INVITING URBAN PLAY

PUBLIC SPACES | PUBLIC LIFE
2013 Scan|Design Interdisciplinary Master Studio
University of Washington College of Built Environments
INVITING URBAN PLAY IN SEATTLE’S UNIVERSITY DISTRICT
2013 Scan|Design Interdisciplinary Master Studio
University of Washington, College of Built Environments

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University District Livability Partnership
The focus of our 2013 Scan|Design Interdisciplinary Master Studio has been to imagine and propose a University District that is shaped by invitations for people of all ages to engage in physical, cultural, and intellectual play. The University District Neighborhood is poised to undergo rapid and long-term transformation, brought on by burgeoning multi-family housing, an imminent light rail station, an expanded waterfront park along Lake Union, and planned green streets. The City’s recently-completed urban design framework suggests significantly increased residential density, and notes the need for better urban public space as well as a shortage of parks and open spaces for the District’s diverse and growing populations. Urban research indicates that active spaces where people of varying backgrounds can play together may be most effective in breaking down social barriers and creating an integrated, valued public life culture. Therefore, to address the challenges and opportunities of the district’s imminent transformation our students have imagined solutions that would yield active, playful public spaces, and would contribute to a walkable, bikable, artistic, environmentally healthy and socially inclusive district.

We were guided by principles, examples and teachings from Gehl Architects and our experiences together in Denmark and Sweden, made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Scan|Design Foundation. During our two-week September tour we experienced many playful public spaces, parks, recreation centers, schools, and cultural facilities in Malmo, Sweden and in the Danish cities of Copenhagen and Aarhus, documenting successful design qualities and analyzing the social performance of these exemplary projects. The group bicycled extensively throughout Copenhagen, experiencing the city’s renewed neighborhoods, innovative architecture, and thriving public spaces. The staff of Gehl Architects, Copenhagen’s bicycle planners, instructors in the University of Copenhagen’s Landscape Architecture program, professional guides, practicing urban designers and architects, and others, provided insight into the cities’ historical development and contemporary planning issues, elucidating design approaches to successful projects and sharing personal perspectives. Back in the studio in Seattle, students applied the lessons they learned to our University District project, benefiting from an additional two weeks of expert guidance from Bianca Hermansen of Gehl Architects.

We have many people to thank for this remarkable opportunity in teaching and learning. Without the support of the Scan|Design Foundation, we could not have been so inspired by our experiences in Scandinavia or so deeply integrated Gehl Architects’ approach in our design work. We are sincerely appreciative of Bianca Hermansen’s generous, clear and insightful teaching and critique, and of her and Gehl Architects’ illuminating lectures and tours. We owe thanks to many people in Seattle who helped us understand the conditions, forces, and potentials in the U-District, and provided feedback on our work. We are ever grateful to our capable teaching assistant VeraEve Giampietro for her invaluable assistance throughout the study-tour, studio, and production of this document.

We thank you all, and hope that these ideas for establishing an innovative, playful, democratic public realm will help transform the University District into an active, healthy neighborhood for all.

Nancy Rottle, Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture, University of Washington
Jim Nicholls, Senior Lecturer, Architecture, University of Washington

FOREWORD

The focus of our 2013 Scan|Design Interdisciplinary Master Studio has been to imagine and propose a University District that is shaped by invitations for people of all ages to engage in physical, cultural, and intellectual play. The University District Neighborhood is poised to undergo rapid and long-term transformation, brought on by burgeoning multi-family housing, a frontline light rail station, an expanded waterfront park along Lake Union, and planned green streets. The City’s recently-completed urban design framework suggests significantly increased residential density, and notes the need for better urban public space as well as a shortage of parks and open spaces for the District’s diverse and growing populations. Urban research indicates that active spaces where people of varying backgrounds can play together may be most effective in breaking down social barriers and creating an integrated, valued public life culture. Therefore, to address the challenges and opportunities of the district’s imminent transformation our students have imagined solutions that would yield active, playful public spaces, and would contribute to a walkable, bikable, artistic, environmentally healthy and socially inclusive district.

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OVERVIEW
TRAVEL STUDY
Copenhagen + Århus + Malmö
August 30 - September 15, 2013

Prior to the beginning of the Autumn 2013 quarter, twenty-five graduate students from Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Planning participated in the 2013 Scan|Design Foundation Travel Study Program. The trip focused on design for urban play. Through study of the built environment in Copenhagen, Århus, and Malmö, students were introduced to ideas and concepts that transcended and united their three disciplines, and encouraged a broader, multidisciplinary approach to design.

The trip introduced the students to the public space ideas championed by Jan Gehl and Gehl Architects. The principle that design is an invitation, and in this case an invitation to play in the urban environment, was illustrated both in lecture and through site visits. During the trip, students were afforded the unique opportunity to study with Bianca Hermansen and Lars Gemzøe, founding and principal members of the internationally acclaimed Gehl Architects office.

Field studies, lectures, and workshops led by the staff of Gehl Architects were augmented by presentations from city officials, transportation planners, and local architects in both Copenhagen and Malmö. Guest lecturers included Isabelle Fros, Bettina Lamm, John Bela, Eric Scharnhorst, Catarina Rolfsdotter-Jansson, Martin Kallesøe, Ashley Fauvre, and others.

Students embraced Scandanavian culture during the trip, with authentic Scandanavian meals being a highlight of the experience. In Århus, the students enjoyed a dinner with members of the Scan|Design Fellows, alumni, and current students, who introduced them to some favorite local sites.

ITINERARY
FRIDAY AUGUST 30
Students arrive in Copenhagen, orientation.

SATURDAY AUGUST 31
Copenhagen: the Board and Bike City
Walking tour: Christiansborg, Rundtaarn, Kultorvet, King’s Garden, Nyboder housing, Kastellet, Kvaesthus, Nyhavn.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1
Copenhagen: Beyond the City Gates

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5
Copenhagen: A Bicycle City
Lectures on Bicycle Planning. Exercise with Isobel Fros and Ashley Fauvre. Solbjerg Plads, Porcelænshaven, Flintholm Station, Frederiksborg Have. Bicycle culture at Dronning Louise’s Bridge.

FRIDAY AUGUST 30

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Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7
Aarhus: Explore Festival, Art Museum, City, Campus

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8
Walking, Two Combined Explorations, Return to Copenhagen.
Walking tour of the city’s open space network. Den Gamle By, artificial village of old historic Danish houses in a historic urban fabric pattern. Train back to Copenhagen.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9
Playing in Copenhagen Neighborhoods: Ørestad
Tietgenkollegiet U of C Campus, Concert Hall (Jean Nouvel), Tour of Ørestad, Solstriben, Mountain Building, Library, School Playground, Flag n Play, B House, Brentel Brygge.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10
Play, Body, and Performance
Bike to Playhouse for a tour. Independent exploration: Christiania streets, canals and cafes; Danish Architecture Center, Design Museum. Visit COBE, lecture about Copenhagen’s Project Future and Youth Club.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11
Malmö: Open Space Systems
Biking Tour of Malmö’s open space system, Katarina Kullahammar-Janson Bull’s Western Harbor tour.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12
Playing in Copenhagen Neighborhoods: Ørestad
Tietgenkollegiet U of C Campus, Concert Hall (Jean Nouvel), Ørestad Solstriben, Mountain Building, Library, School Playground, Flag n Play, B House, Brentel Brygge.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13
Playing for All Ages, Temporary to Permanent: Carlsberg and Køge
Beginning Parkour instruction: Martin Kallesøe, Street Movement. Train to Køge. Urban Playground tour with Bettina Lamm, John Bela (ReBar), and others. Dinner in Copenhagen.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14
Return bikes. Group barbecue in apartment courtyard.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15
Check out & departure.
Poised to undergo rapid and long-term transformation, the U-district has the potential to become a model for how Seattle can grow in a way that respects the integrity and authenticity of its neighborhoods while looking to the future of our city and world. Applying an ethic of an inclusive public realm and inspired by our travel-study to Denmark, our interdisciplinary students selected sites, proposed site programs, and developed building, street and park designs that provide needed services while integrating artful play into the transitioning district.

For the final design project, students chose a site in the University District, developed a program that would serve specific community needs, and designed either individually or in small teams. Over the course of the term, students continually refined their design proposals, working between districts and site scales and responding to feedback from guests, peers, faculty, and local community members.
PROXIMITY

We also applied the concept of creating proximity between urban events rather than simply focusing on density.

DIMENSIONED AT HUMAN SCALE

• Dimensions of buildings & spaces in observance of the important human dimensions in relation to senses, movements, size & behavior

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF CLIMATE

• Sun / shade
• Warmth / coolness
• Breeze / ventilation

AESTHETIC & SENSORY

• Quality design, fine detailing, robust materials
• Views / vistas
• Rich sensory experiences

PROTECTION AGAINST MECHANICAL VIOLENCE

• Traffic accidents
• Political, economic, social
• Visibility

PROTECTION AGAINST VEHICLE TRAFFIC

• Traffic accidents
• Pollution, fumes, noise
• Visibility

PROTECTION AGAINST CRIME & VIOLENCE

• Well lit
• Allow for passive surveillance
• Overlap functions in time and space

PROTECTION AGAINST UNPLEASANT SENSORY EXPERIENCES

• Wind / Draft
• Rain / Snow
• Cold / Heat
• Pollution
• Dust, Glare, Noise

PLAY, RECREATION & INTERACTION

• Allow for physical activity, play, interaction and entertainment
• Temporary activities (marauders, foodstalls, exhibitions etc.)
• Optional activities (meeting, social interaction)
• Create opportunities for people to interact in the public realm

VARYING SEASONAL ACTIVITY

• Seasonal activities (singing, Christmas markets)
• Extra protection from unpleasant climatic conditions
• Lighting

INVITATIONS FOR SITTING

• Defined zones for sitting
• Maximize advantages
• Pleasant views, people watching
• Good mix of public and café seating
• Resting opportunities

INVITATIONS FOR STANDING AND STAYING

• Attractive and functional edges
• Defined spots for staying
• Objects to lean against or stand next to

INVITATIONS FOR WALKING

• Room for walking
• Accessibility to key areas
• Interesting views
• Lighting (when dark)

EVIDENCE & VERBAL CONTACT

• Low ambient noise level
• Public seating arrangements conducive to communicating

VARYING DAY / EVENING / NIGHT ACTIVITY

• 24 hour city
• Variety of functions throughout the day
• Light in the windows
• Mixed use
• Lighting in human scale

INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District

Students were first introduced to Gehl Architects’ working methods while in Copenhagen, through lectures and exercises. Students benefited from working with Bianca Hermansen in Seattle, during the middle point of the studio and near the end of the term. Bianco provided valuable feedback to guide the development of students’ designs for inviting urban play.

In addition to using the 15 Quality Criteria, in one exercise called “Life | Space | Buildings” students took on different roles: student, artist, business woman, club goer, etc. to establish the required program elements needed to create vital public space that is inviting to all.

Gehl Architects Master Instructors

Students benefitted from working with Bianca Hermansen in Seattle, during the middle point of the studio and near the end of the term. Bianco provided valuable feedback to guide the development of students’ designs for inviting urban play.
Five teams formed to conceive, construct, install and observe temporary public space interventions. The creative projects invited the public to engage in urban play in the U-District over the span of an October weekend.

- **CHALK THIS WAY**
- **NOTE IN A BOX**
- **ON THE FENCE**
- **ALLEY MINI-GOLF**
- **MASKING THE ALLEY**
The site is a local commuter artery primarily used by pedestrian and cyclist students. The blank construction wall along the sidewalk conceals a day care playground and is opposite a construction site. The idea of a chalkboard intervention is to provide a place for people to write or draw their thoughts on a whim and create a place for students to express themselves. Normally an uninviting sidewalk, the installation quickly became filled with multilingual text and quirky drawings.

“I think this is a great idea for construction fences in urban areas. Perhaps it requires a timely question or provocative statement that invites dialogue…”

- Rob Winstead, Freedom Wall Designer
Dozens of pedestrians enjoyed the balloon popping installation on Saturday evening. A major contribution to the large turnout was the pleasant, sunny weather. We directly invited people to engage with the play installation by asking, “Do you want to play by popping a balloon?” More than half of the pedestrians responded positively to this invitation. We also allowed passersby to discover the play on their own without the vocal prompt by just reading the sign. Some reactions to the installation included:

• “Popping balloons feels really good!”
• “I thought this was a marriage proposal. What is this?”
• “I’m scared to pop a balloon and I don’t know why!”
• “This is fun! Can I pop another?”

After we finished the installation, we compiled the “Yes” and “No” answers and learned a great deal about the preferences people have about the U-District. Through the playing process, we got 164 note feedbacks, and had further understanding about people’s concerns for the U-District.

Process and Construction
We inflated 300 balloons and covered approximately 30 linear feet of a construction fence with signs inviting pedestrians to pop the balloons. We wanted to activate play at the corner of the street by asking forty different “Yes” or “No” questions on small notes inside of the balloon. Some of these questions included:

• Do you feel safe walking in the U-District?
• Is the U-District a healthy place?
• Is the U-District a fun place to hang out?
• Is the U-District a good place to raise a family?

Passersby could answer the question on their note by placing their preference in a “Yes” or “No” box tied to the fence. We also decided to use green and orange balloons to symbolize the changing of the season from summer to autumn.
Bolstering the thriving music scene provided by the Neptune Theater and Music Co., On The Fence moves the performance venue to the streets. A chain link fence surrounding the future site of the U District light rail station provides a flexible armature to support musical instruments constructed with salvaged objects. In utilizing the ubiquitous chain link fence the installation brings to light the endless possibilities to enliven compromised spaces in cities throughout the world.

ON THE FENCE

Hiroki Baba + Wren McNally + Kate Reef + Graham Golbuff + Matt Kikosicki

Google Maps 2013

SITE: Brooklyn Ave btw NE 43rd & 45th Sts

The green man dances when instruments are played

Bottle instruments integrated into the fence

Hashtag signage

Design sketches

A view of the installation down Brooklyn Ave NE

Buckets and bottles are just some of the instruments available to passersby
Playing, stopping, talking

The alley north of 45th Street and west of the Ave is a dark and smelly space, dominated by dumpsters and garbage.

Mini golf, possibly the world’s least serious sport, invites all people to putt up and down the alley. Using iconic alley detritus, mini golf transforms the space, utilizing the dumpsters, doorways, and slope to bring playful people into the alley while allowing cars, pedestrians, and bikers to pass through.

The “19th Hole,” including music, a photo station, and furniture, invites players to stay and re-envision what an alley can be.
Today, Seattle’s alleys are a graffiti war zone. After decades of battle, they’re covered with gray scars — making them gloomy and uninviting. When graffiti is associated with gang activity, there is a good argument to remove it. But must the process of painting over leave the city so bleak? What if the city used a more colorful palette of paints to remove the graffiti? Our alleys would become abstract paintings and graffiti removers would become artists themselves. This installation confronts that idea by using different colored masking tape to re-envision these gray scars. The public was given the authority to take back the walls of the alley by creating what they felt would be appropriate as a response to the graffiti removal using the colorful tape.

More photos on: http://www.flickr.com/photos/104131007@N03/
Student pairs further researched sites we interacted with during our travel-study trip, to extract the teachings they held and to bring those lessons forward for application in their site designs. Examples included cultural centers, parks, playgrounds, plazas, recreational facilities, waterfront structures, streets, and an historic amphitheater.

ROYAL DANISH PLAYHOUSE 25
BELLAJOY ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND 27
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KASTRUP SEA BATH 51
The Royal Danish Playhouse was completed as recently as 2007 and is already a cultural institution, holding a prominent position in the Copenhagen Harbor. The playhouse acts as an anchor for the meeting of city and sea, reinforcing the existing urban spatial qualities.

The playhouse is rooted in the context of its historic neighborhood and is clad in copper; integrating the stage tower in the Copenhagen skyline of copper domes and spires.
At adventure playgrounds kids are free to build the playground of their dreams using leftover construction materials and junk. The landscape architect C. Th Sorensen first proposed creating “junk playgrounds” in 1931, and according to Richard Hare of the University of Copenhagen, Sorensen was involved with the creation of this playground in Bellahøj in 1965. The site is carefully screened from the community, so it has not become an eyesore. Unlike the adventure playground in Berkeley, California, which is a regional destination, Bellahøj’s playground is used mainly by neighborhood kids. It is connected with an after school program, for which the children’s families pay membership fees. Because the same group of kids is here every weekday afternoon, there seems to be a stronger sense of ownership over individual structures.

Playground supervisors help kids build fires in this pit.

This fort could be mistaken for a pile of junk.

Kids dream up this homemade photo opportunity.

At a fence hides the junk playground from the park.

Kids use hammers, nails, and saws in creative ways.

This pile of wood is used for building and burning.

Kids are only allowed to demolish their own forts.

Adults help build the larger structures and remove structures that are unsafe.

Study by Daniel Jost + Nikky Zhang

SITE: Solkrogen 6, Copenhagen, Denmark

Google Maps, 2013
Hauser Plads is a playground, plaza, and a community park. Hauser Plads has become an urban oasis in Copenhagen. Plantings provide green space on the roof. A permeable fence makes a safe area for children. The courtyard provides lighting and a rest area.

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark
Client: Københavns Ejendomme
Constructed: 2009-2011
Program: Office, parking, & park
Size: 1,000 m²
Total Cost: 19 million Danish Kroner ~ 3.5 million USD

This site is a public playground, under which a municipal cleaning center is located. Underneath the plads there used to be parking lot, and this was transformed into the new facility. The facility and the plads are connected to each other by the curved glass façade, which inspires curiosity. Today Hauser Plads is a green oasis for local residents.

Lessons Learned
There is a lack of open space in the University District, places where children can play freely, and the area will only get denser with the opening of the light rail. One possible remedy could be to design facilities that serve multiple purposes, addressing both urban infrastructure and open space needs.

Lessons Learned
A green oasis for local residents

A safe and fun playground for children.

Public space for everyone.

Site Plan: A green oasis in the urban center.

A safe and fun playground for children.

Lessons Learned
A green oasis for local residents

A safe and fun playground for children.
Banana Park was conceived as a Local Green Haven. This project is meaningful because it secured green space in one of Denmark’s least green urban areas. In late 2004 news of a plan to build a housing estate on an unbuilt and overgrown pocket of land at Nannasgade in Nørrebro were made public. Parents and staff at the Rådmandsgade School along with local community members quickly gathered 2,300 signatures in a petition against the project, which eventually led to the BaNanna Park project.

Before the face lift, Nannasgade was called “the contaminated site” because of the oil refinery that used to be there. The site was cleaned up to create a safer place for children to play in the park, and the name was also changed to the more cheerful BaNanna Park.
Diversity is the primary theme of the project’s program and people have openly embraced this fact. The project consists of two plazas connected by a variable-height boardwalk. There are ample places for sitting and the open plazas can be used for many types of organized events. Spontaneity is common here and the project is already evolving to fit the needs of use and safety. Simple but high quality concrete, wood, and steel construction enhance the experience but shift the focus to the elegant form and ever-changing viewscape.

Location: Kalvebod Brygge, Copenhagen
Architect: JDS Architects, KLAR
Engineers: Sloth Møller Rådgivende Ingeniører
Client: City of Copenhagen, Denmark
Area: 8500 m²
Cost: 35 million Danish Kroner (~6.4 million USD)
Constructed: 2011 - 2012

The bold, unique design of this boardwalk extension was conceived and built with the express intent of reclaiming access to the harbour and connecting the overall urban fabric with the waterfront. The existing buildings along the Kalvebod Brygge dominate the edge and create large, uninviting shadows. The double-wave form of the Kalvebod Bølge reaches beyond these shadows and invites visitors and residents to relax, play, and stay.
Sponsored by the City of Malmö, free shows routinely draw double the theater’s official capacity (1,500 people) and feature noted Scandinavian artists.

Located in the southern corner of Malmö’s historic Pildammsparken sits the otherworldly Pildammsteatern. The materials are simple: tiered seating and a circular stage of paving stones and a backdrop of rolling, 20’+ tall turf covered mounds. When empty, as our studio discovered it in September 2013, the site invites exploration and play. In this context, it’s difficult to not be reminded of the Baggins’ countryside in Tolkien’s works.

INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District

PILDAMMSTEATERN
Study by Graham Golbuff + Rao Fu

Mounds. Masonry. Music!

Location: Pildammsparken, Malmö, Sweden
Client: Malmö Municipality Streets & Parks Department
Constructed: 1914 (earthworks) 1963 (hardscaping)

Nestled in the southern corner of Malmö’s historic Pildammsparken sits the otherworldly Pildammsteatern. The materials are simple: tiered seating and a circular stage of paving stones and a backdrop of rolling, 20’+ tall turf covered mounds. When empty, as our studio discovered it in September 2013, the site invites exploration and play. In this context, it’s difficult to not be reminded of the Baggins’ countryside in Tolkien’s works.
Norreport Station is Copenhagen’s busiest hub. Scheduled for completion in 2015, the new Norreport Station will accommodate over 250,000 people per day in one of central Copenhagen’s busiest areas. To embrace this mass of people, COBE studied preferred pedestrian routes from the surrounding area into the fixed station entrances. They then designed a series of floating roof structures and bicycle parking areas around these pedestrian flows. With parking for 2,500 bikes, the sunken “bicycle beds” allow for clear delineation between areas for bikes and the space needed for vibrant city life. These “beds” not only keep the bikes spatially organized, they lower the mass of bikes slightly below grade, visually opening up the crowded and valuable space.

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark
Architect: COBE Architects

"Bicycle beds" are sunk 40 cm below grade.

Grade separation helps organize the space.

Unorganized bike parking does not allow flow.

GRADE SEPARATION HELPS ORGANIZE THE SPACE.

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The Ama’r Children’s Culture House is a project developed with the input of children throughout the design process. The building is organized as a mountain with visually connected spaces bound together by dynamic circulation. The house offers flexible spaces and customized furniture, which have been proven to enhance children’s creativity and active participation. The spaces provide opportunities to accommodate age groups from 0-18 years with changing needs.

The culture house is contributing to the revival of the district by providing a playful environment for the area’s youth with many intriguing angles, caves and stairs that provide a wealth of opportunities for creative expression and exploration. These opportunities give youth a place to spend their free time and an alternative to potentially unsafe street activity. By channeling the energy and creativity of Amagerbro’s youth, the Children’s Culture House is helping Amagerbro become a better place for families.
In addition to serving various needs, the project site provides creative recreational opportunities. The playground equipment uses innovative design techniques and encourages vertical, creative play: climbing, swinging, balancing, and hanging. This project informs our work in the University District in several ways. The multi-purpose character of the project and the equipment design is based on the needs of the local community and efficiently uses space in innovative ways. The project also effectively illustrates how the prioritization of bike and pedestrian safety can generate well-used, community space.
Strædet is a popular pedestrian-oriented corridor and is one of the oldest streets in Copenhagen. It is in the city center, near other busy and congested streets, but spatial qualities of Strædet make for a very different atmosphere. This research compares Strædet to two other streets of similar size in Copenhagen. The results show how design elements, spatial arrangements, and unique details can bring about a high-quality public space.
The exterior consists of a combination of steel and wood structural members that are clad with translucent polycarbonate panels. This allows for the building to be naturally lit by day, and a source of light by night.

The interior consists of a bright green semi-soft material that makes up the floors, seating areas, and parts of the walls to accommodate for a variety of play. Its vibrant color also encourages play.

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark
Architect: Dorte Mandrup with B&K Brandt & Co.
Client: Municipality of Copenhagen & LOA Foundation
Constructed: 2006
The Prismen Green Gym serves as a sports and culture center, providing an enclosed space for recreational sports and community gatherings. Despite its unconventional shape and material choice, the building is well integrated into its context, rising to meet the edges of the adjacent parti walls. By doing this, the building works to activate what would be blank building facades into four multi-functional interior play spaces. In terms of the structure, the building is comprised of steel and timber that span the width of the building and allow for the three ball courts to remain uninterrupted by vertical columns.

P R I S M E N  G R E E N  G Y M
Study by Patrick Pirtle + Veronica Macalinao
A sports and culture center.
Although the City Dune is a privately-owned property of SEB, the site must remain open to the public according to Danish laws. The City Dune is successful in making the entire complex a pleasant and accessible place in the city.

The design language is strong, but the construction and the appearance is understated. The green is not only embodied in the trees, but also in the sustainable concepts - rainwater is collected and recycled and not a drop finds its way into the city sewers. The mechanical nebulizer and the lighting system were both placed in the site as measures for promoting its overall sustainability.

Concrete is a sparkly element in the City Dune. The City Dune is a cycling path... and a skateboarding paradise in Copenhagen.

The City Dune is a pleasant and accessible place in the city, designed by SLA and inspired by the natural sand dunes. The mechanical nebulizer and the lighting system were both placed in the site as measures for promoting its overall sustainability.
My uncle is a fisherman.

Competition imagery shows the structure as a steel framed, red clad object. The images depict a sense of lightness in the structure, heavily contrasting with the constructed concrete forms. The image at left shows this draped object above the program and circulation massing in the modern addition.

SITE LOCATOR: Aarhus, Denmark

While supplying the local community with a center for primarily visual arts, this project draws from its historic U-shaped train warehouse by symbolically gesturing its form both outward and inward, a nod to the movement of trains as they constantly pull in and out of their stations. This large roof gesture provides a series of public and semi-public spaces while evoking a sense of "grit" in its concrete structure that successfully contrasts yet relates to the historic train shed.

Architect: 3XN
Client: Aarhus Municipality
Gross Floor Area (Addition): ~ 20,000 sqft
Opened: March 30, 2012
Cost: 16.25 Million USD

While supplying the local community with a center for primarily visual arts, this project draws from its historic U-shaped train warehouse by symbolically gesturing its form both outward and inward, a nod to the movement of trains as they constantly pull in and out of their stations. This large roof gesture provides a series of public and semi-public spaces while evoking a sense of "grit" in its concrete structure that successfully contrasts yet relates to the historic train shed.
The Kastrup Sea Bath extends out from the Kastrup Strandpark into the Oresund Sound and has become a crucial part of the vitality of the newly developed waterfront. Along with the swimming structure, the project also includes a new beach with an adjoining service building.

The primary design and programmatic goal was for the bath to be something that can be used by everyone. It is free and open to the public and accommodates both young and old, active and leisurely swimmers, as well as people with mobility challenges.

The circular swimming structure was conceived as a dynamic sculpture that would change form at different viewpoints. The structure and pier are constructed predominantly with Azobé wood, a material that can withstand the harshness of sea water.

INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District

PRECEDENT STUDIES

KASTRUP SEA BATH
Study by Erica Witcher + Tianshi Guo

Google Maps, 2013
Instructed by our experiences in Copenhagen, we maintain that in order to create an equitable, exciting district with a thriving public realm, there should be ample opportunities for many types of play for people of all ages and needs. Therefore, our students selected sites, developed site programs, and created designs for urban play places that range from a much-needed school for the U-District, to parks, plazas, community and youth centers, bicycle and play streets, working gardens, and a new Lake Union waterfront.

SCHOOL 55 University District School Feasibility Study | Sophie Glass
61 Connect the Blocks | Veronica Macalinao + Erica Witcher

PARKS/STOPPING PLACES
71 Christie Park | Youngsuk Jun
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89 1/48 x Alley Play* | Guanyi Gao

MOVEMENT CORRIDORS
95 Campus Parkway | Fanqun Hong + Tianzi Guo
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COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS
135 Passageway Alley | Machiya Fujii
141 Trans-Cowlitz | Hiroki Baba + Midori Fukutani
153 Fueling Station | Wren McNally + Kate Reef
165 Burke Gilman Street | Kyle Kinsey

WATERFRONT
171 U-District Learning Lab + Nature Park | Dhora Goradia
177 North Portage Park | Scott Boettjer
183 Rectifying Body and Site | Matt Kikosicki
189 From Bridge to Bridge | Daniel Just + Hao Liang + Heli Ojamaa
191 Salmon Beach | Daniel Just
197 Campus Balcony | Hao Liang
203 Continuous Ribbon Edge Around Zones of Action | Heli Ojamaa
Currently, the U District is divided among four elementary school attendance areas and two middle school attendance areas. Creating a new U District school would serve as a force for neighborhood cohesiveness.

Elementary School Attendance Areas

Middle School Attendance Areas

2. Creating a Cohesive University District

If the U District had its own school, it would provide a space for community engagement and solidify the U District as a discrete and unified neighborhood.

1. Enhancing District Diversity

Seattle’s University District (U District) is primarily composed of students aged 18-29. To increase the diversity of the area, various U District plans seek to attract more families to the area. But in order to do that, the U District needs its own primary school.

Creating a new K-8 school in the U District could serve the small number of families already living in the district, as well as attract new families to move to the area.

Families = Children = Schools

The University District has not had its own primary school since the University Heights Elementary School shuttered its doors in 1989 after serving the community for over 85 years.

Creating a new University District school could improve the area in a multitude of ways, including:

1. Enhancing district diversity
2. Creating cohesiveness, and
3. Leading the way in small urban school design.

Please see the full University District School Feasibility Study for a more detailed analysis.

See the full report at: courses.washington.edu/gehlstud
The University of Texas operates UT Elementary, which is an open-enrollment school that serves as a training site for future teachers.

Tacoma School of the Arts in Washington State lacks a central campus. Instead, it holds classes at venues across the city.

The Tacoma School of the Arts in Washington State lacks a central campus. Instead, it holds classes at venues across the city.

The Beekman Hill International School in New York City is an eight floor, 50,000 square foot K-5 school. The school is located in a historic building and makes creative use of its space by including a rooftop playground and a basement cafeteria.

National Examples of Small Urban Schools

Co-Located School

University-Based School

Small School

Vertical School

The Los Angeles Unified School District recently hosted a competition to design a 30,000 square foot school to show how small spaces can include all the essential educational and recreational facilities.

3. Leading the Way in Creating Small Urban Schools

Given the density of the U District, any school would have to be small and urban—characteristics that defy decades of “school sprawl.” There are many ways to re-imagine the typical suburban school as an urban school.

By challenging the paradigm of auto-centric and “mega schools” located on the outskirts of communities, the U District primary school could serve as an example of the benefits of centrally-located neighborhood schools.

A. Take the standard post-WWII suburban school

B. Break it down into its components

C. Reconfigure it or...

...A “vertical school” that fits in an urban environment.

...A co-located school that shares facilities with neighbors.
Site Challenges

Car Traffic

The site of the proposed school is located on NE 50th St. - a main arterial that connects to Interstate-5. This busy arterial poses some safety concerns for children trying to cross the street. To increase pedestrian safety by slowing traffic down on NE 50th St, the district could implement a wide range of traffic calming measures (right).

Safety Concerns

The site of the proposed school has historically been a “hotspot” for crime. Replacing this crime hotspot with a school could mean that crime would simply shift to a new, nearby location. The U District School could do its part to decrease crime by integrating “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design” techniques into its plans.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

This...

Not This...

Deteriorated Street Furniture.

Dark Streets.

Gang Tagging.

Maintained Street Furniture.

Street Lamps for Night Lighting.

Murals and Street Art.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques include:

- Median Islands
- Crossing Guards
- Speed Tables
- Curb Extensions

Property Crimes\(^*\) per Square Mile (2012)

Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft and auto theft. Source: Seattle Police Department

Site Opportunities

Many of the establishments that surround the site of the proposed school complement school-related activities. For example, the proposed school could share facilities with neighboring organizations and businesses like the YMCA and the University of Washington.

Complementary Land Uses

- Parking Lots
- Meeting Spaces
- Auditoriums
- P-Patches
- Science Labs
- Libraries
- Bus Routes
- Pedestrian Features
- Bike Routes
- Bus or Train to School

Another advantage of the site of the proposed school is that students and staff could reach the school without a car. This could help save the school money by decreasing school bus and parking lot costs.

Walk to School

The U District has a historic street grid that is ideal for walking, plus ample crosswalks and sidewalks.

Bike to School

There is an existing network of bike lanes and more on the way once the "Neighborhood Greenway" is completed.

The U District has a historic street grid that is ideal for walking, plus ample crosswalks and sidewalks.
A new school for the district would not only fill a need for a more centrally located place for kids to learn, but also a place which can connect the people of the community with one another.

A middle and elementary school with a cafeteria, gym, and meeting room fill the remainder of the block to the south of 50th street, while a multi-media library, kitchen pavilion, meditation garden and pea-patch are added around the existing historic University Heights Community Center.

A playful pathway seeks to connect the two blocks, which are severed by 50th Street, with the varying programs and the site to the greater University District.
University Heights Community Center
Multi-Media Library
Kitchen Pavilion
Pavilion
University Way NE
Brooklyn Ave NE
Pea Patch
Pick-Up and Drop-Off Parking Lot
Open Play Space
Relocated Play Structure
Honolulu Gardens
Brooklyn Ave NE
Connect the Blocks

1. Middle School Gym
2. Middle School Social Stair
3. Elementary Cafeteria and Exterior Spill-out Space

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VERONICA MACALINAO + ERICA WITCHER | CONNECT THE BLOCKS
SCHOOL PROGRAM
- Classrooms
- Common Space
- Play Space
- Administration

COMMUNITY AMENITIES
- Meeting Room
- Path
- Cafeteria
- Gym

INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District
Christie Park is located at 9th Ave NE and NE 43rd Street. It is the only park in the area within a 1/4 mile radius. Christie Park is currently not being used well by the neighbors, which are mainly university students and single families. The site is in a great location and it is only a couple of blocks away from the future light rail station. Christie Park has great potential to become the park of urban play and fun in the U-District, a neighborhood that is seriously lacking green space and parks.

The newly proposed design for Christie Park will transform it into an Urban Oasis Among Ruins with lush nature and fun activities for everyone to enjoy and appreciate.
Strips of Concrete Walls

12 feet-tall concrete wall has been blocking people's view and increased the risk of crime and illegal camping. The wall will be torn down into strips. This will result in getting rid of shaded, dangerous spots in the park and, at the same time, will create the feel of old ruins with ivy climbing up the walls.

Tree Obstacle Course

This section will be placed in front of the strips of walls. Tree logs and big branches will be installed and create very lush, organic area for people to talk, play, or just have a great time. Robustness is the strength of this zone.

Activities for Everyone

This park is designed for everyone to enjoy. Variety of possible activities, including tree obstacle course, forest of ropes, temporary art installations, is there for not only kids and families, but also should not exclude other users, such as homeless and university students.
This zone is here to invite people to actively participate in small community gatherings or events. Red lounge chairs will be placed on top of the concrete tile platform so people can sit down and relax or have small parties when needed.

The original design of Christie Park consists of many dull concrete pavers and platforms. To recycle the materials on site, the broken concrete pieces will be reused to construct different parts in the park, including a concrete tile path and boulders for extra seating.

9th Ave and 43rd Street is one of the quieter areas in the U District, enjoying low levels of traffic. The newly-designed park will be expanded up to the edge of the pedestrian path by creating bioswales around the park. This will not only expand the green area of the neighborhood, but also provide a better overall pedestrian experience.
The “Jack in the Box” site, located along 50th Street between University Way (the Ave) and Brooklyn Ave, is currently serving as a parking lot for the Safeway store nearby. The site sits between two busy intersections. The area is one of the main points of entry to the U-district neighborhood and the UW campus. The site is unsafe and is considered a busy drug dealing location. At the same time, from the east side of 50th Street, the site is very easy to observe. This project focuses on activating the site with various urban play activities, as well as providing people a good place to stay, walk through, and participate in other activities, particularly young people.
Connections from the street

Activity & rest

Routes for passing through & places for stopping

NE 50th Street

Safeway

University Way

Brooklyn Ave

skateboarding ramp

continuous play

playing with words

parkour equipment

play activities analysis
According to the urban plan for the U-district, this area will become a high density urban space over the next 20 years, primarily because of the new light rail station and new higher-volume residential buildings. This site is centrally located between University Ave and Brooklyn Ave, and it is currently used as a parking lot. It is also very close to the new light rail station. The site has great potential to become a green oasis in the U-district.

This project will focus on providing what people need in public space. The concept is to create a multifunctional urban plaza that is open 24 hours a day for the public. Mixed use spaces and facilities are designed for diverse users. The goal is to help the U-district become a more livable and playful area.
INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District

SHIH CHIA CHIU | A MULTIFUNCTIONAL URBAN PLAZA
Plants
Facilities
Spaces
Stormwater management
Visibility

Rooftop: Skateboard
Body: Public Restroom
Skateboarding Loops

A 24-Hour Public Space

View: Fountain Square
View: Skateboarding

SHIH CHIA CHIU | A MULTIFUNCTIONAL URBAN PLAZA
1/48 × ALLEY PLAY

My design’s focus is to imagine and propose the alley in university district that is shaped by physical invitations for urban play, demonstrating strategies of resilience, inclusiveness, and authenticity. I think the alley is a line which can connect and integrate diverse urban spaces.

For this design project I chose one of the university district alleys, between 43rd & 42nd St. I mainly focused on how to use physical and psychological design methods on infill projects and programs, so that the design could activate the alley life, public spaces, and buildings, with the goal of contributing to a highly functional, socially responsive, and environmentally regenerative alley space.
Central View (early summer)
Street Vacation

Existing conditions on Campus Parkway show that it is inactive, shadowy, and not very pedestrian-friendly, particularly because two wide one-way traffic lanes hinder the pedestrian flow and isolate the middle public space from the surrounding context. The main design idea is to create a street vacation so that the street could become an active, sunny, and pedestrian-friendly public place for both the university and the community.

Before After

Campus Parkway unites the University of Washington campus and the university district community together. It is surrounded by campus dorms and teaching buildings. It is also a very important landscape axis for the University of Washington. However, as a public open space, it is not considered a usable green space within the district. Our design goal is to activate this boring traffic corridor through a street vacation. People, traffic, and vegetation will be redirected toward the urban play concept, which is highlighted by different wavy forms.
Concept
The main design concept is to create a public space for different activities by using different wavy forms. Instead of the existing straight traffic lines and green space on the street, there are two social and green belts, which are followed by a wavy line.

Users & Activities
We put different types of installations into the site to meet different users' needs. People can sit to have a cup of coffee or play on swings while waiting for the bus.
The plaza in front of the Schmitz Hall is designed to accommodate different types of activities. Lighting design in this area tends to make the plaza more dynamic in the evening, especially the long dark nights during fall and winter in Seattle.
Activity Analysis
The design takes over 12th Ave and creates a very active space between Brooklyn and 11th Avenues. It offers many kinds of activities, from the stationary qualities of an outdoor cafe, the lively qualities of swings or an outdoor BBQ, to vibrant ball games or jungle gyms, or even parkour. Five huge existing trees will be saved and create different atmosphere both through daily and seasonal change.

Stormwater Analysis
Seattle experiences seasonal changes because of precipitation variations throughout the year. We designed a rain garden at the lowest part of the site by vacating 12th Ave and collecting the storm water on the street. Here the plants perform the role of cleaning the stormwater.
Playing with the wavy edge
The edge between the grass slope and the activity area shows different manifestations of the waving form. People can enjoy a variety of activities there, such as sitting, walking, and even cycling along it.

Weekend Market
At the west end there is a community art center for both the University and local community. The front yard on the South side could become a weekend flea market for students and locals alike.
Campus Parkway has great potential to be a playful urban street, and it should provide a playground for students who are living around Campus Parkway. As more student dorms are built there, Campus Parkway will be seen as a “home” for students. Therefore, more identity and “furniture” are needed for their new “home & playground”.

In the near future, Campus Parkway will be surrounded by UW buildings and student dorms, so Campus Parkway should provide a great outdoor living room and playground for residents. Therefore I propose a serial “WASHINGTON” furniture structure, offering a strong identity for the UW campus and inviting residents out to play on the street. My proposal would transform the current empty space to an active urban play street.
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Out-sider

Sønder Boulevard Street Furniture, Co.

“A” Swing / Play Ground

Skypace | James Turrell | UW Campus

Precedent study & Materials

Section D-D’ 1”=15'-0”

Section E-E’ 1”=15'-0”

East of Campus Parkway, connection to Red Square
The recent focus on planning the area west of 15th Avenue NE allows a great opportunity to envision Campus Parkway as a new center for student life west of campus. The University is currently building new housing along Campus Parkway, buildings that are home to student-focused activities, not limited to: a game center, gym, and student activity center. Unfortunately these activity spaces are located within the new dormitories themselves, sealing themselves off from the Parkway.

The redesigned Campus Parkway pulls these activities from the buildings out onto Campus Parkway for the community to enjoy, creating a more lively street that students and neighbors of the university will yearn to be a part of.
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Building Uses by Floor

Mobility & Open Space of Building

Material Palette
- Wood Planks
- Corten Steel
- Textured Paver Pattern
- Concrete

Photo Credit
IAN GARNIER + PATRICK PIRTLE | CAMP(US) PARKWAY

Looking East from Roosevelt Way NE

Skate Plaza Looking North

117
Crowded, dominated, and unlivable. Vs. open, friendly, and vibrant. With the area's dramatic increase in density and development, our proposed cycle track and pedestrian mall along the Ave will give the U District a needed core of public open space. Already the district's cultural center, the Ave can again become a lively space for shopping, play, food, and more. It can be the breathing, beating heart of the neighborhood.

A cycle track, connecting the Burke Gilman Trail with Ravenna Boulevard, gives cyclists an interesting and safe route through the heart of the district, while adding life and commerce to the pedestrian mall.

People, bikes, culture, and open space; the Ave can become a world-class street in the heart of the University District.
INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District

Existing context & character of the Ave

Section: Existing Context

Economic impacts of bicycle infrastructure

PEDESTRIAN MALLS IN THE US

WORKS

near a major university or tourist center

- abundance of local retail
- restaurants and bars that attract customers after 5pm
- good transit, bike & pedestrian access


DOESN’T WORK

no proximate residents or regular users

- department stores with large frontages dependent on cars for access
- only active during workdays

Why remove the busses? Don’t they help business?

Distribution of Cultural Activities

Bus Mall vs. Bike & Pedestrian Mall section

Image: architectureunderdevelopment.wordpress.com
Image: Kyle Rowe
Image: Peter Cromwell & Ashle Fauvre
Image: Tim Kiser

GRAHAM GOLBUFF + JOEL MILLER  |  THE WAVE
Section 1: Active Play Room

Section 2: Block Shortening entrance from the Ave
The Avenue routes moved to Brooklyn, increasing connection with future Link Light Rail station.

Recessed Cycle Track Detail Diagram

Approximately 110 parking spaces

Convert existing surface lots to multi-story garages.
Alleys in the U-district have a lot of issues, such as poor lighting, litter, and so on. My main goal is to invite people into the alley. First, I designed an alley that people will feel drawn to, where their presence will help address some of the alley’s issues, and I do so by bringing plant life into these spaces behind buildings. Next, I made a new alley between the west and east, and provide more passageways so that more people can find and explore the alley. For problems of garbage and litter, I set up two main garbage collection sites. Compost is created and consumed here, adding nutrients to the garden soil. Community gardens are made available, where people can play by experimenting with plantings. Visitors will find that they can shop here, and then make food using the vegetables grown in the alley. Such a community would make for a great gathering place in the alley.
Making Transitions

Site Context

The site does not front on any main arterials. No safe grounds around the elementary schools. The site will serve as a gateway to the U-district.

Site Context

The site will serve as a gateway to the U-district.

MAKING TRANSITIONS

Site Context

Cowlitz Road is one major crossing point between the University of Washington and adjacent neighborhoods. At the same time, limited car flow enables the road to be a safe place for pedestrians. However, the road does not emancipate itself from the University of Washington, which is not open to the public. By making a gradual transition between the university and adjacent communities, this road will become an appropriate space for people of all ages to play, to be inspired by each other, and to gain further understanding of one another.

Precedent Research

II. Integrating activities

III. Inviting new types of people

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John Stanford International School

University of Washington

Kristi Park

North passage

Burke-Gilman trail
Inducing activities along Cowlitz Road
Making transitional spaces from 3 aspects

1. U of Washington - Local
2. Private - Public
3. Natural - Artificial

Design Process
Creating relationships between the University of Washington and the local community
INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District

Program Diagram

Volume extruded, introducing a community lighthouse

Light guided outward towards the community

Volume shifts and edges respond to the community

Linking the street and Burke Gilman trail to the building

Result: Eastlake Bridge Community Workshop

Section 1" = 32'-0"

Volume shifted and edges respond to the community

Light guided outward towards the community

Linking the street and Burke Gilman trail to the building

Result: Eastlake Bridge Community Workshop

Floor Plan 1" = 32'-0"

Existing Eastlake bridge

Model Photo

Concept Diagram

Community Workshop
- Workshop Studio
- Outdoor Workshop
- Mechanical Rooms
- Burke Gilman Trail

HIROKI BABA + MIDORI FUKUTANI | TRANS.COWLITZ
INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District

Program Diagram

- Adjacent facades pulled down
- Facades offset, creating an inbetween space
- Openings become fenestrations, inviting people into space
- Volumes introduced, becoming interior spaces

Result: University Digital Library

Existing University parking lot

Model Photo

Section 1" = 32'-0"
Pit Stop and Community Center

The Fueling Station creates a hub for healthy living and community engagement by repurposing under-used urban space. The Station’s integrated public areas invite passive and active recreation, enable socialization, and expand neighborhood assets. The site’s prime location connects varied user groups. The Fueling Station’s Grow- Produce-Live model aligns with regional and local environmental, social, and economic development goals. Urban gardens, food forests, and open green space reclaim impervious surface. A community center and public recreation space enables social connections. Youth agriculture and food-service training foster individual and professional growth. Fresh produce and trail-side restaurants generate revenue.

Easily accessible by foot or bike, the site connects to the well-used Burke-Gilman Trail, to Brooklyn Ave. NE, and is within ½ mile walk from UW Campus, the waterfront, and the future Light Rail station.

Throughout the site, public open space is varied and accommodates all users. Fixed and flexible seating allow for rest or play.

Bike and pedestrian friendly leisure space surround the Burke-Gilman Trail. Trail-side cafes provide trail users with healthy, convenient refueling services.

The youth training and community gardens are connected by open natural space with herb gardens and fruit-bearing shrubs and trees. A shared greenhouse extends the growing season. Food forests buffer the site to the south from busy streets.
INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District

CHALLENGES

- Homogenous Land Use
- Impervious Surface
- Under-Utilized Assets

SITE & USERS

- U-District Residents
- University Ave NE
- University Community
- NE 40th St.
- UW Community
- Pacific Ave NE
- Brooklyn Ave NE
- Burke-Gilman Trail

OPPORTUNITIES

- UW Community
- U-District Goals:
  - Social Services
  - Public Open Space
  - Recreation Opportunities
  - Neighborhoods

- Seattle Goals:
  - Social Cohesion
  - Community Space
  - Food Access
  - Environmental Health
  - Economic Opportunities

SEATTLE GOALS:

- Social Cohesion
- Community Space
- Food Access
- Environmental Health
- Economic Opportunities

WREN McNALLY + KATE REEF | FUELING STATION
INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District

COMMUNITY

GROW HEALTHY FOOD, SKILLS, COMMUNITY, HABITAT
Youth agricultural training
Community gardens
Food forests
Native vegetation

PRODUCE

FOOD SALES, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, RECREATION SPACE
Produce sales & donations
Youth food service training
Trail-side cafes
Natural open space

PLAY

YOUTH TRAINING

LIVE

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, LOCAL AMENITIES, RECREATION SPACE
Expanded neighborhood assets
Non-motorized activity
Passive and active recreation
Public open space

Cafe Seating Sketch

Bench Sketch

Pit Stop Sketch

Trail Front Seating Sketch

WREN MCNALLY + KATE REEF | FUELING STATION

rebargroup.org

seattletilth.org/sygw

www.indonesianyoungdesigners.com

Photo Credit

www.fortieliberi.net

www.cbsnews.com

thegreensamaritan.com motherspongedesign.com
The site buildings and a thermal wall buffer garden areas and create semi-public and private spaces. The thermal wall allows gardens to maximize usable space.

Between the youth and community centers, a covered entryway welcomes site visitors, creates shelter from the elements, and provides space for produce sales from the youth garden.

An integrated seating and play area connects the centers (left).
Youth Garden

Community garden space surrounds the community center. Public open space buffers the community garden from the trail front.

To the east, the community center opens to the garden and provides ample space for outdoor socializing.

A rentable community center facilitates community gathering. Benches are distributed throughout the site and invite sitting, talking, or playing.
CAFE & PIT STOP

The Pit Stop conveniently services trail users with refreshments (top). The trail-side cafe grows its own produce and provides healthy food and community space to rest, meet, and refuel. Bike and pedestrian facilities surround the cafe, and Pit Stop. Varied paving differentiates spaces for movement and leisure (middle).

A food forest protects the site from surrounding busy streets (left).
“Spread good Karma.” In the city of Copenhagen, Denmark, this simple phrase is often considered the first rule of cycling in the urban environment.

Sited along the Burke Gilman Trail, arguably the most highly trafficked pedestrian path in Seattle, Burke Gilman Street aims to foster awareness and etiquette in urban cycling through transportation education. Here, youth will learn about cycling as both an active form of recreation and transportation. By creating open, visible intersections along urban streets—walls, density of activity and users will generate an open plaza atmosphere where pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists will interact freely, encouraging the “spread good karma” mindset.

The Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation was created in 2001 to provide education programs and consulting services to the local community in the interest of creating a better community through bicycling (Cascade.org).

Cascade is located in Sand Point and currently uses school and community facilities to educate the public in and around the city of Seattle.

The UW’s Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) estimates that one in 10 students at UW is raising a child, meaning that over 90% of students do not have access to childcare through the university.

There are currently zero playgrounds on the UW campus.

Childcare centers closest to campus have long waiting lists and it can take several years to secure a spot at one of three facilities that accept roughly 60 to 100 children per facility.

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Existing site ‘stop-start’ cycling condition

Open intersections at pedestrian-heavy locations

Create density at the street, park space behind

Plan:

Burke Gilman Street

BROOKLYN AVE

BURKE GILMAN ST

MIXED USE MICRO-BUSINESS

'SLOW' BIKE SHOP

DUTCH BIKES

NEW UNIVERSITY FACILITY

ROOFTOP

BICYCLE LEARNING CENTER

Plan: Burke Gilman Street

Through the manipulation of the ground plane, semi-public play spaces are elevated off the street. Play spaces are then expressed visually in the buildings through inserted playful screening elements.
Section A’ through elevated park space at Outreach Center

Section B’ through Outreach Center building

Traffic table at Brooklyn Ave and Burke Gilman St from Outreach Center elevated park space

Outreach Center building use:
- Community bicycle riding and maintenance learning
- Regular community ride events
- Tour de France event day

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Cafe
Restrooms
Roof Top Learning Centre

Photo Credit

Aerial view looking Northeast

View looking NE at Rooftop Learning Center

View looking NE at Rooftop Learning Center

Outreach Center building use:
- Community bicycle riding and maintenance learning
- Regular community ride events
- Tour de France event day
This project seeks to reconnect the U-district with the waterfront while taking advantage of a natural site in a dense, gritty, urban neighborhood. The design addresses people on three different scales - the general public, the semi-public UW scale, and the individual. Both formal and informal spaces guide people through a forest and provide opportunities for research, observation, and the dissemination of information in a unique park on the waterfront.
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View from study pods

individual study pods  outdoor classrooms  community gathering

private being  field work  dissemination of knowledge

research analysis  public gathering

formal to wild  city grids

DHARA GORADIA | U-DISTRICT LEARNING LAB + NATURE PARK
These are Salmonspheres. They are solid, spherical objects, 2' in diameter. They may be made of stone, wood or acrylic.

The University of Washington owns an highly valuable waterfront parcel. This land, adjacent to NE Boat Street between Brooklyn Avenue NE and NE Pacific Street, boasts 650 feet of Lake Union shoreline, a small leisure park and historical structures. Plagued by private storage and inaccessible edges, great design opportunities exist. My plan is shaped by these key strategies.

a. Improve public access to Lake Union by redefining the shoreline and eliminating large structures.

b. Provide refuge for wildlife and improve stormwater drainage for surrounding areas.

c. Make it fun by incorporating physical and social play elements.

Shorelines can be incredibly productive ecological environments and a place for inspiration and fun. Let the water invite us!
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**Existing Condition:**
- Boring programming
- Inaccessible shoreline
- Unresolved stormwater treatment

**Proposed:**
- Intimate setting for escape
- Outdoors cinema at amphitheater
- Salmonsphere play

*Photo Credit: Scott Boetjer*
Incredible views
The desired natural edge
Pedestrian prioritized

SITE PLAN

INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District

SCOTT BOETJER | NORTH PORTAGE PARK
Despite its location on the north shore of Portage Bay the University District does not identify as a waterfront neighborhood. The University of Washington campus physically separates the U-District waterfront from the fabric of the neighborhood. The amenity that is Portage Bay, its potential uses, and connection to Lake Union and beyond present the opportunity to activate a large waterfront park and swimming and bathing facility. The water related programs associated with both the building and site increase awareness of one of Seattle’s great waterfronts while serving both students and the greater Seattle community.
Outdoor spaces described by pier elements

Resurrecting the U-District to its riparian landscape

Landscape rooms occupy the planted roof

Deck roofscape as viewing platform

A hot pool on a cold day
The University of Washington and its many hard edges separate the neighborhood from the water.

Instead of stairs to nowhere, make a path that goes through.

Red lighting connects disparate areas along trail.

Oceanography Building

Potential Connections
- Existing Paved Walk
- Proposed Multipurpose Trail
- Existing Multipurpose Trail
- Proposed Painted Bike Lane
- Existing Painted Bike Lane
- Existing Dirt, Gravel, or Grass Path
- Improved Crosswalk
- Existing Stairs
- Proposed Stairs

Existing and Potential Open Space
- Building Partially Removed
- Woonerf (Pedestrian Priority Road)

UW’s campus was designed to incorporate a distant view to Mount Rainier, but for years it has ignored a much closer natural asset, its waterfront. Poor planning has created both physical and psychological barriers between the surrounding community and the water.

Meanwhile, hard and shored edges along the water make this corridor inhospitable to the salmon who migrate through. This could change thanks to an agreement to transfer 4 acres of waterfront property, now used for the university police station and storage, to the City of Seattle in order to create a public park. This park could be the gateway to a whole network of open spaces along the water. We propose a playful promenade linking from bridge to bridge, one that takes advantage of the waterfront’s solar orientation, a corridor for both people and salmon.

A new waterfront promenade would change that.
Most of the shoreline is now armored or shaded by piers, which is not good for migrating salmon. The water level varies. It’s controlled by a dam.

Salmon’s prey thrive in organic soils, not sand.

In Paris, Toronto, and Montreal, residents are flocking to a new type of beach. “Urban beaches” provide a sandy refuge in the city, often with fountains that allow visitors to cool off, but they don’t provide access to swimming, due to shipping lanes and pollution. This plot of land, located next to the University District’s best margarita bar, might not be a good place for a conventional beach, since it is located just downstream from a combined sewer outlet and it is an important corridor for salmon migration. But it could provide many of a beach’s best qualities—lounging along the water, playing in the sand, and even cooling off on a hot day. The site’s existing concrete edge will be replaced with a more salmon-friendly marsh that is sunken thirty inches from the beach level so it doesn’t block views.
Street converted to one way parking lot

Opening up views to the water from Brooklyn Avenue will help to draw people into the site. A rooftop terrace, on the same level as Agua Verde’s south-facing deck will provide an extended area where people can have an alcoholic beverage along the water. Below the terrace is an ice cream stand and public restroom. Restroom facilities are essential so people can comfortably spend the day here. The lack of restroom facilities was among the most frequent complaints among visitors I interviewed at Canada’s Sugar Beach.

A new terrace connected to Agua Verde will provide eyes on the park, so it feels safe.

The Dune gives a green backdrop to the beach.
The typical American playground has very few loose parts that children can manipulate. Salmon Beach would include the West Coast’s first permanent imagination playground. Inspired by the adventure playground (see page 27), Rockwell Group developed a collection of blue foam blocks that kids could use in concert with sand and water. These blocks are now available nationwide, the only thing preventing their wide adoption is the need to supervise their use. But using work study funding, play workers could be hired without much expense to the city.

While the pink fiberglass umbrellas at Canada’s Sugar Beach are quite iconic, they discourage active use of the sand. You don’t see people throwing frisbees or footballs there. At Salmon Beach, the sand would be a much more flexible surface. All of the chairs would be moveable until around midnight, when a student paid through federal work study cables them together. A reflecting pool with playful jets attracts small children without becoming a parent and child ghetto. Adults without kids feel comfortable sitting along its edge and dipping their feet in the cool water.

A section through the ampitheater and fountain shows the edge conditions there. A turf ampitheater is integrated into the dune. Beach is 30’ above wetland to preserve views out to the water.
The most distinctive characteristics of this part of the waterfront are the peaceful environment and open view, as well as the inclusivity for all species. Based on the current situation and the functional demands from neighboring sites, this proposal uses the idea of play to solve problems of inaccessibility and habitat loss. Meanwhile, the proposal also engages in activating the existing amenities nearby by creating positive relationship with the surrounding environment. As one part of the bridge to bridge waterfront site, the consistency of the proposal appears in the installation of city furniture, such as street lights, benches, and trash cans. Also, the proposal creates an independent loop where people can hang out. BE students could jog to the site, enjoy the peaceful view on the deck, have a cup of coffee in the tea house, then go back to work. This is the balcony of the campus.
1. Mutual penetration of human space and nature
2. Teahouse, diversity of water play
3. View of Teahouse’s platform
4. View of wood deck path

Features:
- Teahouse
- Leisure space
- Storage
- Multi-functional deck
- Play stage
- Roof deck
- Transition space
- Movable floating platform
- Public restroom
- Entrance space
- Ramp
- Wood deck path

Relationship with student center building

Accessibility

Paths
Water Play

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Hao Liang | Campus Balcony
The portion of the University of Washington waterfront from the Salmon Homing Pond and hatchery, now being decommissioned, to the Montlake Bridge, has historically been a very active site. From the creation of the Montlake Cut, to the location of the Medical Complex, and the crowds for the Boat Parade and crew races, the site is dynamic and actively used.

This proposal evaluates the existing site assets and explores ways to enhance them through a continuous edge that organizes and connects the site with the multi-use trail path and the waterfront. The program addresses the individual visitor as well as aims to serve the crowds at events and hopes to support more events.

Images: Heli Ojamaa, unless otherwise noted.
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Node 1: Natural Play at decommissioned salmon pond

Node 2: Gathering Space plan

Section through Gathering Space

Section through salmon pond to Portage Bay

View of Portage Bay and salmon pond

Image: Greg Gilbert

Sketch from water looking at gathering space

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INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle’s University District

HELI OJAMAA | CONTINUOUS RIBBON EDGE AROUND ZONES OF ACTION 305
ARTIST CALL FOR ENTRIES:
- temporary/seasonal installations
- lighting, sculpture, plantings, landscape

CENTER ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY
EXPERIMENTAL TEACHING UNIT

WATER FOUNTAIN AND SEATING
SWING
EXISTING BASKET BALL COURT
CITY ART GYM
WATERFRONT PROMENADE
GATE WITH TIME-DATE
GRADE PLAY
SWING
GRADE PLAY
ACTIVE PLAY
SLIDE
NODE 4
WATER SIDE WALKWAY AND SEATING
RAMP AND SEATING WALL
STONE BIRD BATH
WATER SIDE WALKWAY AND SEATING
15:00:00 12.06.13
EXISTING CONCRETE WALK

Therapeutic landscape retreat

Site elements

Section through landscape

View of multipurpose trail at art installation zone

Section through grade play area to water

Perspective of grade play and exercise equipment

Swings instead of benches
Paving changes

INVITING URBAN PLAY: Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle's University District

HELI OJAMAA | CONTINUOUS RIBBON EDGE AROUND ZONES OF ACTION
"A playful city is a city where you are invited to explore and play - not just on specific playgrounds or for children, but for everybody."

- Lars Gemzøe, Gehl Architects