Evie,

The team thought it was a great experience. It was interesting, stressful, exhausting, introspective, and a lot more. I hope you get some positive feedback on the macro level. I'm sure it's very difficult to get consensus or even focus for more than a nana-second with so much going on. I think the fact that it happened at all is remarkable! Hang in there.

John.

P.S. check out the this web site. It would be nice for WMU!
Team Members:

- John W. Allegretti, FAIA
- Carey Carscallen, Director of Architecture, Andrews University
- Dan Page-Wood, Senior Project Architect
- Frances Blasy, Architectural Project Manager
- Emily Szilagyi-Mack, Student, Andrews University
- Christopher Allegretti, Information Technology
- Alice Kropewnicki, Student, Western Michigan University
- Kelly Conlan, Student, Western Michigan University
Campus Plan
A. Overall campus
   a.) Buildings on the west campus seem, to our team, becoming too dense
   b.) Way-finding on campus difficult
      i. Circular ring road pattern disorienting
      ii. Additional high density west campus buildings create shadowed cold unfriendly spaces.
      iii. Lack of visual reference points
   c.) A sustainable organic solar recommended as an educational model.
   d.) Signage improvements, way finding interactive kiosks, color coding campus zones and other directional improvements should be facilitated.
   e.) The east and west campuses should be linked thru the creation of an academic/arts community outreach bridge
   f.) A connection from the south side of Miller/Shaw Arts’ Plaza existing parking garage to the Old Water Tower on the east campus should be made:
      i. This connection would consist of parking structures on both sides of Stadium Drive creating a pyth or foundation and entries directly off of Stadium into the east and west sides of the structure, similar to the Heneke Building par tee.
      ii. The lowest level would provide vehicular and pedestrian connection and the upper level(s) would provide solar oriented green spaces for classrooms, auditoriums and other uses.
      iii. The bridge would be modular and flexible allowing for various function to be created as the needs required within a modular flexible structural armature.
   g.) The advantages of this proposal are:
      i. Link the east and west campuses
      ii. Create statement about community outreach
      iii. Make an artistic statement to present and future students about the University’s commitment to education, the arts and excellence.
      iv. Reduce infill stress on the east campus plan
      v. Create a dramatic sense of place similar in scale to what the Milwaukee Art Center has introduced with the “calavatra” signature museum addition or Chicago has created with Millennium Park.
      vi. Focus world wide attention on Western Michigan University through an International Design Competition for the design of a sustainable green solar building that would connect the campuses and provide a platform for present and future expansion.
      vii. Allow the Stadium Drive green space to be maintained while creating a new campus that speaks to the idea of buildings as artistic and sustainable expressions.
B. Arts Plaza

a.) Create a minimalist stage for change incorporating functional circulation, pedestrian friendly spaces as well as an interactive quadrangular relationship with the existing building functions.

b.) Our solution accentuates the diagonal pedestrian paths and sustainable water dispersion paving along with a drivable grass pave surface.

c.) The plaza would be slightly elevated three to four feet (3’-0” to 4’-0”) in the center allowing the definition of each of the four perimeter spaces to be articulated and providing students with a low sloping grass and paved berm recline for viewing art to the west, five arts and screen media to the north, the Sprau Café’ to the east and Miller to the south.

d.) A matrix of water and or movable fixed ecological displays incorporating the work of appropriate artists such as Mr. Buster Simpson would create an artistic overlay to the plaza and increase the “arts festive” ambiance while evoking an ecological spirit to the space.

e.) All mechanical systems for water elements would be housed inside of a building.

f.) The new café would be encouraged to interact with the quadrangle as would the sculpture garden to the west.

g.) The south facing Dalton Building adjacent space and wall would be modified to provide space for outdoor performances and a large digital screen similar to New York’s Time Square would rise above the stage where it would be viewed from the new north entry addition to Miller Auditorium. This screen would also work in unison with other spaces and audiovisual systems in the quad creating an I-Max presentation when coupled with the Richmond Center indoor screen.

h.) An additional outdoor performance area could be developed as part of the “bridge” concept on the south side of Miller Auditorium where existing surface parking is encouraged to become green space and an additional parking garage constructed.

i.) The northeast corner of Howard and Stadium would maintain green/environmental front door to the campus along with the sustainable solar academic arts stadium drive bridge.
C. Michigan Avenue
a.) Develop a more way finding pedestrian friendly historic corridor
b.) Eliminate all unnecessary parking
c.) Open the west entry and develop the drop off zone.
d.) Create a traffic circle at the east end of Bernhard Center and the guest home.
e.) Create a pedestrian friendly zone for large gatherings framed by sculpture and cascading water elements emanating from a new tall (10 to 20 story) interactive way-finding kiosk and observatory/small meeting space adjacent to the student bus stop to the north and west of Saugren Hall.
f.) Establish a color coded information system from this point of beginning on the west campus which would be visually linked to the east campus water tower.
g.) Replace broken pavement with a sustainable water dispersing pavement system.
h.) Install “grass pave” drivable lawns.
i.) Use solar indirect well sealed bollard lighting
j.) South facing solar heated outdoor seating areas would be developed to encourage environmental awareness and add a new dynamic to the campus.

On behalf of our team, we would like to thank Western Michigan University for their sponsorship of this community interactive Charrette.
Stadium Drive Pedestrian Connector
Overview of the Campus
Arts Plaza

- Places emphasis on each of the buildings separately
- Allows each structure to be expressed in a quad form
- Promotes diagonal circulation pattern
- Creates performing arts backdrop
- Open and flexible in order to maintain venues throughout the year

Raised sustainable water spray area
Sculpture garden
Parking
South facing performance area
Green space
Bridge to east campus
Interactive Arts Screen and Theater

- Displays digital artwork
- Interactive arts presentation
- Compliment to performing arts
- Stage for small scale performances
- “Times Square” like space visible from new dining and reception area at Miller Auditorium

Seating on grass pave
Information Kiosk and Meeting Room

- Signage of events
- Orientation
- Way finding
- Sense of Place
- Compliment to the East Campus Water Tower
- Observation Tower
Solar Bench and Outdoor Gathering Space