

Process Sketchbook New Century Plan University of California, Berkeley

What is often missing in campus master plans is documentation of the process the designers and planners undertook to achieve the final plan. As designers and planners, we use numerous diagrams to test our knowledge of the campus environment. The process involves developing plans and designs to challenge and refine our thinking.

This Process Sketchbook contains the diagrams, plans, and designs that Sasaki Associates prepared for the New Century Plan. We worked in a highly collaborative effort with the University of California planners and designers.

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Early sketch of campus framework







Composition of buildings and landscape







Opportunities for new buildings







Built edges







Building responsibilities in defining campus open space







Early building composition study







North - South "Necklaces of Spaces"





Composite of detailed studies of campus







Detailed study of northwest quadrant





Detailed study of southeast quadrant





Detailed study of northeast quadrant





CAMPUS COMPOSITIONS

The buildings and open space form spatial compositions. The form of the compositions vary. Some are formal and axial, relating to the beaux art tradition of the campus or to the city street grid. Other spaces are natural, established by the campus natural systems and topography. Individual buildings may contribute to one or more of these spatial compositions.

Physical design policies

 Identify the role of new building and open space development in reinforcing the character of the individual campus compositions

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BUILDING TYPOLOGIES AND AXIAL RELATIONSHIPS

The campus buildings are not planned out of a single grand order. They vary in form, style, scale, and texture. The formation of the buildings as a whole demonstrates a purposeful public order, and offers a variety of powerful campus spaces.

- Recognize and enhance the order of the four systems the creek, the campus building grid, the city street grid, and the hillside
- Strengthen the campus grid system with the opportunities provided by future campus projects





SEQUENCE OF SPACES

A network of linked open spaces connecting east-west and north-south lend structure to the campus. The adjacencies of buildings and open spaces establish patterns of movement and social encounter opportunities for exchange. Plazas and glades are linked with sinuous paths, forming a web of circulation and events throughout the campus. The strength of these linkages vary.

Creek Edge Glade Necklace Wildings defined open spaces

- Identify linkages requiring repair and definition
- Strengthen activities along these spaces through ground floor building uses and points of access
- Identify the role and programmatic requirements of these spaces



CAMPUS OPEN SPACE

The natural system of creeks, glades, and woodlands creates the armature of the campus open space system. A network of formalized spaces, primarily plazas and courtyards formed by the buildings, overlays the natural system. There is an apparent ambiguity between the historic and contemporary roles of the central open space system, evidenced by building development and the mature vegetation.

- Resolve the role of the central open space system
- Reinvigorate and protect the creek system
- Recognize the role of the tree canopy in defining campus space





CAMPUS TOPOGRAPHY

The topography is a significant characteristic of the campus environment. Starting from the urban west edge of the campus, the topography ascends increasingly to the east, where it meets a forested edge. Within the campus, the topographic variation creates pockets and terraces of varying character. Often, the topography rising adjacent to buildings offers a landscape backdrop to the built environment, further reinforcing the park-like qualities of the campus.

- Maintain and emphasize slope terrace relationship for the variety of experience
- Step buildings down sympathetically with the campus topography
- Make use of the topography to reduce the scale and mass of campus buildings





CAMPUS CONTEXT

The campus edges merge with three types of context - the forested edge of Gayley, the larger scale blocks and buildings of the downtown, and the finer scaled grain to the north and south. Formal gateways, and incidental linkages form connections between the campus and the adjacent community. Some campus edges lack proper linkages.

Entries No Entry

- Form additional linkages from the campus
- Blend the west edge of the campus with the City context to form a closer relationship between the two
- Bring the forested eastern edge into the campus to emphasize the character of the natural environment
- Improve campus gateways to provide additional opportunities for access to the campus



SIGNIFICANT CAMPUS VIEWS

Distant views from the campus focus on the Golden Gate and the City of San Francisco. Inter campus and intra campus-community views create opportunities for orientation. Many of the inter campus views focus on the Campanile.



- Identify key view corridors to be maintained and enhanced
- Identify opportunities to utilize campus landmarks for orientation



CAMPUS FOCUS

Certain Campus places act as magnets for activity, some on a daily basis, others for events.



- Program facilities and spaces to create strategically focused opportunities for acitivity throughout the campus
- Recognize the physical programmatic differences in activities (day/evening; daily/events; etc.)



PEDESTRIAN - BIKE SYSTEM

Pedestrians and bicyclists have free access throughout campus. Pedestrian activity, however, is focused on several main corridors and the University has designated bicycle routes to direct bicycle circulation. In January of 1999, the City of Berkeley Bicycle Plan was adopted, which recommended several bicycle improvements to facilitate bicycle access around campus.

- Improve pedestrian conditions at major intersections (widen sidewalks, limit right turns on red, install corner sidewalk bulbs)
- Support recently-approved City of Berkeley Bicycle Plan
- Promote bicycle use by providing additional bicycle amenities (secured parking, shower and locker facilities, bicycle-actuated signals)





PEDESTRIAN & BIKE SPEED OF TRAVEL

The majority of the central campus is easily accessible via walking and bicycling. However, due to the elevation changes (the up-slope from west to east) and curvilinear roadways, travel speeds can be fairly slow. Overall, most of the main campus buildings can be accessed from Doe Library within a 12 minute walk or 4 minute bicycle ride.



- Locate essential services within convenient walk/bicycle travel times
- Provide adequate parking for bicylces
- Identify and mitigate potential pedestrian/vehicular/bicycle conflicts





Campus is well-served by transit, including campus shuttles (Perimeter, Central and Hill) and nearby BART and AC Transit lines. In addition, there are several night and doorto-door shuttles. The main Perimeter shuttle operates at 8 to 10 minute headways, from 6:50 AM to 8:40 PM. However, the Perimeter shuttle only operates in a one-way loop (clockwise) and Central shuttle serves only the northern side of campus.

Physical design policies

- Enhance Perimeter shuttle operations (increase frequency, extend route to serve major parking facilities, provide HOV lanes)
- Add the Southside campus shuttle (counter-clockwise loop) to regular service
- Create transit center to consolidate AC Transit stops and facilitate transfers to shuttle
- Evaluate feasibility of new Central campus tram



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VEHICULAR PARKING

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Current parking facilities are fairly well spaced around the perimeter of campus. However, major facilities within Southside are two blocks from campus, and no major facilities exist along the eastern edge. The recent UC Berkeley Campus Parking Policy & Planning Options Study identified a need for additional parking around campus, provided at new facilities or through expansion of existing facilities. To reduce the impact of future increases in vehicles, these facilities should be located along the major vehicular travel routes, and be created in conjunction with other improvements, such as trip reduction measures and traffic caliming.

- Create 1,500 new parking spaces to accommodate existing and future demand
- Enhance trip reduction strategies for students/staff/faculty
- Implement traffic calming measures at key locations
- Provide better signage to parking facilities, main campus, and campus attractions





SERVICE - EMERGENCY

Although there are designated service vehicle routes, the University has identified problems with delivery vehicles parked and circulating throughout the campus. These circulation patterns create conflicts and congestion for pedestrians and other vehicles. Due to grade changes, disabled access is difficult throughout campus.

Physical design policies

- Evaluate feasibility of centralized delivery pick-up/drop-off facility
- Create a delivery vehicle management system, including defined delivery hours, curb parking zones, and enforcement of double-parked vehicles
- Post disabled-access map at main campus entrances, transit and shuttle stops, and parking facilities
- Ensure disabled and emergency vehicle access to all facilities

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Service and Parking Access Routes































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