

Presentation Notes

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Order of Presentation:

- 1. Hamilton Anderson Associates and University of Detroit Mercy**
- 2. DSA and Lawrence Technical University**
- 3. Progressive AE and University of Michigan**
- 4. Allegretti Architects and Andrews University**

Team: Hamilton Anderson Associates and University of Detroit Mercy

PRESENTATION:

- 1) Strengthen “gateway” on the east – strongest visual campus entrance, limited views from west end
 - 2) West entrance: enhance and ‘pedestrianize’
 - 3) Make W. Michigan corridor more “green”
 - a) Place to “see or be seen”, site for large events, Bronco Bash
 - b) Existing slope/grade changes produce natural amphitheatre possibilities
 - 4) Create identify for Arts Plaza
 - a) Less congested, ‘open plan’ with multiple options for sculpture display, temp. and permanent
 - b) Create water feature with n-s axis, focal point from Chemistry building, aide to wayfinding
 - c) Café with seating
 - d) Terrace between Miller and Brown Hall
 - e) Enhance seating on southern exposures, espec. Dalton
 - f) Construct plaza on 2x2 pavers with drainage collection underneath; pavers can be arranged for special displays, events
 - g) Include space between Dalton and Kohrman as Arts Plaza, less active, more “green”
 - h) Space between Miller and ramp is “foyer” to plaza
 - i) Plaza has ‘urban density’
 - j) Plaza location for ‘arts store’ for all fine arts disciplines
 - k) Café and art store create ‘feedback’ into plaza open space
 - 5) Improve parking access to center of campus
 - a) underground parking, accessed from east ‘gateway’
 - b) could link to other underground tunnels or building
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Team: DSA and Lawrence Technical University

PRESENTATION:

- 1) Plaza: Key words:
 - a) Action
 - b) Visceral Experience
 - c) Memory
 - d) Sustainable
 - e) Learning Garden
- 2) Blur boundaries between classroom and landscape
- 3) Place for Action:
 - a) nodes where natural pedestrian circulation paths come together or touch
 - b) Allow student/pedestrian to engage with landscape
 - c) Allow students /pedestrians to engage with each other
- 4) Landscape
 - a) design the hardscape
 - b) Multi-use – plaza as classroom, eg slate walls are tablets
 - c) large and small scale interaction sites
 - d) Use path to insert information, grab attention
 - i) sounds
 - ii) kiosks, digital information displays, upload/download sites for email
 - iii) buildings as billboards
- 5) Water
 - a) weave through paths
 - b) wash down walls

Also: Model by team and two sketches by Alan Lugo, WMU student

Team: Progressive AE and University of Michigan

PRESENTATION:

- 1) Create “microclimates” in Plaza
 - a) Movement: Pedestrian engagement even when ‘just passing through’
 - b) Display and performance: extension of planned sculpture displays, opportunity to engage Miller crowds
 - c) “Hang” spaces: passive, relaxation
- 2) 12 month use of space, all features viable for 12 months – all-season
 - a) Water feature active only in warm months, similar to Univ of Cincinnati plaza features
 - b) Cold months use water swale for snow collection

- 3) “Filters”: Diagonal and North-South features/paths filter perception, create changing vista points
 - a) N-S line of trees create screen between plaza and Brown Hall, smaller, quieter space
 - b) sloping planes connect terrain, grade changes between buildings: low points are main paths
 - c) Use slopes to create amphitheatre in front of Miller patio
 - 4) Café
 - a) Incorporate as part of or along path; slightly lower than main path
 - b) Seating at SE exposure – “light seeking”
 - 5) Use ‘vegetal scrim’ to soften view, intersect with hardscapes.
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Team: Allegretti Architects and Andrews University

PRESENTATION:

- 1) Initial discussion of possibilities for visual and physical connection to Oakland Drive Campus
 - a) Bridge over Stadium Drive makes statement - “here is Western”
 - b) Miller’s E-W spine is directly opposite the Water Tower
- 2) Flag (Tent) Plaza: valuable location for information kiosk, tower or icon visible from west entrance;
 - a) use for wayfinding
 - b) mirrors Water Tower
 - c) multi-level, small group space
- 3) Miller plaza
 - a) background turf, raised hardscape with diagonal pathways
 - b) add covered scrim to south Dalton – eg Times Square – to use for infor displays and projections, also small stage
 - c) refer to Buster Simpson environmental art – “landscape as canvas”
 - d) Center features waterscape and sprays
 - e) performance stage on patio side- of Miller
 - f) ‘solar benches’
 - i) similar to bus stops
 - ii) seasonal benefits as wind sheild, solar gain in cold months
- 4) West entrance
 - a) Create ‘drop-off’ to Haenicke Hall to function same as Bernhard Center drop-off
 - b) improve pedestrian connection to west end; create stronger pedestrian corridor between west and east entrances