Design Review Board
August 16, 2011
Present: Peter Schaudt, Pete Anderson, Art Hove, Dan Okoli,
Staff: Gary Brown, Dorothy Steele, Pat Richards, Yemi Falomo

Project Review: West Campus Cogen Addition
A/E Firm: Potter Lawson – Jim Moravec; Affiliated Engineers – Scott Mill
DSF Project Manager: Mark Zaccagnino
Client Representative: Jeff Pollei

The architect reviewed the project which will increase chiller capacity for campus. The project will add chillers, cooling towers, electrical switchgear and transformer space. The existing building is composed of precast panels inlaid with brick and precast with a sandblasted finish which are being looked at for the basis of materials for the addition. The new mass will need to extend out beyond the existing building instead of stepping back due to the size of equipment inside the building.

DRB Comments

- There are two options: extend the vocabulary of the existing facility or use contrasting materials to clearly delineate the addition. It may be possible to diminish the bulk with different colors or materials.
- If glazing was added it would allow the interior mechanical unit to be seen from the outside. Clerestory glazing that was lit at night could be an effective touch. Zaccagnino clarified that the interior will not be built out immediately, interior views may initially be to empty space rather than equipment.
- The corner of the building could be expressed differently, either by glazing the corner or bringing the material used on the upper level down to the ground, causing the eye to run vertically instead of horizontally. Another alternative would be to keep the strong base but take the lighter color material down to strip windows. Horizontal bands could diminish the bulk.
- Spacing of the cooling towers will dictate the mass of the building. A landscape setback needs to be maintained on the north side. Extending the building up to the sidewalk would create a horrible pedestrian experience. A/E should study the street level experience. Perhaps the first level is set back and upper levels cantilever over. If so, consideration must be given to how to maintain plantings under the overhang.
- If the ground plane is complicated, the upper levels need to be simplified.
- The landscape architect needs to be involved in design discussions before this project is presented again at DRB.

Project Review: WIMR West Wedge Infill
A/E Firm: Zimmerman – Tom Witte, Tom DiSalvo
FP&M Project Manager: Ann Hayes
FP&M Transportation: Rob Kennedy
Client Representative: Andrew Howick

The architect reviewed the west campus development, circulation patterns and connections to other buildings in the area. The WIMR project has been challenged with tying this end of campus together. The first tower is complete and established the basic design vocabulary. The focus of this discussion is on the second wedge that will be located between the second tower and a future third tower.

- Strong programmatic connections exist with the Waisman Center – in interconnected research and shared equipment.
- The west wedge is a triangular piece that will tie the 2nd and 3rd tower together. This wedge building is designed to be a three level research facility.
- A suitable building entrance needs to be created in the wedge off Highland Ave.
- The wedge will serve as a transition between towers. The current design includes a glassed stair tower and punched windows that then transition to a linear window strip. The windows turn the corner but will eventually be captured by the third tower. The building needs to stand alone, until the third tower is funded and constructed (no timeline at this point).
- There is an evolution in the site with the first wedge including more hardscape, bike parking and intensive use. The west wedge will be more building and less green space but will be less formal. A small pedestrian plaza will be included near the entry. There will be three zones of space: plaza, roof and green space to the south which is a placeholder for the third tower.

DRB Comments

- Force lines move from the stair tower and from the punched to linear windows. This won't make sense once the third tower is built.
- A symmetrical design may be preferable. The wedge could have the same glass piece at each corner, or the corner reveal could occur sooner.
- The building is being designed for two conditions: to stand alone and to respond to a future addition.
- Green roof – the forms for the roof should be simplified. A pure form (circle, trapezoid) without cutouts would be best.
- The green spaces and the wedge should be viewed as the glue the holds the towers together.
- Sun studies should be done to understand the site better, particularly the spring and fall conditions.
- Rather than tucking people spaces in the back, they should be pulled closer to the road.
- The bus stop and crosswalks are good.
- Safety is an issue with cars gaining speed on the downhill curve. Flashing yellow lights or a speed table might help slow car traffic down around curve.
- Lastly, remember to simplify.

Project Review: Student Athletic Performance Center
A/E Firms: VOA Associates – William Ketcham, Mike Siegel; SportsPlan Studio – Joel Leider; JJR – Brian Peterson, Nate Novak; BSA – Ian Griffiths
FP&M Project Manager: Ann Hayes
FP&M Transportation: Rob Kennedy
DSF Project Manager: Tim Luttrell
Client Representative: John Chadima

The scope of work includes fifteen projects over three years, including the addition at the north end of the stadium, renovation of McClain, development of the plaza west of Engineering and Badger Way which is an upgraded bike/pedestrian corridor from Breese Terrace to N. Randall Avenue.

- A wall will be constructed at McClain to catch snow and ice off the roof and make Badger Way safe for pedestrians. The wall will be 20'- 6" in height. The wall will be clad in masonry and include groups of windows in the bays of McClain to create a rhythm across the façade and to visually tie McClain to the Stadium.
- Studies of the north elevation of Camp Randall were reviewed which included different degrees of openness. The idea of regular fenestration breaks down once the grid of new and existing partitions is studied.
- The addition to Camp Randall is either two or three stories. Athletics is studying whether a third story of club seats is feasible.
- Schemes for the addition to the stadium were presented. Both rectangular and arched window schemes were included, with four variations of the arched façade reviewed. The arch is a design element borrowed from the Fieldhouse.
- Link building between McClain and the Stadium: the program is complicated and needs to link three levels of McClain to Camp Randall Stadium. Grade changes and circulation patterns are best resolved by a circular stair scheme that connects the various levels and creates branding opportunities for Athletics. The space needs to accommodate activities on game day as well as preparation activities related to travel days for the athletic teams.
- The Fetzer Center will include public and private study spaces as well as counseling space and will be part of the north addition to the stadium.
- The greenspace between Lot 17 and Engineering Hall needs to include hardscape at the north end of the stadium to handle truck traffic and needs to provide access to Breese Terrace, the Camp Randall Memorial Park and segregate service space from pedestrian space. The service access path to Engineering next to the park will be reconfigured and upgraded.
- Engineering Drive needs to be softened and made more pedestrian friendly through the use of pedestrian scale planters and plantings. Spaces for bike and moped parking as well as access for emergency vehicles, semi-trailers, etc. will be included on the site.

DRB Comments

- The scheme that includes arches with windows set back two feet, was preferred. The window expression should be more industrial with steel mullions.

- Need to be careful that arches do not become fussy. Materials need to be honest rather than applied. Detail should be crisp and modern although expressed with historic material.
- Sustainability of lintels is often an issue for rectangular windows. If steel is used it needs to be high finish to withstand weather.
- Link building – the sharp point of the triangle seems too severe and assertive. A faceted design may be better and should be studied.
- McClain wall: the windows will include structural box lintels rather than glazing the entire window. The A/E should consider drawing from the belt course detail for a similar profile above the brick pavilions. Multi light windows or some other feature that adds character to the windows should be considered. Tying the windows together with built in benches should be considered as long as they don't block through travel on Badger Way.
- Plaza – the use of symmetrical allees needs to be carefully considered, particularly when some of the trees are in lawn and some in hardscape. The grow pattern will be different and result in asymmetry. Instead of individual trees in planters, consider a grove of trees all in one bed. The bed could slope or be stepped terraces.
- Paving patterns should be simple at the ground plain. Radial patterns should be replaced with a grid. Engineering Way needs to read more as a pedestrian path than a road.
- The Camp Randall Memorial Park needs to be honored.
- Addition to Stadium – Elevation Option no. 3 is the most successful; this is a good place to start but the ties to the link building need to improve.
- Addition to Stadium should tie the building visually to history. People should be reminded subliminally about the history of Camp Randall.

Project Review: School of Nursing
A/E Firm: Kahler Slater – Koby Scheel
Landscape Architecture Firm: Ken Saiki Design – Ken Saiki, Sue Payne
FP&M Project Manager: Julie Grove
FP&M Transportation: Rob Kennedy
Client Representative: Mark VanderWoude, Lisa Reese

Discussion centered on the site design and the pedestrian circulation. The double cross walk across Highland Avenue has been changed to a single cross walk. Bike spaces (212) and moped parking (68), have been distributed around the site with vehicle parking (36) to the east of the new building. The site also includes a large lawn used for events, patio space with a natural gas fire pit, seat walls and café chairs and tables. A medicinal herb garden for the School of Pharmacy is included adjacent to Rennebohm Hall.

- Concrete unit pavers will be used for the plaza and paving bands pull the structure of the building out into the landscape.
- Site furnishings will be the campus standard tables, trash receptacles and benches.
- Main walkways will be plain concrete with score lines. Concrete pavers will be used for patios and entrances. Contrasting colors and patterns may be introduced to add richness. The linear bands may be 2x2 pavers in a contrasting color.
- An ecologically informed approach to landscape plantings will allow for natural distributions patterns, sweeping beds of herbaceous plantings, groves of closely spaced trees.
- The green roof (7000 sq. ft. total) will be a combination of extensive and intensive plantings. These areas are bordered with a 10 in. high curb. Extensive areas will have sedum to provide a variety of texture and color. Two seating areas are included with wood tile pedestrian pavers creating walkways.
- The medicinal garden is a combination of retaining walls with medicinal plants and herbs.

DRB Comments

- Natural areas – is a question of scale, larger is better.
- Consider whether the lawn could be more immersed in natural areas, with gardens all the way around the lawn.
- Medicinal garden – the small lawn pieces should be removed.
- Plaza – take the tangent out of the walk, creating more of a graceful curve.
- Roof garden – raised planters for the trees should be considered. Softening the patio area into a circular shape may be an improvement. Consider removing or incorporating the central, oval planting into the overall design. Doesn't seem to fit.
- The overall landscape will require a higher level of maintenance than average.

Project Review: Charter Street Substation
A/E Firm: Cassie Goodwin, Brian Peterson, Kyle Trulen
Construction Representative: Gus Schultz

This project is related to the Charter Street Heating Plant Re-build but requires separate approval. This will be a 15 KV switchgear building that will be a prefabricated steel box, approximately 12 ft. in height. The object is to screen the box with an architectural site wall along Dayton and Charter Streets and a chain link fence along the north. The site is triangular, currently occupied by an apartment building (now vacant). The Dayton corridor has been revitalized over the last decade. Charter Street is an important connection going north, south.

- Panels on the switchgear building need to be accessible at all times.
- Required clearances dictate the location of the site wall.
- The site wall is designed as a structural wall clad with precast panels with inset brick panels and layered perforated panels.
- Desire is to address the corner to create a pedestrian amenity. The corner is articulated with a horizontal wrapping and a vertical element. Down lights on the corner would provide light and interest at night.
- Intent was to respond to other buildings in the area without appearing to create a small version of the Charter Street plant.

DRB Comments

- The vertical tower like element is problematic. It should either be eliminated or made taller. The cantilever nicely addresses the corner.
- The wall design from CSHP could be used to screen the building, rather than introducing new elements. That would be a more honest, logical and appropriate solution. This building doesn't need to respond to other buildings in the neighborhood.
- More green could be introduced at the corner. Creating a park-like amenity at the corner should be considered. Placing the switchgear building on a diagonal and giving the corner back to the city would be an option to consider. Larger trees could be planted on the site then.
- Create an identity at the corner and then use the wall design from CSHP for the remainder. Less screening and more views of the switchgear building would be acceptable too.

Project Review: Memorial Union
A/E Firms: Uihlein Wilson – Del Wilson; JJR – Ed Freer, Brian Peterson, Nate Novak, Kyle Trulen
FP&M Project Manager: Angela Pakes Ahlman
DSF Project Manager: Sam Calvin
Client Representative: Hank Walter, Colin Plunkett

Changes made since the last presentation to the DRB were reviewed including more glass at the Stiftskeller addition, and reconfigured glass, stone and vertical elements on the Hoofers façade. The Wisconsin Historical Society requested that the stone on the west side of the theatre addition be replaced with glass or spandrel glass.

- Materials were reviewed. The south side will include 2 types of stone with a corduroy finish on the limestone at the base and quoins. Indiana limestone can be a close match for color but texture may differ. WHS wants to have the stone differ from the original. A smooth or light sandblast finish will tie into the existing stonework.
- The west wing will be re-roofed with tile to match the existing. A slightly different texture may be used to differentiate from the original building.
- The site at the south side has been modified with a planter at the south corner and walkways to the new entrance. Bike parking is incorporated off Langdon St.
- Pole light fixtures are included as are entry piers with a light fixture incorporated into the pier. Decisions have not been made on the type of fixtures, a number of different types exist in the area.
- The prefunction theatre lounge addition has not yet been determined as an add alternate, rather it is currently being considered as an option dependent on funding from outside the projects $52million scope. The monumental stair does not require a center handrail. Lighting may be integrated into handrails or with the banners on the theater lounge terrace.
- The stairs from Park Street down to the Hoofers area needs to be reconstructed. Four options were presented.

DRB Comments

- Stair from Park Street to the lake level: The DRB preferred Option B which included an easy stair axis, direct access, canopy and a bit more green space. A shade tree should be included.
- The Hoofers addition still is too much like a storefront. The gentle arc of this section should act as a strong base. Hoofers wants an expanse of glass. Anderson would prefer more masonry, expressed as a colonnade or arcade to create a base and rhythm across the face. A projected canopy should be considered, it could suggest a connection to boats. If not a canopy, strengthening the line of the railing may create the strong line needed on this elevation. In the winter a protected feeling will be important as opposed to a more open feeling in the summer.
- The southwest plaza is now a pleasing plan. Concern remains about the light fixtures that will be used. The historic campus standard should be used instead of introducing something new and contemporary.

- The use of a contemporary light on the classical pier along the public sidewalk is jarring. Eliminating the light is preferred.
- Landscape walls could be neutral, not Beaux Arts or Art Deco. Piers are too high, the caps should be simplified or removed. Ideas need to be tested and finalized so that the walls can be used to unify phases I and II. Details remain to be worked out on the walls.
- Rather than incorporating the sign into the wall, consider a free standing sign in the planter.