

**Design Review Board
November 15, 2011**

Present: Peter Schaudt, Pete Anderson, Art Hove, Dan Okoli
Staff: Gary Brown, Dorothy Steele, Pat Richards, Yemi Falomo

Project Review: Lake Mendota Shoreline Rehabilitation

Landscape Architecture Firm: JJR – Bill Patek, Nate Novak, John Kretschman, Brian Peterson
DSF Project Manager: Lisa Pearson
FP&M Transportation Services: Rob Kennedy

Bill Patek provided an overview of the project, which is currently a standalone project but may be rolled into Phase I of the Memorial Union renovation. The project will remove the existing concrete pier and smooth out the shoreline. Although the limestone steps are roughly 40 years old, the stone is in good, useable condition. Undermining by wave action has caused the foundation to fail.

- Due to weathering, the foundation under the bottom block of limestone has washed out in some parts. The original design didn't protect the toe, which eventually slid out resulting in the wash out and failure of the steps.
- A small bay in the location of the original boathouse collects garbage and sediment. Sediment has formed a beach at one part of the shoreline. The new design removes the existing concrete pier and smoothes out the shoreline which should also improve the flow of water.
- Sheet piles will be installed to allow for dewatering and pouring of the foundation. The foundation will be cast in place or precast concrete. A steel plate will be used to prevent the new limestone base under the stone block from washing out.
- The stone will be reused; if additional stone is required it will be quarried in Sussex to match existing. The new stone will be placed below the water and the re-used stone on top to preserve the historical look.
- "Bump outs" are included in the design to allow people to site along the shoreline and be out of the flow of pedestrian traffic, closer to the lake.
- There is a convex 'eyebrow' extending out into the lake at Alumni Park. This design is in response to the underground loading dock, and the need for a wide pedestrian path aboveground at the terminus of the East Campus Mall.

Design Review Board discussion:

Stone Bench Seat:

- The bench seat at Alumni Park would be improved if it were deeper and slightly lower to allow people to sit facing both ways or to lie down on the top. The proportions should be the same as the steps. The bench could also be moved a couple feet from lake.
- Bump outs seem somewhat arbitrary. A better option may be to keep the top step as a consistent line across the shoreline with any bump outs at the lower step level. The bump outs could be more organic across the entire project.
- A continuous smooth line would be preferable over the convex shape extending at Alumni Park. A strong, simple sweep at the top edge would be best. The brow could be a good addition if it were down one level.
- The pinch points at the brow could be smoothed out. A sinuous line at the lake with orthogonal lines around the buildings would be successful. Simplicity is stronger than over-articulating a complex idea.
- Need to remember that in addition to being aware of the way people engage with the lake at the shore; this will be the terminus of the East Campus Mall. Alumni Park can be a more formal classical design but it needs to meet and frame the lake simply.

Project Review: Student Athletic Performance Center Landscape Design

A/E Firm (landscape architects): JJR – Brian Peterson, Nate Novak, Bill Patek

Client Representative: John Chadima

FP&M Project Manager: Ann Hayes

FP&M Transportation: Rob Kennedy

The project includes an addition to the north end of Camp Randall stadium and renovation to the McClain Center. New plaza space will be introduced to corral traffic and humanize the space. Upgrades along Engineering Drive will also create a sense of entrance to Mechanical Engineering and integrate service, access and game day use of the space.

The project will be at the 35% stage in a month. The presentation focused on the site development of Badger Way West, Badger Way East, the multi-purpose Campus Plaza/Green and Engineering Drive improvements.

Badger Way West:

- An existing retaining wall will move to the north to allow fire access and improved pedestrian traffic.
- Planters with stepped seat walls and small trees will also incorporate bike parking in some areas.

Badger Way East: North side of McClain Facility

- The planter along the McClain facility has been changed to a low articulated wall that will be brick with a stone cap.

Campus Plaza/Green

- The Green will have rows of trees to lead pedestrians through the space and frame the multipurpose lawn. The space can be used for day-to-day activities and programmed for special events. The lawn will open to a plaza space at the south end near the McClain Center and the Stadium. Paving patterns at the plaza will create interest.
- Planters are designed at 10'x10' and connected by a brick wall with a bench. The height has been evened out and set at 14".
- The Green would be irrigated and have reinforced turf.
- Trees have been grouped to create directionality and rhythm

Engineering Drive

- The road has been designed for vehicle and pedestrian traffic and widened at some parts to allow for cars to pull over without blocking traffic.
- There needs to be a proper landscape experience between Mechanical Engineering and the Lot 17 Parking Ramp.

Design Review Board discussion:

- Questioned whether the Green will be viable as a maintained lawn. It will be difficult given the double rows of trees and the narrow space. This will be primarily a circulation space rather than a destination. It

could be more of an informal area under a few trees or have crushed stone or porous concrete as the surface.

- Idea was to create a lawn with a permeable edge. The rows of trees could be simplified to allow more light into the lawn area while still buffering the edges.
- The green and plaza needs to be flexible but also secure for special events on game day.
- Badger Way West – explore whether it is possible to mount benches along the wall.
- Badger Way East – the wall should be uninterrupted instead of including piers.
- Spaces need to be linked but trees and treatment of trees could be slightly different with some stepped planters, some trees planted in ground with tree guards, some grouped in planters. Particularly at Engineering Way the planters need to be large and make a statement. In any case the soil volume will be important.
- Trees in the plaza area could be a single row, rather than a double row, along the east and west sides, opening up light into the lawn area to make it more viable. The planters around the trees can be simplified and grouped to provide the trees with as much soil growing medium as possible. Subsurface tree growth support (Silva Cells) were discussed as an option to structural soils to help provide the trees with the best possible chance for long term viability.

Project Review: Birge Hall

A/E Firm: Strang – Peter Tan, Tom Kleinheinz

Client Representative: Tom Givnish, David Baum, Mohammad Fayyza

FP&M Project Manager: Stu LaRose

DSF Project Manager: Sam Calvin

This project consists of the construction of a small (2000 sf) Conservatory, expansion of the headhouse and some interior remodeling. The site is south of Birge Hall and north of the Botany Garden which is framed by Lathrop Hall to the east and Chamberlin Hall to the west. The site has a significant amount of slope to the south. A metasequoia tree is in the center of the site, a larch at the south edge, a large oak is to the east and cork trees are on the west edge. The intent is to preserve the oak and cork trees.

The conservatory will contain a montane tropical rainforest which is a relatively rare environment for a conservatory.

The conservatory will be for research but will also have a significant education/outreach mission which requires that it be very accessible to students and the public. The goal is to use ramps and accessible programming to eliminate the need for an elevator.

The architect presented conceptual drawings for two options, one without the metasequoia and one which preserves it.

The first scheme is oriented on an east-west axis which provides good sun exposure.

- The rectangular, classical form building would be approached from the high side on the east. Entry would be into pre-function space. Other spaces would include restrooms, office and storage space. A full basement would be included for services.
- The conservatory would need to include at least 4 tall trees, smaller trees and ground hugging plants.
- Given the slope of the site, this version would include a 10 to 12' raised plinth, visible from the south along Lathrop Drive.

The second option is wrapped around the metasequoia tree. (It was noted by representatives of the department that this particular metasequoia, the only one on campus, is a poor example because of its abnormal growth form).

- This option is a contemporary structure that spirals around the sequoia and runs north south.
- This option has a lower plinth.

Design Review Board discussion:

- This design should consider future expansion needs for Birge Hall.
- The first option seems somewhat forced, while the second is more organic and fits the site well. However, designing around the metasequoia probably isn't necessary. The asymmetrical building would allow for future expansion.
- The designer should explore creating a gracious entry perhaps in a prefunction room that includes an elevator. The conservatory will need a recognizable entry to be inviting to the public.
- Representatives from the Botany Department noted the building needs to respect the neighbors. A contemporary structure may not be appropriate given the location. DRB members noted that the building could be traditional and classical but with a more informal site plan. A rectilinear building in a curvilinear landscape could be quite successful.
- Another option to explore would be to create a stand alone low building in the landscape that connects to the existing with a bridge.

- The concern with the plinth of option 1 is that it would look like a big retaining wall from Lathrop Drive and University Avenue to the south.
- Service could be pushed to the back with the lower level glazing to provide daylight into the space. Perhaps the building should be simplified to save money for an elevator.
- Access could be from the south with a modest plaza located north of the existing garden. The gardens are asymmetrical.
- The landscape architect needs to be involved in the design from the beginning, particularly given the challenges of this particular site.

Project Review: WIMR West Wedge Infill

A/E Firm: Zimmerman Architectural Studios – Tom Witte

DSF Project Manager: Sam Calvin

The last time this design was seen by the Design Review Board there were issues with the horizontal band of windows and the way the building would connect to the future third tower of WIMR. The façade is a long expanse, so articulation is needed to break up the 180' span.

- The horizontal banded windows have been removed leaving only punched window openings.
- The corner where the wedge meets future building is now a glass, vertical element.
- Part of the roof is now a green roof.

DRB comments and remarks:

- Design Review Board is happy with the changes that have been made.
- The green roof currently includes an arc that is not planted. Planting the entire roof should be considered. Careful study will be required to determine what plants will work on the roof due to the solar access and potential future shading from the third tower.
- The design can go forward; it doesn't have to be seen by the DRB anymore.

Project Review: West Campus Cogeneration Addition

A/E Firm: Potter Lawson – Jim Moravec; Affiliated Engineers – Scott Moll

Landscape Architect: Jenkins Survey and Design – Mike Schmeltzer

FP&M Project Manager: Jeff Pollei

DSF Project Manager: Mark Zaccagnind

This project fills in the notch at the northwest corner of the existing West Campus CoGeneration Facility building. The footprint is sized based on the size of the proposed cooling towers. The project now includes an angled wall at grade at the north west corner to ease the corner and avoid building over an existing steam tunnel. Although designed for six chillers, only two will be included in this initial phase of the project.

- Materials and colors of the addition match the original building.
- The lower level is glazed to provide views into the interior mechanical space. Pipes are color coded depending on function.
- An air intake is included on the north, the soffit creates a plenum to cool the chiller level.
- The angled corner provides visual relief, and will create a more comfortable feel for pedestrians at that corner.
- A series of rooms on the west side protect the generators
- Shadow studies have been completed to show the impact of the full build out on the greenhouses to the north.
- Landscape is designed to integrate the interior and exterior. Stormwater detention is required on site.
- Plantings are included in a regular pattern at the transformer wall. Lower plants are included along the cantilever edge.

Design Review Board discussion:

- It is important to look at lighting; it would be nice to get a wash of light and color instead of seeing rows of light fixtures from the outside. It is also important to limit the amount of light spilling from the building.
- Concern was expressed about the west wall of the transformers. DRB feels it should be red brick with horizontal lines continuing from the original building. More horizontal lines may be helpful in breaking down the façade rather than fins.
- Behind the glass, the skeletal structure of the building needs to be exposed, with the columns being visually more bold.
- The cantilever and angled wall are good changes and make the building more interesting.
- Landscape design – the natural grasses are good but they should be extended all the way down Walnut Street rather than the more formal rhythm of plantings. Sidewalk bridges could then extend from the doors to the sidewalk through the native plantings and over the swale if stormwater drainage is needed.
- Plantings need to be bolder and robust. The current plan is too busy, with too many species and too much like residential foundation plantings. The Kentucky Coffee trees and hawthorns should be kept with bold sweeps of native grasses in the retention areas. Boulders should be eliminated.