Introduction

This district section is one of ten portions of the Aesthetic Guidelines for Campus Development of the University of Maryland and focuses on issues particular to the district. Descriptions of the overall Campus, University-wide issue and solution discussions, and Urban Design, Landscape Architecture and Architecture principles are included in the first section, entitled Campus; it is intended to be used in concert with this volume. Where topics are shared by adjacent districts, such as at district edges, those district sections should be referenced for supplemental information.

Aesthetic Guidelines for Campus Development

In 10 volumes:

- Campus
- East District
- Golf Course District
- Historic Core District
- North District
- Northeast District
- Northwest District
- Outlying Properties
- Southwest District
- West District

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Summary
PROLOGUE

Despite the West District being home to Cole Student Activities Building, the President’s Residence, the Tawes Fine Arts and Clarice Smith Performing Arts centers, fields of asphalt parking lots, nearly as large as some Campus districts, dominate the District. The intention of the Facilities Master Plan 2001-2020 (FMP) is to rejuvenate and revitalize the West District using the topography and the built environment to connect people through place creation. The spaces formed into the new quadrangles and pedestrian malls are to be organized around basic urban planning principles: visual and physical axes, landmarks, and significant building elements.

DISTRICT DEFINITION

DESCRIPTION

This District, of gently rolling terrain, occupies the high ground paralleling University Boulevard. The President’s Residence lawns and Kehoe / Ludwig sports fields separate the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) from the sea of surface parking lots occupying approximately 60% of the district. Academic buildings front Campus Drive along the District’s eastern border.

BOUNDARIES (FIG. W-4E)

- The Northwest District (Stadium, Valley & Fieldhouse drives) on the North;
- The Historic Core District (Union Lane & Campus Drive) on the East;
- The Southwest District and College Heights Estates properties (predominantly religious denomination facilities along Campus Drive) on the South;
- University of Maryland University College (UMUC) on the Southwest corner;
- The Golf Course District (University Boulevard / Maryland Route 183) on the West.

SUB-DISTRICTS

The President’s Residence
On the western border of the Campus, the President’s Residence Grounds provide a green buffer along University Boulevard

West Gate
From the intersection of Stadium Drive and University Boulevard to West Mall, large sports, fine arts and residential complexes surround the traffic circle and create a new major entrance to the Campus

PROPOSED WEST MALL
Removal of surface parking lots permits the creation of a new urban center, enclosed by academic and residential facilities, which connects disparate western residential communities

CAMPSUS DRIVE
Existing structures front the semi-circular street as it arcs around McKeldin Mall: proposed improvements include the enhancement of public spaces and reclamation of remnant landscape areas.
Existing Aerial View

Exhibit W-2: Aerial Photograph of West District
DISTRICT DEFINITION

DISTRICT BUILDING TYPES

- Structures within the West District include: sports complexes, performing arts and academic buildings, and the President’s Residence.

ADJACENT CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS & FEATURES

- Refer to the Historic Core, Northwest, and Southwest districts
- Anne Arundel Hall (060), Queen Anne’s Hall (061), Dorchester Hall (064)
- The cupola of the HJ Patterson Building (073)
- The Architecture Building (145)
- The Denton Community complex (252, 3, & 4)
- The cupolas and porticoes of UMUC (345, 6, 7)
- Byrd Stadium (361), particularly the high bleachers and Tyser Tower
- The spire of the United Methodist Church on Campus Drive

Fig. w-4a: Methodist spire from east
Fig. w-4b: Architecture building
Fig. w-4c: UMUC cupola
Fig. w-4d: HJ Patterson, east facade
Fig. w-4f: Denton and Elkton halls
Fig. w-4g: Tyser tower
Fig. w-4e: Topographic contours
Urban Design

General Description

Parking lots cover much of the generally flat plain that gently rises from the South and more steeply from Stadium Circle (fig. w-2a). The President’s Residence stands in isolation atop a low knoll along the western edge of the Campus; recent replanting of trees leveled by the September, 2001 tornado (fig. w-7a) will recreate the visual buffer and help root this complex to its site. The Clarice Smith / Maryland Performing Arts Center (CSPAC) pairs with Denton Hall and Stadium Garage to form the West Gate campus entrance (fig. w-4c). Cole Student Activities Building (Cole SAB) and the academic buildings surrounding the East Tawes Plaza line Campus Drive (fig. w-6a), but do little to effectively channel it.

The FMP proposes the creation of an oblong West Mall (Roman circus or stadium plan) using the Concentrated Cosmic model, unique to the Campus (figs. w-5c, w-5d). Academic and residential complexes enclose this quad; the primary axis travels the plaza’s length, through Stadium Circle and the Denton Community to the forested Golf Course Hilltop beyond. Denton and Elkton towers (fig. w-6b) form a defined plaza gate, easily perceived from the plaza intersection west of Tawes Fine Arts Center (Tawes FAC). From the Tawes site, also, axial connections with the spire of the United Methodist Church, the cupolas of UMUC, and the tower of Van Munching Mall are formed (fig. w-5c). Another axial connection, between the cupolas of UMUC and the HJ Patterson Building through the West Plaza along Presidential Drive (fig. w-4e), should be enhanced, and the currently-under-construction addition to the Health Care Center should not interrupt it.
The proposed West Mall connects the opposite ends of campus: the Southwest and Northwest districts. The mall will be a prominent and efficient north-south route to travel across campus. Not only can the mall serve as a connector for transportation, it should visually connect remote districts of the campus and assist in knitting the campus together.

An exedra closes the eastern end of the West Mall; portals open to a proposed Campus Drive and Mowatt Lane traffic circle. The cross-axis, continuing the Primary Campus Axis through McKeldin Mall and Tawes FAC should be enhanced with a series of plazas and a quadrangle, per the FMP. Landmarks can take the form of towers, porticos, roof elements, public art, specimen landscape elements, or a memorable piece of the environment (figs. w-5e). The topography and landscape can embellish or celebrate landmarks by creating hierarchical spaces in which they reside. Landmarks serve as directional beacons and visual bookmarks for the community and form intricate and memorable sequences of spaces.
**Contribution Features**

- Axial connections with H.J. Patterson and Van Munching Halls, UMUC, the President’s Residence, and the Golf Course hilltop beyond the Denton Community
- The upper terrace of the Art – Sociology Building, and monumental staircase
- The proposed West Mall

**Non-Contributing Features**

**Neutral**

- West Gate at Stadium Drive
- Clarice Smith PAC area, including entries and courtyards

**Unsympathetic**

- Surface parking lots

**Under-Developed**

- President’s Residence grounds
- Cole SAB plazas
- Both Tawes FAC plazas
- Sculpture Garden and entry of Art – Sociology Building
- Campus Drive
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Parking lots cover much of the generally flat plain; a crest runs East-West along a line extending from the front of the President’s Residence to the Tennis Courts. Guiford Run drains the southwest corner of the District; a drainage swale separates the President’s Residence grounds from the Kehoe / Ludwig Field and CSPAC areas. The President’s Residence occupies a knoll perpendicular to University Boulevard on the West, with vistas to the Golf Course to the North; the remnants of the southern portion of Presidential Drive are located adjacent to UMUC property. The President’s Residence grounds and storm retention area along University Boulevard were denuded of trees by the 24 September, 2001 tornadoes. The Northern portion of the District slopes rapidly from the crest to the Campus’ West Gate at Stadium Drive. Campus Drive, along the District’s eastern border, has trees and lawns, but these are not articulated to form spaces, corridors or connections; they contribute to the residual feeling of the campus in lieu of being part of any of the defined landscape typologies.

FMP-proposed courts, quadrangles, and the West Mall afford opportunities to provide a series of public and semi-private spaces, with varying degrees of intimacy, for use by the academic and residential occupants as well as recreational and event participants. As long as axial connections and other organizing principles are observed, each of the landscape architectural typologies is appropriate for these spaces, and progression from one type to another would add to the experiential richness of the District.

The President’s Residence and grounds have visual / axial connections with the Campus and Golf Course (fig. w-5e); the complex can either directly participate with or be concealed from adjacent facilities and maintain these connections. The soccer field at the Ludwig facility should be retained for intramural and adjacent residential use.

The creation of a pond as part of the stormwater retention system improvements for Guilford Run could become one of the natural amenities serving the community as well as an environmental protection for the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

fig. w-9a 360° panorama at west gate

fig. w-9b view of university boulevard toward golf course from clarice smith performing arts center

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CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

• The entry and west courtyards of CSPAC (2001) [Contemporary]
• The west courtyard of Benjamin Building (1968) [Contemporary]

NEUTRAL

• The east plaza at Tawes FAC (1976) [Urban]
• The Tennis Courts adjacent to Cole SAB (1976) [N/A]
• JH Kehoe Track & Ludwig Soccer Field; Javelin & Hammer Throwing Field (1995) [N/A]
• The side yards of CSPAC (2001) [Contemporary]

UNSYPATHETIC

• Surface parking lots

UNDER-DEVELOPED

• The President’s Residence grounds (1956) [Romantic]
• The west plaza at the Tawes FAC (1965) [Contemporary]
• The entry, sculpture garden and upper terrace of Art Sociology Building (1976) [Contemporary]
• Storm water retention pond west of CSPAC (2000) [N/A]
• The West Gate at Stadium Drive (2001) [Contemporary]
• The proposed Alumni Center (407) site adjacent to Byrd Stadium [Rural]
• Campus Drive [Remnant]
• Guilford Run [Remnant]
LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

- campus boundary
- existing structures
- proposed construction
- urban
- rural
- natural
- emergency
- historical
- agricultural

aesthetic guidelines for campus development

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

fig. w-11a, tennis courts adjacent to cole sap
fig. w-11b, president's residence grounds
fig. w-11c, tennis field and tennis complex
fig. w-11d, entry, sculpture garden, art-sociology
fig. w-11e, side yards of cspac
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fig. w-11h, kawco fac west plaza
fig. w-11i, kawco fac west plaza
fig. w-11j, kawco fac west plaza
fig. w-11k, kawco fac west plaza
ARCHITECTURE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The District contains structures of varying styles and quality. Tawes FAC mimics the Colonial Revival period of red brick with white trim, columned portico, gable-roofed architecture prominent in the Historic Core. The Cole SAB was designed in the more sparse Neo-Classical style, using similar materials, while the President’s House is an example of 1950’s red brick gable-roofed Neo-Colonial tract housing common in the Washington suburbs. The Art – Sociology Building is a stark Modernist structure surrounded by unsuccessful open spaces. The Clarice Smith PAC more-appropriately occupies its prime location at the West Gate as a contemporary assemblage of brick buildings joined under a roofed-and-skylighted plaza-like lobby.

In order to develop the West Mall to its potential, buildings should match the height of the Tawes FAC (5-6 stories), building corners at cross-axes should be emphasized, and spaces separating buildings minimized (fig. w-18b). Buildings not adjacent to the Mall can be reduced to 3-4 stories, per their program requirements. The residential complex surrounding Ludwig Field and the academic building exedra should afford access from the Mall, preferably through portals.

The proposed parking garage should neither overwhelm its neighbors nor present service functions to Campus Drive.

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

SIGNIFICANT
• None

IMPORTANT
• Tawes Fine Arts Center (141 – 1965; renovated 1985) [Neo-Colonial]
• Clarice Smith / Maryland Center for the Performing Arts (386 – 2001) [Contemporary]
ARCHITECTURE

NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

NEUTRAL
- Benjamin Building (143 – 1966; addition 1968) [Neo-Colonial]
- Cole Student Activities Building (162 – 1954; pool addition 1958, renovated 1971) [Neo-Classical Revival]
- Union Lane Parking Garage (179 – 1971) [Contemporary]

UNSYMPATHETIC
- Art – Sociology Building (146 – 1976) [Contemporary]
- The President’s Residence (164 – 1956; addition 1993) [Neo-Colonial]
- Pump House (200 – 1971) [minimal]
aesthetic guidelines for campus development

facilities to be demolished

building heights

fig. w-15a 388 track / soccer stands / storage

fig. w-15b 388 ludwig field and kehoe track facility

fig. w-15c 104, 105 special education trailers

ARCHITECTURE

building heights

fig. w-15d: building heights
ISSUES: URBAN DESIGN & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The FMP proposes major changes to this District by relocating the surface parking lots into garages, and converting the space into a mall surrounded by academic and residential structures. The expanded President’s Residence is to be screened from the Campus, in order to provide privacy for the occupants, with limited visual exceptions along axial lines to connect the complex to the University and the Golf Course.

Diagramatically, the FMP indicates breaks between buildings where axial connections are important. Other methods of establishing these axes are through portals in the building mass or by Nolli connections of interior and exterior spaces.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS: URBAN DESIGN AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

- The landscape elements should reinforce the western Campus edge, and the West Gate at University Boulevard - Stadium Drive (fig. w-16a), as a major Campus entry. It is imperative that buildings do not expose back- or service-yards to University Boulevard. A planted screen of trees and shrubbery will help maintain the street edge.

- The stormwater retention pond west of CSPAC (fig. w-16h) was devastated by the building’s construction and the tornadoes; it should be refurbished as a community amenity. A new retention area is proposed for the southern end of the President’s Residence lawn (fig. w-16i).

- The West Gate (fig. w-16e) provides an opportunity for the University to welcome students and visitors. Natural elements should create a figural and unique entrance at the West Gate. The traffic islands should greet campus visitors and provide a memorable introduction to campus, through the use of artwork. The traffic circle offers an appropriate opportunity for an iconic image formed by plantings and flowerbeds. The Stadium Parking Garage displays painted metal balustrades / iconic elements at the Stadium’s Main Gate.
The understated building elements and orientation of primary entrance render the President's Residence a neutral landmark in the West District. The house is aesthetically bland, yet its prominent position atop the hill demands visual axial connection with the Campus (fig. w-7e). Views from the north end of the West Mall, the west end of Tawes Quadrangle, and the residential quadrangle should be afforded through breaks in the proposed forest buffer. From the west side, the house should be completely concealed from University Boulevard and UMUC. The north-south axis should extend to the Golf Course across University Boulevard, in the spirit of Villa Gamberaia (where the gardens focus on the Duomo in Florence (fig. w-17g)). Formal gardens and private backyard spaces should be incorporated into the site, as well as parking for public entertaining functions, delivery and catering activities.
The north end of the West Mall (fig. w-18i) serves a much different purpose than the south end: it should remain open and invite lines of sight and traffic from the north side of campus. Providing the mall is well lit and flanked by residential halls, the openness created by the north end of the mall provides a safe pedestrian route connecting the north to south residential communities. Structures on the southeast and southwest corners should incorporate architectonic devices (such as pavilions, towers, or gables) to serve as “bookends” for the Mall.

When addressing the bisecting cross axes (figs. w-17c, w-18i), the whole West Mall should be predominately appreciated as an open space emphasizing the axis from Campus Drive through the Denton community. Wherever a cross-axis may intersect perpendicularly through the mall, peripheral green elements and building masses should respond by marking the crossing and allowing both axes to continue.
ISSUES: URBAN DESIGN & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The proposed quadrangle on the west side of the West Mall should be in concert with the interiors of residential quadrangles: the proposed space is both a private courtyard for the resident halls and recreational space for the District (fig. X). A portal or gateway entrance into the quad from the Mall enhances the concept of a semi-private community area. The community space should be landscaped and furnished in a manner conducive to informal gathering and relaxing. The quad to the east of the Mall should have the characteristic of back- and service-yards outlined in the YARDS AND PLACES discussion.
The residual spaces in front of Cole SAC (fig. X) hold a tremendous opportunity to display landmark objects or elements bespeaking the sports history of the University as part of a revitalized facility. The eastern plaza also occupies the birm of the hill and the head of the axis proceeding eastward along Campus Drive.

Landscapes elements should assist in creating lines of sight to and from landmarks. The elements should not detract from or impede a desired line of sight to an iconic object (figs. X,x).

Each building should be provided with front, back and service yards supplementing major public spaces, such as the West Mall or the Tawes plazas.

The mall and plazas should be furnished with ample public seating, sheltered by shade trees and structures.

Locations where a landmark element is desired:
- Traffic circles along Campus Drive at Mowatt and extended Union lanes
- Buildings forming the south end (exedra) of the West Mall
- Building corners forming intersection of Union Drive and West Mall
- Crest of West Mall Traffic circle at west end of Tawes Quadrangle
- Traffic circle at north entrance into West Mall
- Traffic circle at West Gate Entry to residential quad from the Mall.

Landmarks should be preserved:
- Stadium entrance through Stadium Garage
- Cole SAB entrance
- Axes to HJ Patterson and UMUC Cupolas
- Tawes FAC west portico
- "University of Maryland" signage on Byrd Stadium high bleachers.

In order to make the Campus approach and entry from the south and east feel hospitable and welcoming, Campus Drive should be furnished with planting groups that form corridors and public spaces and screen the traveler from undesirable building elements, as detailed in the Streets and Walks article (figs. X,x). Gateways into the West District should be conceived to lead through the District edge and draw visitors into the Campus.
The array of architectural styles currently found in the West District provides no dominant aesthetic precedent. Common themes are red brick simple block masses with white trim and entrances and gray slate or metal roofing. Byrd Stadium bleachers are constructed from gray concrete; the auxiliary red brick single-story buildings have blue metal roofs, which should be painted or replaced. The CSPAC is composed of a series of non-aligned smaller blocks lining a central corridor: a "village street" composite concept not consistent with the rest of the Campus Tawes FAC, Benjamin Building, and the President’s Residence are Neo-Colonial, the Cole SAB Neo-Classical, and Art – Sociology Contemporary. Proposed buildings may adopt any stylistic approach, but should contribute to, not denigrate, the context.

The massing of each building should reinforce the axes of the entire district; portals and Nolli connections can allow axial connections without providing breaks between buildings.

Primary figural façade elements should be reserved for those on the building's Front Yard or addressing primary public spaces.

The scale and formal arrangement of the proposed buildings which form the West Mall may be grander than other district buildings (figs. X, x). The south end or exedra should contain a bridge structure or portal straddling the axis to the tower roof of Van Munching Hall in the Southwest District as well as an element (such as a tower, pavilion, portico, ornament, or central gabled roof) emphasizing the Mall’s primary axis. Gateways into adjacent courts or yards should be emphasized, as well as major axial intersections.

The proposed parking garage along Campus Drive (fg. X) should be scaled and detailed to respect its location along a major campus boundary as well as neighbors to the south. Unlike other garage locations, there is little room for planting which might screen the building.

Buildings adjoining the President's Residence grounds (fig. X) should form a consistent backdrop to the proposed forest and lawns, and should not adversely draw attention from the residential complex.

The FMP proposes expansion of the President's Residence through the addition of a facility to house banqueting functions and guest quarters (fig. X).

The residences on the residential quadrangle will surround recreational fields and should be organized to benefit from and support this arrangement (fig. X). Backyard spaces should be integrated into the quadrangle, allowing semi-private areas for each building. Service yards should not be located on the Mall or facing the President’s Residence. Building elements should include portals and emphasized corners at major axial intersections.

A tower element is proposed for a new building adjacent to the Cole SAB, on axis with Campus Drive to the east; the view to Lake Artemesia and rolling countryside should be a prime function of this elevated location.
SUMMARY

The West District has the opportunity to create major new entrances to UMCP, of similar importance to those along Baltimore Avenue. Construction along Campus Drive can provide a new façade with the Town of University Park with proper design initiatives. The proposed Western Mall can become the heart of this side of the Campus and provide much-needed north-south connections between the residential communities on North and South hills, and west of McKeldin Library, increasing the perceived round-the-clock occupancy of the Campus and inherent improvement in the sense of community and safety for students. The addition of x gross square feet of academic and residential area can be accomplished without sacrificing urban amenities, shoehorning buildings inappropriately into existing fabric or sprawling over valuable wooded countryside.

Major public functions will be provided with exterior space for gathering prior and subsequent to events, whether involving the fine arts or sports. Visual connections to Van Munching tower, the forest beyond the Denton community, UMCP and the President’s House tie these important extra-District spaces to the Campus.