Design Guidelines
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General Architectural Design Guidelines

The following guidelines are intended to provide criteria to the designers of buildings and landscape for evaluating the suitability of proposed designs and the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the Campus Master Plan. The spirit of these guidelines should be considered general and flexible and open to interpretation to foster innovative design solutions which are responsive to program needs. An overarching, guiding principle to be followed in the construction of new buildings, the adaptive reuse of existing structures, and the expansion and development of new open spaces is to conserve the qualities of the campus that are cherished, while providing new development that respects, expands, improves and advances these aesthetic qualities.

- Maintain continuity with the context of surrounding buildings, or especially west of Jefferson Avenue, contribute to the establishment of a new context.
- Conserve valued elements of existing buildings and established open spaces; enhance their presence with the new development.
- Express function in the design concept of the building through form and organization. Also consider flexibility of use and the possibility of an adapted reuse during the life of the building.
- In adaptive reuse of existing historic structures celebrate the juxtaposition of the historic structure and the contemporary functions to be housed within.
- Express the structural rhythm of the structure.
- Express entrances, places of gathering, transition from outside to inside and protection from weather.
• Avoid literal interpretations of historic buildings when designing new buildings. Additions to existing historic buildings may be similar to the existing, or contrast.

• Promote low maintenance and operating costs.

• Express a sense of permanence and provide for opportunities for buildings to age well.

• Building design, placement and site development should accommodate convenient pedestrian circulation and universal access.

• Buildings proposed adjacent to open spaces should be designed to consider impacts on the spaces from light and glare, shadows, height, bulk and scale.

• Exterior lighting should be designed to consider impact of light and glare on surrounding buildings and spaces on the campus and in the community consistent with the needs of safety and security.

• Depending on the context and nature of existing buildings and existing or planned for open spaces, new buildings may be background or foreground. They may stand alone or be part of a larger grouping. Almost always, buildings will be conceived in concert with pedestrian circulation, the streetscape, open space and often will form new open space or contribute to the improvement of existing streets.

• The scale of the buildings should be considered in two ways:
  ◦ First, the overall scale—form, size, footprint, height and profile—must be considered in relation to existing or planned surrounding buildings and open space. Usually buildings will be “in scale”, similar to their surroundings and appropriate to the development area and use, unless the planned building or site is a landmark deserving special prominence.
  ◦ Second, a building should be experienced at various scales, one superimposed on another that is either reinforcing or contrasting. The overall scale of a building and smaller, more intimate levels of scale simultaneously should be perceived and understood. Elements that contribute to legibility at more intimate scales include windows, entrances, bases and roof edges.

• Detailing should convey a building’s function, contemporary use of technology and the nature of materials, structure and systems used. Details should also address scale by helping to make the buildings sensitive to the pedestrian through providing multiple levels of perception at varying distances.

• Where appropriate, green roofs should be considered, especially if terraced buildings are developed up the hill west of Jefferson.

• Roof-mounted equipment should be screened from view with some carefully reviewed exceptions in which systems are visually acceptable and appropriate to the building type.
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Materials Guidelines
As stated in the 2003 Master Plan:
- Material choices encourage integrity of materials in their natural state.
- Major exterior building materials:
  - Face brick, metal and glass;
  - Brick should be used for walls and piers, not as cladding to frames;
  - Metal should be in natural finishes or finished in colors natural to metal;
  - Clear, non-colored translucent or fritted glazing
- Minor/accent exterior building materials:
  - Concrete, precast concrete/cast stone, wood, metal finished in non-metal colors.

Public Art Guidelines
As stated in the 2003 Master Plan, "The University of Washington has an extensive collection of art on its Seattle campus, and the Tacoma campus is expected to continue this tradition.

The University of Washington Tacoma Art Commission (UW TAC) commissions artists to create both temporary and permanent art projects for interior and exterior sites on campus. Funding to support this program is established by state law and is generated from a ½% allocation on all new capital construction projects and renovation projects with budgets of more than $200,000. These funds are pooled and are used to support the campus-wide programs.

In an effort to integrate public art on the campus in a meaningful way, UW Tacoma strives to develop programs that engage different aspects of the University community (academic departments, student groups, staff members, etc.). UW Tacoma is also structured to be responsive to campus planning, and is intent on installing artwork that relates to the physical and educational context. Artists may be teamed with architects, landscape architects and planners to collaborate on a design of a building or landscape, and to integrate artwork into that design. Functional elements on campus may also be designed by artists as part of this program.

During the original master planning of the campus, the artist Buster Simpson developed an approach to the program of public art for the campus as it develops in the future. His focus was on identifying and celebrating the campus environment’s existing character as an historic warehouse district, and the emphasis for future development of the art program should be sympathetic to the rich textures and variety of such as the reuse of the existing cobbles and granite curbing, developed in concert with Simpson’s recommendations."
General Landscape Design Guidelines

- Building programs will include specific site planning, design and landscape/horticultural requirements. Design and maintenance will be developed concurrently to ensure a successful, sustainable landscape.

- Projects should include adequate funding for open space and landscape improvements associated with individual projects. However, funding of open space and landscape improvements should not be associated only with building projects. The realization of the University Terrace and Japanese Language School Memorial Garden will require funding independent of building project funding.

- Landscape will be utilized to enhance campus boundaries and relations to surrounding communities, form gateways, views and axes. These landscape elements may include trees, plants, walls, monuments, art forms, lighting, stairways or other landscape architectural elements.

- Diversity in spatial form and scale is encouraged to realize variety in the character of spaces.

- Site furnishings such as lighting, benches, waste receptacles, bicycle parking, recycling containers, signs, and fences will conform to established campus standards to act as unifying elements in the campus fabric and improve the visual quality of spaces. This will not preclude the occasional use of custom-designed elements that will reinforce special aesthetic or functional aspects of particular spaces.

- Sculpture, fountains or other art will be incorporated in existing and new open spaces to enhance their visual quality, spatial identity and provide for aesthetic stimulation. See “Public Art Guidelines” on page 88.

- Circulation between buildings and spaces on the campus and connecting to the community should be safe, convenient, direct and visually attractive. Corridors will be appropriately paved, landscaped and defined for all users, including when possible, the physically restricted. Directly connect campus pedestrian routes to public transit and rail, major external routes and the pedestrian/bicycle route on the vacated railroad right of way to facilitate commuting by walking.

- Surface service and parking areas will be designed to function properly and appropriately and may also serve, as in the case of the courts, as appealing open space with paving design and planting. Access to service must not necessitate backing across pedestrian circulation.

- Building and service facilities will be designed to protect adjacent open spaces from unpleasant noise, air impurities, or other environmental impacts which may preclude use and enjoyment of the area. For safety and aesthetic reasons, major building service areas requiring substantial truck access should be below grade or separated from pedestrian circulation areas.

- Bicycle storage will be designed and located to minimize impacts on open space and landscape resources, but will be conveniently close to destinations.

- It is appropriate to have open spaces that provide shade as well as direct sunlight.

- Planting design and maintenance will consider personal safety on campus. Night lighting of corridors will be provided, but as low as possible to preserve tree canopies and avoid light pollution, yet maintain priority of safety needs.
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Hardscape Guidelines
As stated in the 2003 Master Plan, “The selection of hardscape elements should reinforce the sense of place and the hierarchy of open spaces, while reflecting the site’s historical past.”

Paving
- Streets, sidewalks, paths, ramps, walkways, gathering spaces: asphalt, poured concrete with dark grey color; unit pavers (stone, precast, brick).
- Areas of special significance may receive finer grain scoring or infill with contrasting color/material treatment for emphasis
  - Significant existing street paving (particularly brick and cobblestone) and curbs to be preserved and restored where feasible;
  - Salvaged site pavement and artifacts to be utilized to greatest possible extent.

Curbs, seat walls, steps and lighting fixture bases
- Concrete, stone;
- May have stone copings

Concrete or stone steps
- On major pedestrian axes: steps with generous tread/riser ratio, typically collected into flights of six or fewer risers separated by landings for ease of movement;
- On minor routes: tread/riser ratio to be no steeper than 6”R x 12” T; steps collected into flights of eight or fewer risers.

Railings
- Handrails for steps and inclined paths to assist users. Single rails preferred to minimize visual prominence (unless guardrail is required).
- Barrier rails: as required for railroad right-of-way, and guardrails in landscape areas should be open and unobtrusive in appearance.
- Guardrails: for overlooks and raised edges in paved areas may combine open rail and solid parapet (brick, concrete, stone).
- Exterior railings should be consistent with or complement existing railings placed on site by UW Tacoma.

Lighting Fixtures
- City streets and campus entrances: Tacoma historical fixture (post-mounted);
- Elsewhere: catenary or modern fixture selection.

Free-standing benches
- Standard bench in primary pedestrian circulation areas; not prescribed for individual gardens and smaller courts.

Information kiosk
- A standard has been developed which derives from the industrial context of the site.
Lighting Signage and Graphics
As stated in the 2003 Master Plan, “The dense, urban character of the Tacoma Campus heightens the importance of all the systems that apply to wayfinding, particularly in view of nighttime classes and activities. At the same time, the larger scale order of the campus lends its own visual clarity to the choreography of movement up and down the hillside site. The Master Plan provides a rich hierarchy of public spaces, giving ample opportunity for buildings and functions to have clear addresses and access. The use of the City’s original street grid as a form-giver, with buildings establishing street walls and consistent geometric lines, creates a sense of orientation for pedestrians and vehicles.

Thus, while lighting and signage should be carefully developed to enhance wayfinding, the architectural qualities of the campus offer a strong starting point for the overlay of lighting and graphics. In addition, the following guidelines provide a framework for future design effort in these important visual systems.”

Lighting
- Lighting of space – arcades, walks, courts, terraces – is emphasized over lighting of building surfaces. Exceptions: specific landmarks such as the Library, the corner tower of Swiss Hall, and walls immediately adjacent to building entrances.
- Use of the historic Tacoma Street Light Standards is a feature of the campus district east of Jefferson Street. Other areas of campus should use a consistent, contemporary street light, to be chosen as part of the initial development of Phase 3.
- Luminaires near historic buildings should be approved by the Tacoma Landmarks Commission.
- Lighting sources should be chosen for long life, ease of maintenance and replacement, energy efficiency, and long-term availability.
- Lighting guidelines in the Infrastructure Master Plan should also be followed.

Signage and Graphics
- Existing and proposed campus signage serves several distinct needs, and each type has somewhat different requirements;
- Monumental Signage: gateway graphics, such as the walls bearing the University Seal at Pacific Gateway Plaza and at Jefferson Gateway, should follow closely the character of the existing monuments;
- Wayfinding: directories, exterior building signage, and interior wayfinding signage will comply with the standard campus signage program;
- Interior code signage and room identification signage will comply with standards established in existing buildings.
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Guidelines

CPTED is an international crime prevention concept widely used as a means to evaluate and modify the physical security of the environment. An evaluation of the UW Tacoma campus on July 23, 2008 produced the following guidelines to help reduce the opportunity for crime to occur.

- Manage overgrowth of foliage by replacing grasses, bushes, and planters with low growing varieties and removing dense plant growth along walkways.
- Maintain lighting throughout campus, trim foliage so lighting is not obscured, and establish a regular lamp replacement schedule.
- Replace existing bollards with low bollards or low walls (not to exceed 18” in height) to deter vandalism.
- Place emergency kiosks throughout the campus.
- It is ideal to place the campus security office at a central location, so that it is more visible and accessible to the campus community.