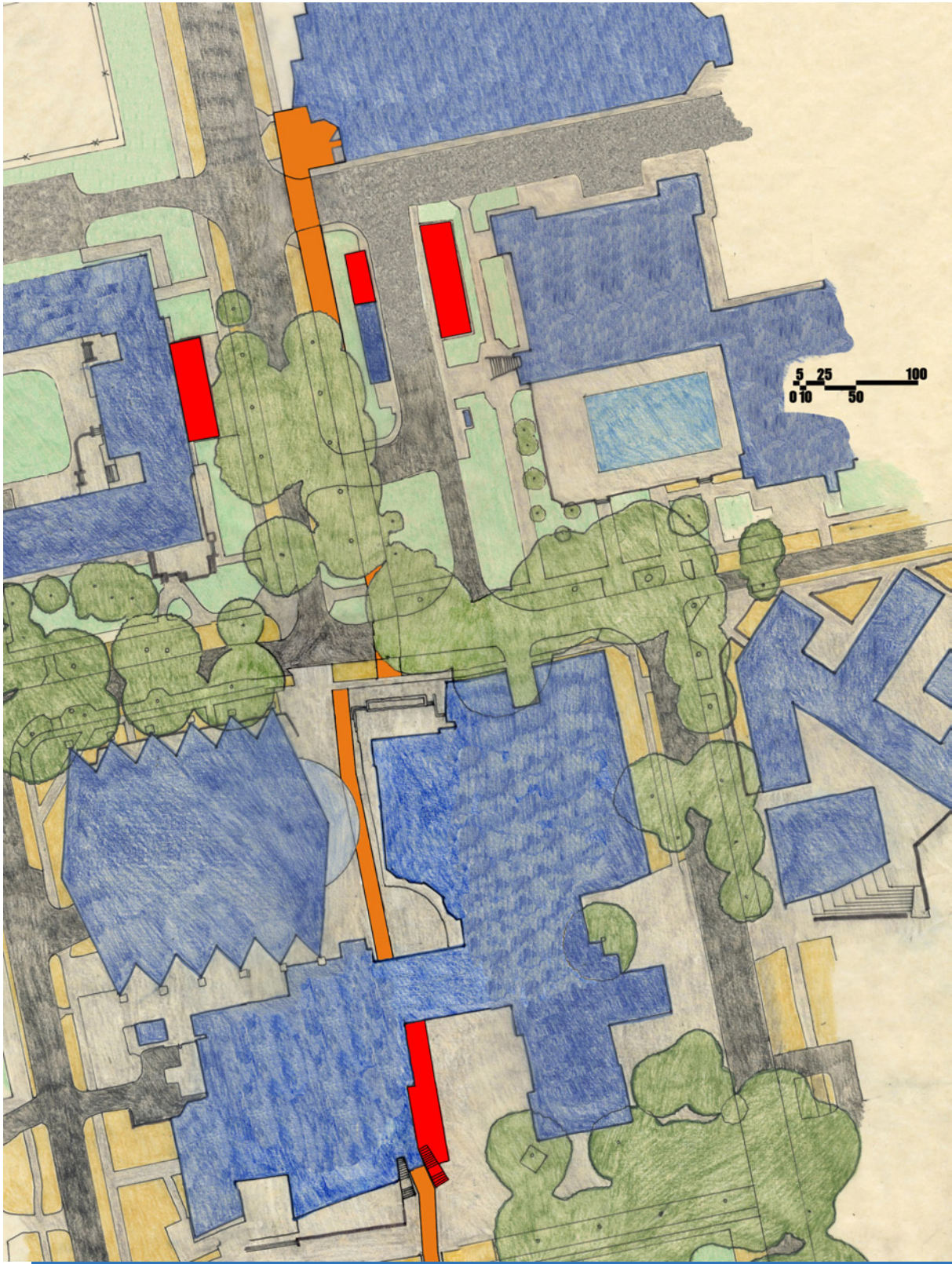


(By Paul Maginnity)



(By Paul Maginnity)

Master Plan A

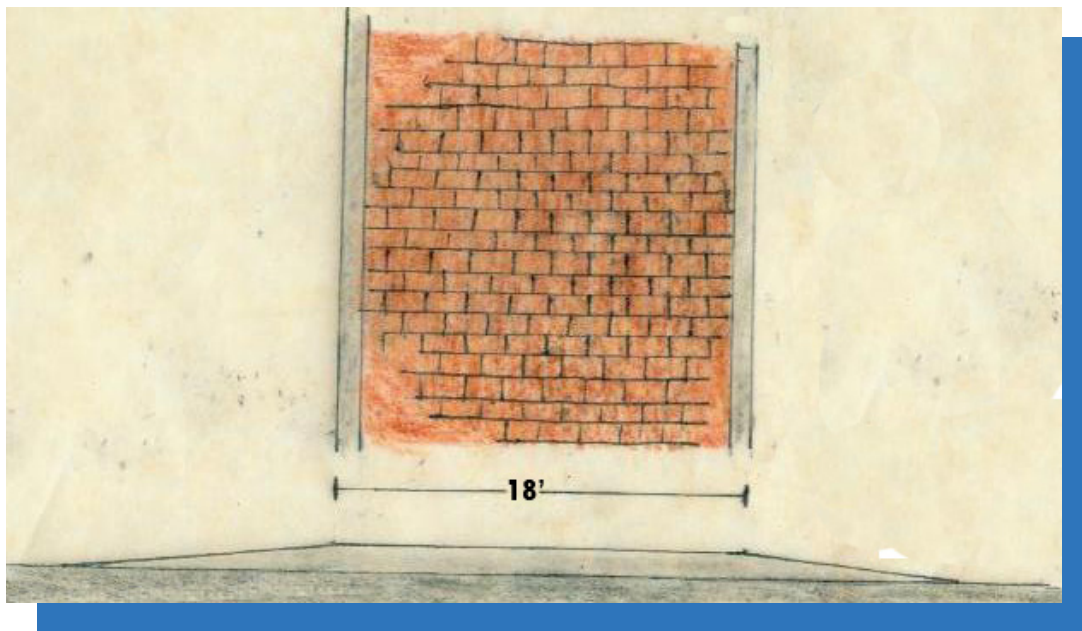


(By Paul Maginnity)

Additions

- Expansion of Centennial Walkway through Memorial Union, past Freeborn Hall and Bookstore, through Memorial Union Bus terminal, and connecting with North Entry Parking Structure.
- Extension of existing Memorial Union Bus Terminal Structure
- Structural Roof (East side of Hunt and West Side of Hickey Gym)
- Expansion of Second Floor patio and addition of second stairway (Memorial Union)

The pathway leaving the North Entry Parking Structure will lead visitors directly to the area of Freeborn, the Bookstore, and Memorial Union. The pathway will keep visitors on a direct course without having them wander into the paths of bicyclists and vehicles. There will still be areas where pedestrians need to cross the road. These crosswalks will be distinguished from the road by using a brick layout pattern. Each crosswalk will also be raised to make an AC Grade Crossing. This will force bicycle and vehicle traffic to slow down when approaching the crosswalk. (See Plan and Section Below)



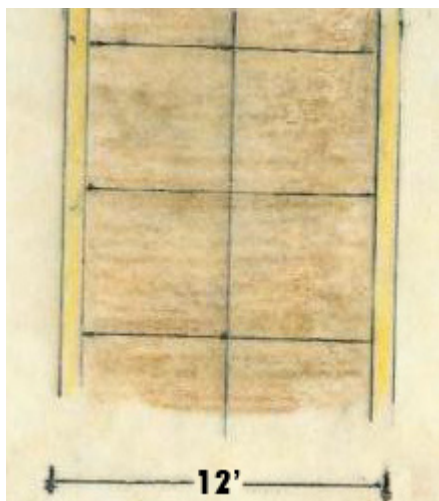
(By Paul Maginnity)

The existing sidewalk on the islands in the terminal have been expanded to 18 feet wide. This makes the path not only visible from far away, it also give sit the quality an important pathway. The existing bus terminal structure has been expanded in order to accomodate more people.

Two structures added to the area on the East side of Hunt Hall and the West side of Hickey Gym. These structures will provide shade in the summer and spring. They will also provide protection from the rain during the fall and winter.



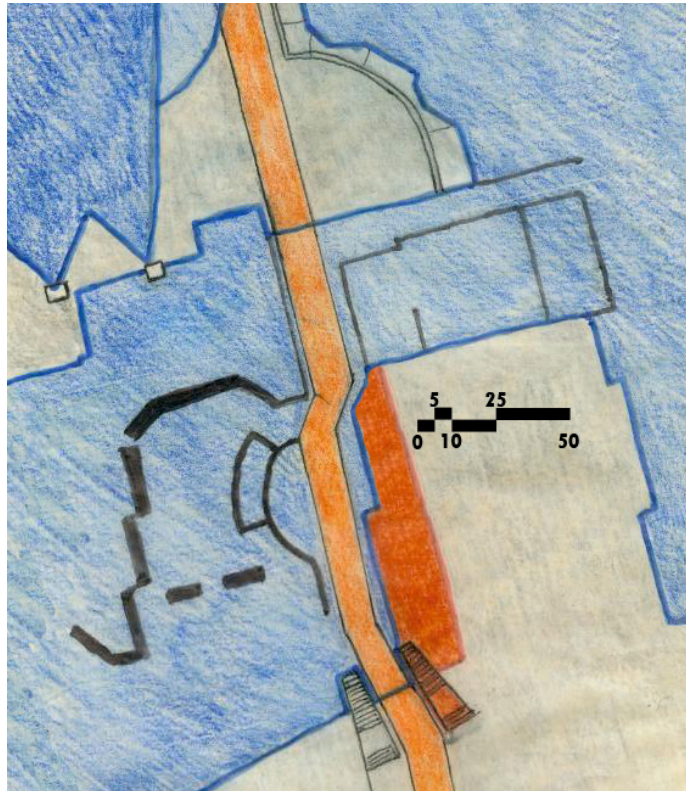
(By Paul Maginnity)



(By Paul Maginnity)

The walkway from the parking structure all the way to the Bookstore will be 18 feet wide. The pathway that continues from the Bookstore and through the Memorial Union will match the Centennial Walkway and be 12 feet wide. The same material, Sierra Granite, will be used for the entire pathway. The Sierra Granite will not be used at the crosswalks.

The walkway exits the Memorial Union from the main entrance under the second floor patio. To make the entrance better framed, a second stairway is added. The stairway also provides a second entrance to the second level and can reduce the traffic pressure on the first stairway. The patio is extended another 15 feet east and helps provide a sense of symmetry.

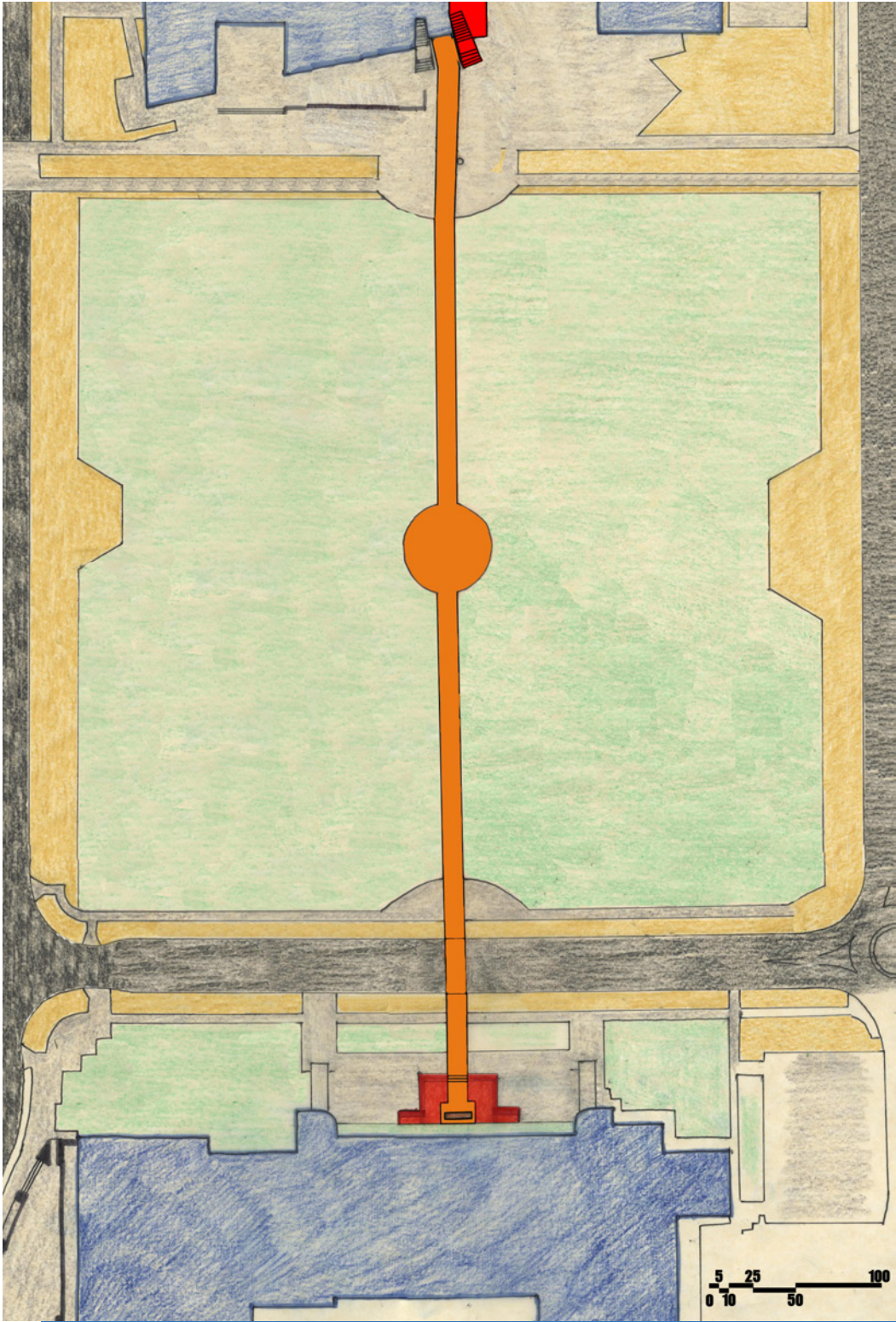


(By Paul Maginnity)



(By Paul Maginnity)

Master Plan B

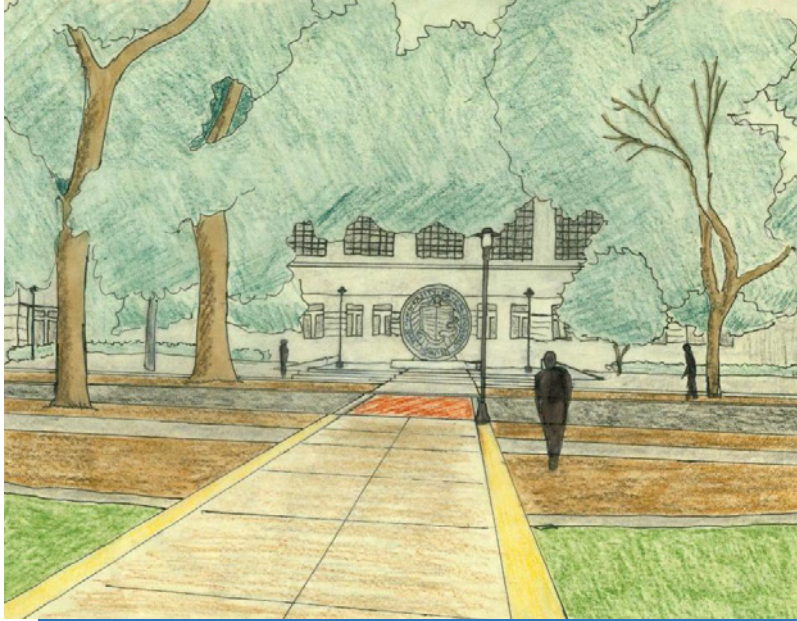


(By Paul Maginnity)

Additions

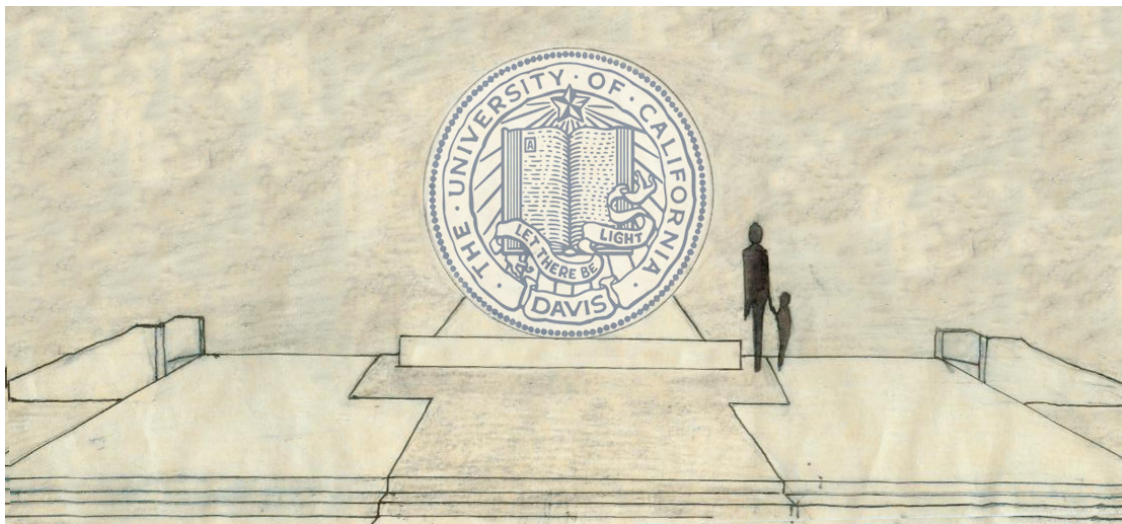
- Continuation of Centennial Walkway (From MU to existing pathway and from existing pathway up to Shields Library)
- Patio at the end of proposed centennial expansion. Includes Davis Monumental Logo.

The pathway connects with the already existing Centennial Walkway and continues up to Shields Library. A brick pattern crosswalk (AC Grad Crossing) is also used on the campus road. At the end of the pathway is UC Davis' seal.



(By Paul Maginnity)

The seal is placed on a 12 foot tall monument. This provides the end of the pathway with a monument that the entire UC Davis community can appreciate. This monument can be used as a landmark and a photo opportunity. It is possible that it can also become part of UC Davis' image.



(By Paul Maginnity)

Conclusion

It was the work of Richard P. Dober that helped me design this site. Instead making a place, I was designing to mark a place. By doing this I am making this site unique for visitors because it will be used as a landmark. The entire UC Davis campus needs to be landmark rather than a place.

By making the Centennial Walkway and the pathways more distinguished, visitors will know they are in an important place when walking on the path. When they arrive at the grand monument in front of the library, the image will remain in their memory. This image will be referred to others when that visitor describes the experience they had on the UC Davis campus. I feel that from this part of the design I was able to get better at placemarking while designing rather than placemaking.

This project also allowed to me to get an in depth look into the process of developing a University. I know realize the amount of time and work it takes to develop a college campus. I believe that if the public fully understood the process, they would better appreciate the campus and its qualities.

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