

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of UWAC
Monday, January 27th, 2020
UW Husky Union Building

Architectural Commission

X	Renee Cheng, Chair	Dean, College of Built Environments	Voting
X	AnnMarie Borys, Vice Chair	Associate Professor, College of Built Environments	Voting
X	Linda Jewell	Partner, Freeman & Jewell	Voting
X	Andrea Leers (Zoom)	Principal, Leers Wienzapfel Associates	Voting
X	Cathy Simon	Design Principal	Voting
X	John Syvertsen	Chairman, Board of Regents, American Architectural Foundation	Voting
	Vacant	Student Representative, College of Built Environments	Voting
X	Kristine Kenney	University Landscape Architect, UW Facilities	Ex Officio
X	Mike McCormick	Associate Vice President, UW Facilities	Ex Officio
X	Lou Cariello	Vice President, UW Facilities	Ex Officio

Minutes by Stephanie Parker

Call to Order

The Chair of the Architectural Commission and Dean of the College of Built Environments, Renee Cheng, called the meeting to order.

Approval of Past Minutes

The December 16th, meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Health Science Education Building

Julie Knorr, UW PDG

Ruth Baleiko, MH

Kara Weaver, GGN

Scott Akre, LCL

Building Systems

- Focus on all-gender restrooms throughout the building.
 - o Targeting a 42% reduction in water use based on fixture selections and systems.
- Energy Use/Conservation
 - o In pane window solar heat reduction
 - o Space on roof for PVs
 - o Integration of Mass Timber

Building Skin

- Selected shingled expression
 - o Experiential – reflects light, has shadow and depth and layering.
 - o Currently exploring shingles with verticals

- Varying the shingle tilt, provides a more irregular visual and allows further play with length.
- Site mock up recently developed to test/study ideas in the physical location.
 - Specifically testing the depths and tilt angles.
 - Building will experience pieces of light peeking in at various times and locations.

Program Organization

- Exhaust system – due to specific exhaust needs, the West half of the building has become a mechanical area to accommodate this system.

Street Scape and Active Edge

- Making Pacific Street an active and more engaging edge is still evolving.
- Hoping for solid vegetation on either side of the sidewalk to create buffer to street.
 - 1st Floor – vegetation adds visual buffer
 - Upper Floors – in canopy of street level trees (eventually)

West Slope

- Connection to main campus and threshold to south campus
- Goal is to capture the culture of care, native plants with a few touches of non-native.
- Continue to work on refinements, including accessible root, width of steps etc.

South Room

- Best opportunity for indoor/outdoor interfaces
- Shows off the warmth of CLT within the building
- Light studies show the quality of light during peak use times will be much better than originally expected

Today's Discussion:

- Balancing subtlety vs strength
- Effective expression of the gradient
- Use of perforation, finish and or corrugation

Comments:

- *How would you use the perforation?*
 - *Targets would be areas with mechanical louvers, as well as for pattern creation.*
- *The shingled concept is interesting – Caution not to be “too fussy”. Remember less is more.*
- *With the vertical divisions, is there a way to meet the sky with a bit more subtlety?*
- *There is a lot of effort to separate the podium - don't shave too frugally on the overhang.*
- *The scale works well. It doesn't need a lot of material (metal panels) differentiation. Too much texture will be at odds with the richness of the surface. Look for one good texture, or perhaps two, but corrugated may not add much to the metal family.*
- *There is a lack of prominence of entrance from the bridge. Feels as though it is underplayed. Northwest entrance is overshadowed by the heart right now. The door needs to be more prominent.*
- *Capitalize on the angle of the light. Continue the studies throughout the year.*
 - *Still trying to understand what is timid and what is heavy handed. Also keep in mind, there are many flat light days in Seattle which will not create the intricate shadows and light reflections.*
- *Unclear about what the vertical surfaces actually are. Also be thoughtful about materials that might easily shed moisture.*
- *What could precast do to create a better meeting point with the corners?*

- *Keep in mind, the shingles will cause streaking patterns. .*
- *How much glazing are in the classrooms?*
 - o *Full height windows from 10-12' allows quite a bit of daylight in the south rooms. No windows on the west side, so as not to suffer from heat issues.*
- *Constructability – look at the scale of things, you can always add additional verticals.*
- *Entries – what is the difference in populations that come in the west door versus the east and south doors? Understanding the audience will be important in designing the feel of the entrance.*
 - o *Most people will come from the south and east entrances. Especially the east.*
- *If very few people will likely go in the west entrance, what could be programed there instead?*
- *Should the heart be the main entrance and focus? Rather than have two similar, less pronounced end entries, refocus on the heart as one highly visible entrance.*
- *Think about what the building looks like at night. How does this image read at night? Can you light the façade in an interesting way?*

Foster School of Business - Founders Hall

Ross Pouley, UWF Project Manager

Design Team: LMN Architects
 GGN Landscape Architects
 Hoffman Construction Co.

Facade Concept Developments

- Strategy
 - o Compliment character
 - o Reveal heavy timber
 - o Pedestrian experience and engagement
 - o Building within a forest
 - o High performance building ecosystem
 - o Detailing and materiality
- Site Context
 - o Sits within the yard - the project has focused on not creating an edge.
 - o Current considerations include the orientation of the façades and how they move around the building.
 - o A variety of architecture exists around this building
 - o Massing has been refined over the course of the last several months.
 - How do the four spaces work materials together to differentiate the building but allow it to be inclusive within the complex of buildings around it.
 - o Stevens Way View
 - Recommendation of brick for exterior with metal trim. Works with surrounding buildings and desired experience.
 - o Klickitat Lane View
 - Revised atrium space provides more light.
 - o Denny Yard
 - Forum at the top of building set as its own concept.
 - o Chelan Lane
 - Enlarged size of windows for classrooms.
 - Materials include brick for office, standing seam metal panel for assembly space and a standing seam metal, maybe at a different scale, for the student centered spaces.

- Landscape
 - Terraces are separated into two different spaces, with an entry focused plaza and a more relaxed lower plaza, seen as more of an outdoor living room.
 - Additional entry plaza seating incorporated to help ground the fountain.

- Details and Materials
 - Window Framing
 - Window details focused on with a simplified brick veneer.
 - Parapet Detail
 - Experimenting with red brick tone or a gray brick tone.
 - Should top details be similar to other buildings to help tie them together?
 - Curtain Wall
 - Considering standing seam metal panel or flat plate metal panel
 - Forum and Classrooms
 - Considering corrugated vs standing seam metal panel
 - Exterior Wood Columns
 - Brought up a concrete pedestal at base to prevent water intrusion. Continuing to look at options to mitigate sun exposure and fade.

Comments

- *The Foster School feels it is important to make this building feel like it is part of the school complex. GGN prefers the gray brick and metal panels.*
 - *The all gray approach feels somber and dark. The interior elements are part of the pallet of Paccar Hall, however, the exterior feels too different.*
- *Why does it have to be so alike to Paccar hall? Why can't it have its own identity? Is Denny yard about context buildings?*
- *Red brick is needed. It has much to do with the identity of the school. The top detail is nice and could be considered, but the red brick is really what makes the statement that it's part of the Foster complex.*
 - *If grey were to be used, the hope would be to find elements of warmth in the gray, rather than just dark.*
- *Brick is a very defining character of this campus, and especially the red, really looks good in gray Seattle weather. Perhaps not the exact same as PACCAR but is similar enough.*
 - *Request made for a physical mock up to help differentiate the options more effectively.*
- *Good addition of glass volume around the stairs.*
- *Concern over the exposed wood at the porch entry. They will weather, and weather differently than the interior beams. Perhaps reconsider this element. Will someone be resealing them every few years?*
- *Don't sacrifice the timber in visible areas for the sake of savings.*
- *The decision to remove the café is disappointing. It makes the lower "hang out space" feel less alive.*
 - *There are several coffee options in the close vicinity. The draw to this space would be an effective collaborative space for students to work together or study.*
- *The round fountain feels, in the way. Can you rethink this and expand the space even more? Does it have to be a circle? Can it be moved elsewhere?*

Architect Selection Process Discuss

Introduction:

The goal: Attract the highest quality design firms, and match the institution, an academy of excellence, to the same caliber of designers and buildings.

After the previous selection process, we have reviewed and have some recommendations for this process moving forward.

Bothell STEM Architect Selection and Moving Forward

The result from the Bothell STEM Architect selection was a symptom of a lack of clarity in roles all the way throughout the process, however especially those processes involved in decision making.

4 general steps include:

- Reducing the initial list of interested groups
- Review of RFQ submissions
- Office Visits
- Architect Selection – Commission Recommendation

The Milgard Hall Architect Selection process will be the next opportunity to put this more refined process into place.

Comments

- *The Builder having final veto power is worrisome. The anxiety of working teams with teams that are not local was very apparent at the Bothell Selection.*
- *What exactly is the official or unofficial role of the user in the process?*
- *Is it better to make sure the discussion hashes out the points of either side during the meeting, instead of having outside discussions later on?*
 - *It's been thought out that the slating committee (renamed) should make their comments, and then be asked to leave, so that the information can be considered. The UWAC can then provide their views, allowing the VP of Facilities to make a decision independently.*
 - *Is there a way to allow the commission to express their respect for concerns by the slating committee, before this discussion happens? We want to make sure they know their feedback (slating committee) is valued.*
- *It is important to reinforce the number one focus of design excellence with all users, so they better understand the priorities, and can understand their role within those priorities.*
 - *Establish this from the very beginning.*
 - *Help the users understand the long term view – how many buildings change over time in who is within/end use.*
- *The slating committee appears geared more towards logistics rather than design...should that committee change?*
- *Can some of these office visits be done partially remotely, with just a small group visiting?*
 - *Let's not overemphasize the office visits. These should just be about starting a relationship with these firms.*
 - *Agreed. This should really be de-emphasized, as it is really very rare thing to occur at other campuses. The RFP should be setting the stage for what this stage is really for, and what should be emphasized within the process instead.*

- *It should be a smaller group. Maybe not include the end user group.*
- *As we consider broadening the list of Architects, let's not discount office visits entirely, as they do help introduce us to new groups.*
- *Ensure the process is identical for all applicants for all projects. Be consistent.*
- *The current perception is that the commission only picks designers that they know or already have a relationship with.*
- *Leave room in the RFP for a firm that has the tools necessary, but may not have the exact experience listed. Too many firms get cut out (small, minority etc.) because they are still young, even though they may have well thoughtout ideas and concepts. Other voices in building and landscape would be refreshing.*
- *How are we selecting the landscape architects? Do they come with the architect?*
 - *We pick them separately, after the initial selection. It's important that the integration is very successful.*
- *Be sure to reach out to firms we've already received RFQ's from, and encourage them to apply to other buildings.*

Key Takeaways

- *Bring in the architectural commission earlier for recommendations on appropriate architects for specific projects.*
- *Revise the language and be specific in the RFP*
- *Educate end users (slating committee) ahead of time on the importance a design and emphasize clear priorities for the long term.*

Milgard Hall RFQ Recommendations

- *Anticipate engagement from 14-15 firms.*
- *Commission will be asked for initial recommendations. Information on the project will be sent out to the commission in the next few weeks. The final selection will occur at the next UWAC meeting in Tacoma.*

West Campus Site 27/CAMCET

The UW has engaged in several P3 projects, however this is the first on the UW main campus.

Developers tend to be very proprietary on their Architect relationships. The UW has compromised, and in the initial RFQ, required that they provide a list of 3 architects that they would be comfortable working with. This allows the UW to provide feedback and input on each ahead of time.

For the final RFP stage, they will be asked to partner with 1 firm for their final proposal.

Comments

- *This process sets a precedents for a grim future in West Campus for design excellence. This really gives most of the control to the developer. The only leverage you have is that the developers are competing with each other for the project.*
- *The University and Project Managers will have a different role in these P3 processes, and we will continue to refine what that is. As of now, we own the land, we have developers that are*

excited to work on these projects, and as we muddle through this we anticipate keeping West Campus from becoming the next downtown Seattle. The process isn't known yet, but will be defined as we go.

- *The University can still provide a list of who the UW would prefer to see as the architect.*
 - *Keep it open to the developers' preferences as well, and allow them to make a case for why they would choose their preference over someone on the list the UW provides.*

Architect Interviews –Behavioral Health Teaching Facility

Meeting Adjourned – 5:50 PM

Next Meeting: April 27th, 2020