Baldwin Quadrangle (Schneider)  
Hargreaves Associates rehabilitated ca. 2006,  
originally designed 1911-1925

Located on a ridge behind McMicken Hall, Baldwin Quadrangle (re-dedicated as the Herman Schneider Quadrangle) is a rectangular open greenspace that unifies the buildings of the Engineering Quadrangle: Baldwin, Old Chemistry Building, and Swift Hall. Baldwin Quad temporarily housed a tensile fabric structure to accommodate university activities displaced during construction of MainStreet. Portions of the Quad have recently been rehabilitated with new walks, tree plantings, and grass lawns. The sweeping arc of the primary path aligns with the arc of a walk that leads through nearby McMicken Commons, enhancing campus connections with the rehabilitated quad.

Baldwin Quad is the only Beaux Arts-style space on the University of Cincinnati campus. Its rectangular volume of space is activated by use of the surrounding buildings, which front on the quad. The oak trees along the edge are too young to provide effective shade at present, but will ultimately contribute to the usefulness of the space.

The quad’s simple design is made more dynamic through the establishment of a curving system of walks juxtaposed against a straight system that reflects the orientation of the buildings that form the quad. The curving walks relate to the geometry of nearby McMicken Commons, and help to tie together open spaces that relate to two different organizing systems or “force fields.”

A memorial sundial with a commemorative plaque previously sat in front of Baldwin Hall, it has since been repositioned in front of the reconstructed stone bench honoring Dean Herman Schneider. The analemmatic sundial has been reset and keeps time.
## Baldwin Quadrangle (Schneider Quadrangle)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lighting</th>
<th>Grass lawn</th>
<th>Tree plantings</th>
<th>Shrub plantings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two types of lighting standards occur within the quad: the ball in basket and plaza disc light (shown).</td>
<td>Relatively level with crown.</td>
<td>Swamp white oak has been planted along the north and south perimeters of the space. Hornbeam is planted along the foundation of Baldwin Hall.</td>
<td>Yew, hornbeam, and boxwood are planted in association with the front of Baldwin Hall.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ADA accessibility ramps, brick & granite seat wall

The front of Baldwin Hall is edged by a plaza. An ADA ramp leads up to the plaza, which is edged by a brick and granite wall, which can be used as a seat wall for gathering, waiting, or sunning.

### Perennial plantings

Liriope beds have been used to unify the plantings in front of Baldwin Hall.

### Granite benches

Trash receptacles, signage, and bike racks associated with the quad relate to campus standards. The granite benches near the entrance to Baldwin, however, are unusual for the campus.
The University of Cincinnati is relatively unusual in maintaining a major football stadium at the heart of the campus. Bearcat Plaza takes full advantage of its position overlooking the stadium, marking views in with pylons, and orienting site features to the view.

As elsewhere along MainStreet, the route along this connective pedestrian system is lyrical, and punctuated by events such as this granite stair. The stairs shown here edge the landing overlooking Bearcat Plaza, helping to contain the space of the plaza, and provide various social and interactive opportunities.

From Bearcat Plaza, it is possible to sit and watch activities occurring on the field below. The stadium is used for various activities in addition to football games, including intramural sports.

Bearcat Plaza is a triangular open space that occupies the area between Nippert Stadium, the Tangeman University Center, and the Steger Student Life Center. Located at the heart of MainStreet, Bearcat Plaza is a popular site for informal musical performances and social interaction.
The luminaires utilized throughout MainStreet are standardized (Plaza Disc Light). Light poles are fitted with banner hangers. The banners utilized reflect the graphic identity of MainStreet.

Ginkgos and Chinese elms serve as street trees within the plaza.

The university uses a set of standards for features such as tree grates. Within MainStreet and Bearcat Plaza, the grates work well with the color of the plaza pavers.

Slotted drains are another feature that follows a standard design and is used consistently throughout the plaza. The character of the drains is consistent with the tree grates.

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**Interlocking concrete pavers, used as permeable segmental pavers in association with tree plantings**

The graphic identity of MainStreet is expressed through a consistent pavement. The interlocking concrete pavers of varying hues, ranging from gray to rose, soften the expansive paved area of MainStreet.

Where pavers are used in close association with trees, they were installed with voids to allow air and water to penetrate to the roots below. The crevices are filled with haydite, a light stone particle. The pavement is engineered for fire access.
### Bike racks

Bike racks are also consistent with design standards applied to the campus.

### Table and chairs

Black metal tables and chairs provide seating for eating outside on the plaza. The character of these features is consistent with the bike racks.

### Pylons

Brick and limestone pylons edge the perimeter of the stadium and act like a permeable and celebratory edge to the stadium. They recall the pylons at the campus entrances.

### Trash receptacles

The trash receptacles and recycling receptacles are consistent with campus standards.

### Conditions

**Cracked concrete**

Some of the concrete slabs and steps that edge the plaza are cracked.

**Tree grates**

Tree grates are damaged by maintenance and other vehicles driving over them. They are very expensive to replace.

**Stone dust between pavers (haydite) difficult to retain/maintain**

There are various problems associated with this material. Maintenance personnel must work to stockpile the material, users complain of shoe heels getting stuck in the spaces, and the material blows out of the spaces between pavers.
Stadium viewing area from Bearcat Plaza. Nippert Stadium seating is pictured in the foreground.
One of the primary elements of the Campus Green is a sculptural earthen mound located along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The mound is intended to recall the prehistoric mounds of local Native Americans. The mound is edged by a sign identifying the campus. Access to the lower portion of the mound is afforded by a system of concrete walks. The mound is planted with an evergreen groundcover, wintercreeper euonymus.

The campus entrance at University Way is designed to complement the mound. The sign is similar in character and materials to others located at entrances into the campus, utilizing Briarhill sandstone and applied bronze letters.

One of the character-defining features of Campus Green is the braided walk. A winding, intersecting system of concrete walks, the braided walk is an abstraction of the ancient stream that once ran through this area. The walk is edged by a cobble storm-water drain, tree plantings, lighting, and fountains. The walk leads between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and the walk edging Sigma Sigma Commons.

Campus Green is the largest open space on the University of Cincinnati campus. The greensward extends over approximately six acres, replacing a large parking lot that served the northern portion of the West Campus. Features that comprise the design include fountains, arboretum plantings, seating areas, a sinuous sculptural walkway, a light tower, and large expanses of turf. Campus Green is a major thoroughfare, connecting East and West Campuses, and was a key component of the university’s transformation from a commuter to a pedestrian campus.
A system of cascading fountains edges the braided walk. The fountains are low retaining walls comprised of stacked and battered granite block set in arcuate forms. Granite seatwalls sometimes edge the fountains along the walk.

The braided walk is sometimes edged by a linear planting of upright hornbeams. The hornbeam has been utilized historically to create aerial hedges as its branches may themselves grow together into a braided form. These trees were selected to reinforce the concept of the braided walk.

Another tree incorporated into the design of the braided walk is the bald cypress. A species that is well adapted to wet environments, the bald cypress recalls the ancient stream corridor, and accompanies many of the fountains to suggest a connection to water.

Lighting along the braided walk is provided by a series of “light stick” luminaires designed specifically for the Campus Green.

Geometric earthworks also edge the braided walk.

Groupings of trees and shrubs arranged into associations of plant families are planted along the braided walk and within the berms along the braided walk. Each specimen is identified by a concrete and aluminum marker. Plant families represented include maple, serviceberry, elm, oak, redbud, beech, lilac, linden, magnolia, crabapple, and birch.

The tree and shrub plantings associated with the arboretum adjacent to the braided walk are marked with engraved aluminum plaques set in concrete bases sited near each specimen.
East of the braided walk, and a counterpoint to its sinuous lines, is a series of straight concrete walks. These edge the 1960s dormitories, and angle off (as shown) toward the light tower and Sigma Sigma Commons.

Lighting along the straight walks incorporates the ball-in-basket standard found in many other parts of the campus.

To the east of the braided walk is a large expanse of turf grass. The level plane affords good views of the light tower sited near the end of Campus Green.

Also to the east of the braided walk along the straight and angled paths is a series of seating areas. These areas are relatively level paved plazas for sitting and gathering. The surface material of the seating areas is decomposed granite. The areas include site furnishings, donor plaques, and tree plantings such as sweetbay magnolia, amur corktree, and zelkova.

Evergreen trees planted along the straight walk form a screen along the margin of the 1960s-era dormitories. The evergreen trees are Norway spruce.

A sculptural tower sits at the southern end of Campus Green. At night the tower emits lights, which change colors. The tower is a memorial piece. The tower was designed by Jorge Silvetti and Rudolpho Machado of Boston, Massachusetts.

Site furnishing and features associated with Campus Green include a system of exercise stations as shown here. Black painted metal pieces of contemporary and unadorned design are typical of the system.

Also of black painted metal and a contemporary design are the trash receptacles utilized within the landscape.
### Campus Green

#### Donor plaques

Some of the features of the Campus Green landscape are attributed to the largesse of donors. The individuals and organizations that contributed to the implementation of these design features are identified with granite markers inscribed with their names. These occur within the arboretum and the seating plazas.

#### Arboratum plaques

Mowing activities have led to a deterioration of some of the arboretum plaques. The concrete bases have been damaged in some instances; in others, the aluminum inset has been detached from the concrete base. Many of the labels (and tree specimens) are sited in between the berms that wind through the western portion of the Campus Green. It may be difficult for visitors to access some of the labeled specimens and read the plaques due to the undulating landforms.

#### Fountains

Some of the fountains were not operating at the time that fieldwork was performed for this project in October 2006. The university has found the fountains to be expensive and difficult to maintain. Some have already had to be replaced.

#### Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mow lines</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Mow lines" /></td>
<td>The edges of the sinuous landforms have taken on a banding through regular mowing. This may lead to rutting from the mower wheels, or decline of the grass in linear patches. The slope of the berms renders them difficult to mow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospect denied</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Prospect denied" /></td>
<td>The walkway associated with the mound does not extend to the apex of the landform. People seeking the view from the top have cut a social trail through the euonymus, leaving a gash in the planting, on axis with the view of the campus identity sign along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V-channel</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="V-channel" /></td>
<td>These features must be cleaned constantly as they collect and exhibit refuse prominently.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Water is frequently blown out of the fountains across the walk, which may lead to deterioration problems and slip hazards.

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Appendix C 10
Triangular junctions and joints are difficult to maintain, particularly when plantings are included within the end section. The liriope planted in the small spaces between the walks and the plazas has died near the ends of the planting areas. It is also difficult to maintain joints and seams that occur in triangular forms.

The screen planting of evergreens may deter residents of the adjacent 1960s-era dormitories from using the Campus Green landscape. Many of the sandstone pylons associated with the campus entrances have been damaged by lawn mowers. The university has established concrete bases around many of the pylons to prevent mowers from reaching their bases and causing further damage. The university is investigating appropriate repair methods.
Campus Green
The CCM Plaza is an urban-style courtyard space that knits together various buildings connected with the music school: Corbett Auditorium, Mary Emery Hall, Memorial Hall, and Dieterle Vocal Arts Center. The plaza is characterized by a generally square area paved with brick and concrete. The central portion of the plaza is a circular vehicular turnaround that is also heavily utilized by pedestrians. Alternating steel balls and bollards mark the limits of vehicular use within the plaza. Steps lead down into the plaza on the north; the west, south, and southeastern edges of the plaza are contained by buildings and embankments. Seatwalls and stairs that can be used as seating also edge the central open space, which is popular as a performance space. The plaza is well-proportioned to human scale. Tree plantings are utilized to bring seasonal interest and organic form into the geometric space. The plaza showcases an evocative sculpture by Magdalena Abakanowicz.

The generally square form of the space between Mary Emery Hall, Corbett Auditorium, Memorial Hall, and the Dieterle Vocal Arts Center is characterized by an urban-style paved plaza. The brick and concrete pavement is composed of a circular form within a square. The circular form is indicated through an inner circular planting bed and an outer ring of bollards that mark the extent of vehicular paving.

Concrete bands radiate from the central planting bed, breaking up the expanse of brick. The species included in the central planting bed include tulip poplar, green ash, and periwinkle.

The central circular form of the plaza that acts as a vehicular turnaround is reinforced by the circular placement of steel bollards. The steel bollards are composed of alternating posts and balls.
### Plantings

A large planting bed edges Mary Emery Hall. Trees and groundcover occupy the planting bed, which is edged by a long seatwall. Tree species include yellowwood, green ash, and hornbeam. Groundcover includes periwinkle and bugleweed. Plantings edging Memorial Hall include redbud, maple, and oak.

### Embankment below Memorial Hall

Steps lead up to Memorial Hall from the plaza. Plantings occupy the bank below Memorial Hall. Trees include Carolina silverbell, pagoda dogwood, Northern red oak, yellowwood, green ash, and white redbud. Periwinkle and bugleweed serve as groundcovers.

### Lighting

Lighting associated with the plaza is the plaza disc light standard.

### “Figura Prima” by Magdalena Abakanowicz

Sculpture set within the plaza is part of the university’s art collection. The sculpture is made of bronze.

### Concrete steps

Steps outside of the Dieterle Vocal Arts Center and below a brick plaza at the building entrance are long, wide, and generous, and can serve as informal seating.

### Garden above parking garage/memorial bench

A memorial garden exists above the parking-garage entrance that extends beneath the plaza. Plantings include cotoneaster, geranium, crabapples, moonbeam coreopsis, salvia, ornamental grasses, and coneflower. A bench with a plaque commemorating Patricia Berlin sits within the garden.

### Street trees

The road leading to the plaza is lined with street trees. The species used throughout is red oak.

### Conditions

Adjacent planting beds

The soil in these planting beds is undergoing subsidence. The problem is currently under investigation by a geotechnical engineer.

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**CCM Plaza**
CCM Plaza

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>Memorial bench</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loss of tree</td>
<td>The bench is not stable. It may have been dislodged by a mower. The seat is not founded and rocks on the base stands.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One of the trees planted at the margins of the circular portion of the plaza has been lost. This tree was planted almost directly in front of the door of the Corbett Auditorium, which may have been a bad placement for physical and visual accessibility to the building.
The Cincinnati Observatory Center is located near the intersection of Observatory Place and Avery Lane near Observatory Avenue due east of the main university campus area. The Observatory building sits atop a broad knoll characterized primarily by turf grass. The open area that surrounds the Observatory is edged by deciduous woodland that marks the location where the knoll begins to drop away more steeply. The landscape associated with the Observatory is pastoral, marked by turf lawn dotted with ornamental and shade trees. Landscape features include an access drive with a circular turnaround, parking area, walkway system, outdoor seating plaza, etched stone and concrete plaques and pylons, site lighting, and a historical marker.

The Cincinnati Observatory Center property includes two brick and stone buildings, composed of limestone foundations and sandstone ornamentation, sited atop a prominent knoll and along a circular turnaround drive. The buildings are generally surrounded by open turf lawn. Large white pines flank the entrance to the main building.

The smaller building is known as the O.M. Mitchell Observatory. It is sited to the east of the main observatory building. Small flowering trees have been planted near the entrance.

An asphalt entrance drive leads to the Observatory complex, terminating in a circular turnaround that also accommodates parking. The smaller building is located beyond the photograph to the right.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parking</strong></td>
<td>Parking occurs along the margins of the circular vehicular turnaround.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entrance walk</strong></td>
<td>A brick walk leads from the parking area to the front entrance of the larger Observatory building. The brick walk also connects to a brick plaza/seating area located east of the building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stairs and porch</strong></td>
<td>The front of the building is accessed via a sandstone stair. Metal urns flank the stair and are set on posts at the base of the cheek-walls. The front of the building includes a porch with a limestone pilaster railing that sits below the portico and four columns that mark the building entrance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary building entrance stair</strong></td>
<td>A short brick walk also leads to a stone stair at the entrance to the smaller Observatory building. The stair is framed with wooden columns and metal urns. Another walk leads north to an ADA-accessible entrance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADA accessible entrance</strong></td>
<td>The brick walk also connects to a brick ADA-accessible ramp that leads to a separate entrance into the building. The ramp is edged by painted metal handrails. The base is fashioned from stonework that recalls the front stair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turf lawn</strong></td>
<td>Turf lawn surrounds the Observatory buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trees at edge of knoll</strong></td>
<td>The lawn is edged by a stand of trees. The trees generally mark the site where the knoll landform begins to drop away more steeply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ornamental and shade-tree plantings</strong></td>
<td>The lawn is also dotted with ornamental and shade trees. There are also a few evergreen specimen trees.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cincinnati Observatory Center (1873)

**Shrub border**
A row of burning bush euonymus.

**Outdoor seating area**
A brick plaza with black painted metal site furnishings occupies a portion of the space between the two main buildings along the circular turnaround.

**Site lighting**
Site lighting utilizes a luminaire with a historic character.

**Etched markers**
A pair of etched limestone blocks set in a circle of Belgian block and crushed stone sits on the lawn surrounding the Observatory.

**Etched stones**
A series of etched stones is set in the lawn. The sun and planets of the solar system are marked by the stones.

**Historical marker**
An Ohio Historical Marker notes the age and significance of the Observatory complex. The marker is set along the circular turnaround.

**Conditions**
Construction materials that appear historic are piled in at least two locations on the Observatory property – shown here along the base of a building, and above in association with the burning bush shrub border.

**Piled construction material**
Cincinnati Observatory Center (1873)

Photograph of the newly built Observatory, 1873.

Postcard of Observatory, circulated in the early 20th century.
Appendix C

Clifton Arc is considered to be the primary entrance to the campus, is the first view that many people have of the University of Cincinnati and one of its most visible landscapes given its location overlooking Clifton Avenue. The characteristic features of the arc are its sloped greensward, dotted groupings of mature trees, arced access drive (McMicken Circle) and associated concrete walks, stairs, and lighting, a gatehouse, and signage. Although many of the individual elements of the arc landscape have changed over the years, the overall impression has remained of a pastoral park-like landscape for many decades.

Concrete walks along McMicken Circle

The concrete walks that edge McMicken Circle as it approaches various campus buildings are wide and generous.

Concrete walks along Clifton Arc

The concrete walks on the western edge of Clifton Arc are very narrow.

Concrete steps

A long straight flight of concrete steps leads to the entrance of McMicken Hall from Clifton Avenue. Art deco-style metal handrails are associated with the walk near its apex. These are also found on the McMicken Commons side of the building.
A historic lighting standard is used in proximity to McMicken Hall that does not appear to be utilized elsewhere on the campus except within the Teacher’s College/Dyer Hall quad.

Cobra-style lighting is used along McMicken Circle.

The pastoral and park-like appearance of Clifton Arc is due in great part to the expanse of maintained turf lawn that dominates the open space.

A wide variety of shade and ornamental trees are planted singly and in groups within the arc landscape. Tree species include horsechestnut, maple, blue spruce, elm, oak, Kentucky coffeetree, beech, scholar tree, sweetbay magnolia, saucer magnolia, paperbark maple, ginkgo, sugar maple, arborvitae, hornbeam, buckeye, sycamore, London plane tree, catalpa, sawtooth oak, and green ash.

Trees and shrubs edge McMicken Hall. Shrubs include juniper, yew, boxwood, currant, star magnolia, and bottlebrush buckeye.

Groundcover plantings, particularly English ivy, are also part of the planting palette of Clifton Arc.

Paved in asphalt, McMicken Circle is used as a drop-off route for the university.
A manned gatehouse at Clifton Avenue provides assistance to visitors, and is also used to control access to the campus.

Signs in the Clifton Arc landscape are consistent with those used elsewhere on campus.

Mick and Mack the lions greet visitors at the entrance into McMicken Hall.

One of the trees on the green includes a tree well, which may relate to a regrading effort.

Some of the trees (beech, elm) within the landscape are in decline. A plan for replacement of the trees will be needed. The university takes special care with the campus's older trees.

Some of the shrubs (boxwood, yew) and trees (hornbeam) in front of McMicken Hall are in decline, or are difficult to maintain in their current overmature condition. A plan for replacement will be needed.

Some of the drainage systems appear to be in need of repair.
The College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP) is housed in a collection of buildings located in the northwest corner of the West Campus. The firm of Hargreaves Associates was commissioned to design the landscape associated with the college in the mid-1990s. Hargreaves's design incorporates sculptural earthen forms and grids of tree plantings to complement and complete the complex of buildings unified by the 1996 construction of the Aronoff Center for Design and Art. The new design, characterized by long, sinuous berms that follow one another uphill toward the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Clifton Avenue, works in harmony with existing mature trees that suggest the former presence of Burnet Woods on this site.

Hargreaves unifies the landscape of the DAAP complex through the use of a series of serpentine earthen forms that edge the long and winding form of the Aronoff Center as it edges Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The berms are generally maintained in turf grass.

Periodically, groups of trees are planted in association with the berms. Tree species observed in association with the berms include red maple, hawthorn, flowering cherry, hophornbeam, and green ash.

The Hargreaves design incorporated existing mature shade and ornamental trees occupying the knoll at the intersection of Clifton Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Species include pin oak, little leaf linden, green ash, hackberry, maple, Kentucky coffeetree, and redbud.
The design for DAAP also includes areas of ornamental plantings, particularly in association with building drop-off and entrance areas. Species observed include yew, liriope, daylilies, and ornamental grasses.

As the landform along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard spills downhill, the landscape design incorporates sculpted slopes at key moments or in association with regulating lines of the Aronoff Center. Some of these slopes have been planted with groundcover such as euonymus.

The design also incorporates large areas of turf lawn to serve as a foreground to the Aronoff Center and support this area’s role as a campus gateway.

Other gateway elements associated with the design include a campus identity sign. The sign, located near the intersection of Clifton Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, is comprised of Briarhill sandstone with a granite cap and bronze letters identifying the school by name.
Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP)

Conditions
Erosion and loss of groundcover

The steeper slopes of the DAAP landscape are experiencing some erosion.
Eden Quadrangle is a planned open space that will complement the expanded Medical Sciences Building. It will feature granite seat walls and steps, a large plaza, an outdoor amphitheater, and trees.

**Exterior Features**

Eden Quadrangle was under construction during the development of the Campus Heritage Plan and has thus not been evaluated in this study.

Levine Park and Kresge Circle border Eden Quad on the east side and ties the landscape of the old Medical Sciences Building with the new Eden Quadrangle and CARE/Crawley Building.
Library Square is a pedestrian plaza that links the Engineering Research Center, Langsam Library, and Zimmer Auditorium. It sits at grade, one story below the Zimmer Roof Garden. The surrounding buildings and terrace that edge the square form a strong volume of space within the square. The plaza’s character is derived from the paving pattern, which forms a nautilus. The space is small and intimate, but has an urban feel. There are no plantings within the central portion of the plaza due to the weight restrictions associated with the plaza’s siting above an underground garage. The paving is composed of cast concrete and colored concrete pavers. The nautilus, which is thought to express the perfect symmetry of nature, is a form with an ever-expanding expression and likely symbolizes the academic institution’s unending pursuit of knowledge.

Library Square plaza is a sculptural space dominated by the nautilus form of the paving pattern. Pyramidal lighting features set in a grid are juxtaposed against the curvilinear forms of the nautilus, which is expressed primarily in paving but also extends vertically to form a seatwall. Plantings along the margins of Rhodes and Zimmer Halls provide seasonal interest and color.

Designed by architect Wes Jones, the staircase that connects Library Square with the Zimmer Roof Garden is comprised of painted aluminum handrails, reddish purple in color, steel steps, and glass panels.

To add verticality to the open plaza, Hargreaves Associates provided whimsical lighting in the form of steeply pitched neon pyramids placed in a grid in front of the Langsam Library entrance. The pyramids are lit at night.
Library Square

Plaza paving

The nautilus that forms the paving and a seatwall feature within the plaza is composed of mortared colored concrete pavers edged by concrete bands.

Central engraved steel circle

The center of the nautilus features a steel plaque inscribed with a quote attributed to Oliver Wendell Holmes: “A mind that is stretched to a new idea never returns to its original dimension.”

Granite seatwalls and steps

The northern edge of the nautilus is expressed in a curvilinear granite seatwall and stair system. The seatwall and stair take up the change of elevation across the plaza. The western edge of the nautilus rises to meet the circular middle section edged by the seatwall, affording an accessible route through the plaza.

Tree plantings

Tree plantings provide a transition between the plaza and the Rhodes Hall façade. Tree species include green ash, black gum, southern magnolia, weeping cherry, and columnar red maple.

Shrub and perennial

Shrubs and perennials are planted in the tree planting beds near the entrance into Rhodes Hall and behind the seatwalls and benches near the Langsam Library entrance. Plantings include hosta, daylily, ornamental grasses, juniper, pachysandra, sedum, and honeysuckle.

Stairs to Woodside Drive

Concrete stairs lead from Library Square toward Woodside Drive, the two parking garages located along the road, and Campus Green. Black metal handrails edge the stairs.

ADA-accessible route to Woodside Drive

A concrete accessible route parallels the stair system. The walk is edged by a low concrete curb. Planting beds that include juniper, sedum, honeysuckle, flowering cherry, and mums edge the switchback form of the ramp system.

Seating at library

Brick and concrete walls help form a seating area in front of the Langsam Library. The face of the wall undulates to form niches that house metal benches. The walls can also serve as seatwalls.
Temporary directional signage

As has been used elsewhere on campus, there are directional signs like the one shown on the right indicating routes to nearby features such as the parking garage. The signs are composed of wooden posts, a directional arrow, and a wooden support used to train ornamental vines such as honeysuckle. These are intended to be replaced with permanent signage.
The Jones staircase connecting Library Square with the Zimmer Roof Garden acts as a short cut to the Schneider Quadrangle and McMicken Commons. Rieveschl Hall is pictured on the right.
MainStreet is a linear and curvilinear pedestrian open space system that extends from University Plaza to the Campus Recreation Center and is flanked by nodes for sitting and dining.

Highly urban in nature, the MainStreet landscape is entirely paved with a consistently applied palette of colored concrete pavers, granite stairs that double as seating, black painted metal site furnishings, street tree plantings, and a lively interaction with the buildings and wall systems that form the volume of space that is MainStreet. Master planner George Hargreaves in fact envisioned MainStreet as a vibrant urban center to the campus to which the students would gravitate when not in class. The sense of center and invitation for university community members to gather was a critical need to effect the university’s goal of becoming a residential rather than a commuter campus.

The connection between the interiors of the buildings and the streetscape is highly fluid. Of note also is the relationship between one of the resting places along MainStreet—Bearcat Plaza—which overlooks the football stadium. (See separate matrix for the plaza.)
MainStreet

### Circulation corridor

The circulation corridor curves through a series of dynamic buildings, many of which have large glass facades that help blur the distinction between inside and outside along the corridor. The corridor is entirely ADA accessible.

Image right: view further along the corridor.

### Concrete pavers

Paving throughout MainStreet is unified in materials and character. The primary material of the pedestrian corridor is interlocking colored concrete pavers set tightly together. In association with tree plantings, the pavers are set with gaps between them to allow light and air to penetrate the paving. The cohesive pavement treatment provides a unified identity for the streetscape and plazas that comprise MainStreet. The colored concrete ranges from pink to gray.

### Granite steps and seatwalls

The margins of the streetscape are often edged by granite seatwalls that offer space for seating, gathering, performing, and eating, and help to contain space.

### Lighting

Lighting also occurs through overhead luminaries. Lighting fixtures throughout MainStreet are the plaza disc lights. Light poles are fitted with banner hangers. The banners reflect the graphic identity of MainStreet.

Circular uplights are installed linearly along MainStreet within the pavement.

### Tree grates

A standard tree grate is utilized consistently throughout the corridor.

### Street trees

Ginkgos are planted along the edge of MainStreet where sun levels allow. Also present are Chinese elm.
### MainStreet

#### Slotted drains

Slotted drains that are consistent in material and character with other metal features such as tree grates are also used consistently throughout the corridor.

#### Bike racks

Bike racks are also standardized throughout the corridor, and the black painted metal material is consistent with other site furnishings utilized within the MainStreet landscape.

#### Tables and chairs

Black metal tables and chairs provide seating for eating within the corridor, namely near Bearcat Plaza and in association with the Tangeman Center. The character of these features is consistent with other metal site furnishings within the corridor.

#### Engineering Research Center Entrance Plaza

MainStreet provides a connection to the entrance of the Engineering Research Center. Features associated with the entrance include trees (little leaf lindens, oaks, ash), bike racks, and seatwalls.

#### Circular turnaround

The lower end of MainStreet is marked by a circular vehicular turnaround. The center of the turn-around is used as a planter, with petunias and cotoneaster present during October 2006 field investigations.

#### Fire-vehicle egress

MainStreet is engineered to support fire trucks and other emergency vehicles.

#### Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open-spaced pavers</th>
<th>Cracked concrete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The aggregate material utilized to fill the space between open laid pavers associated with street trees is problematic from a maintenance perspective. The material must be stockpiled for use when needed as the material is prone to being blown out of the spaces between pavers. Users also complain of shoe heels getting stuck in the spaces between pavers.</td>
<td>Some of the concrete slabs and steps that edge the plaza are cracked.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MainStreet
McMicken Commons was the first open space completed as part of the University’s Master Plan. The commons is a major gathering place for students, faculty, and visitors. Located at the top of MainStreet it is flanked by McMicken Hall, Tangeman University Center, University Pavilion, and Braunstein Hall.

McMicken Commons is a large rectangular open space that establishes a unified sense of place between numerous buildings of a variety of architectural styles and functions, and connections to other spatial patterns and ‘force fields.’ McMicken Hall, shown right, is one of the primary features edging the commons.

The central bay and tower of McMicken Hall are axially related to the central focal point of the Tangeman University Center sited across the commons from McMicken. A central tower and columned portico mark the center of the building.

Much of the McMicken Commons landscape is characterized by turf lawn cut by concrete walks connecting the various buildings and places within the commons and beyond. Much of the greensward is elevated topographically from the surrounding area. Low retaining walls, that double as seatwalls, edge the greensward.
McMicken Commons

Granite seatwalls

The McMicken Commons greensward is edged to its east by a polished granite retaining wall that works as a seatwall. The granite is consistent with material utilized in many other landscapes on the campus.

Interlocking paver walks and plazas

The landscape in front of the Tangeman Center is characterized by elements associated with nearby MainStreet. The paving materials, site furnishings, and broad steps that can double as seating are representative of the MainStreet palette, helping to connect the commons with this major circulation thoroughfare.

Café seating

Outside of the Tangeman Center there are tables and chairs, with umbrellas, for café use. These, too, are consistent with the features utilized in the Main Street design palette.

Benches

Another feature of the commons area associated with Tangeman is a seating area with London plane trees, trash receptacles, and a series of black painted metal benches. The site furnishings and the tree grates again are consistent with the MainStreet design palette.

Older tree plantings

The commons includes an area in its east central section where older trees have been retained, including oaks and Bradford pear. Chinese elms are used as street trees along MainStreet as it abuts McMicken Commons.

New tree plantings

The landscape of McMicken Commons is primarily open through the center where the axial connection between McMicken Hall and Tangeman occurs. The edges of the commons have been planted with deciduous trees, however. Shade trees are planted in a grid outside of the Tangeman Center as well as University Pavilion. Species include Japanese pagoda trees, sterling silver lindens, and sawtooth oaks.

Preview Pavilion

A large pavilion structure—referred to as Preview Pavilion—occupies the central area in front of McMicken Hall. The structure is utilized as an informational kiosk for events and activities.
### Walks

Walks throughout the McMicken Commons landscape are constructed of concrete. Stairs are used to navigate changes in elevation, but there is also a universally accessible route through the landscape.

### Shrub plantings

Multiple paths converge in front of McMicken Hall. The areas between some of the paths are planted with shrubs and groundcover. Ornamental grasses are part of the planting design palette as shown.

### Groundcover slope plantings

Bearberry cotoneaster is the primary groundcover plantings utilized within the commons. It is used particularly on slopes and banks.

### Asphalt vehicular access

An asphalt paved access road leads into the commons with the Clifton Arc.

### Foundation plantings

Trees, shrubs, and groundcover are used in foundation plantings associated with the east façade of McMicken Hall. Species include red maple, pin/scarlet oak, cotoneaster bank planting, linden, euonymus, and privet.

### Ornamental handrails

The stairs that lead from McMicken Hall to the commons have ornamental metal handrails consistent with those utilized on the Clifton Arc side of the building.

### Brick landing

On the east side of McMicken Hall is a low brick landing. The landing is raised approximately 4-6 inches above the surrounding concrete walks. The bricks are dark red with a glossy finish.

### Light pole

The area around McMicken is treated slightly differently with an historic standard light pole.

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Appendix C
McMicken Commons

Trash receptacles
Metal trash receptacles consistent with University standards are utilized throughout the commons.

Lighting
Lighting within the commons is the plaza disc light standard used elsewhere on campus.

Tree grates
The tree grates used in the plaza are also of a different style. The design is more ornate.

Conditions
Single step rise of brick
This low landing is a potential trip hazard.

Bank erosion
The slopes of the commons, particularly in association with the concrete stairs, are subject to erosion. Bank plantings are utilized to stabilize the earth, but erosion is currently a problem in some places.

Axial view obscured
The Preview Pavilion structure obscures the axial view between McMicken Hall and the Tangeman Center.

Walks
Walks are paved as the need arises given the circulation routes preferred by the students. In some cases, the pavement has taken on an additive appearance. Erosion along the walk in the upper left section of the photograph illustrates another segment that may require additional paving.
Sigma Sigma Commons was one of the first signature landscapes established at the University of Cincinnati campus based on the Hargreaves master plan. This sculptural open space edges French Hall and forms the southern terminus of the Campus Green. Extending over three acres, Sigma Sigma Commons features a greensward, walkways, undulating landforms, and the focal piece—a 3,500-seat amphitheater/performance space with terraced lawn panels edged with granite stairs that double as seating. Sigma Sigma Commons was designed as a flexible open space that could accommodate many uses.

The primary feature of Sigma Sigma Commons is the broad amphitheater that edges French Hall. Formed from sculptural geometric landforms edged by granite stairs that act as seating, the amphitheater works internally, but also contributes to the connection of various force fields working across the space with its diagonal cuts and lines.

A linear system of concrete walks edges the Sigma Sigma Commons landscape and provides an axial connection to the Engineering Research Center.

One of the standard materials utilized on campus is granite. The amphitheater stairs and seating is formed from linear slabs of granite.
Sigma Sigma Commons

Lawn panels

In between the granite risers there are lawn panels.

Ball-in-basket luminaire

The lighting standard utilized within the Sigma Sigma Commons landscape is the ball-in-basket luminaire.

Tree plantings

Concrete walks also lead from the straight walk toward the complex of buildings that includes the Armory Fieldhouse, French Hall, Campus Recreation Center, and CRC Student Residence Hall. The walks are edged with red maple trees.

Bank plantings

Sculptural earthen forms also edge the walks within the Sigma Sigma Commons landscape. Some of these have steep slopes that are difficult to mow. The turf grass has been replaced in some areas with ground cover plantings that do not need to be mown.

Etched granite identity sign

An etched granite panel is inset within the concrete sidewalk marking the beginning of the Sigma Sigma Commons landscape.

Conditions

Luminaires

The ball-in-basket luminaires utilized in many parts of the campus cast light upward. This light fixture type is not consistent with green building standards and light pollution diminishment goals.

Euonymus

The euonymus vine that has been planted in many locations around the campus is considered an invasive alien plant species that causes disruption of native ecosystems.

Liriope

Liriope planted on a bank beneath an overhang of the CRC Student Residence Hall and Campus Recreation Center is chlorotic and receives little sunshine.
Sigma Sigma Commons

Conditions (cont.)
Design of the space

The landscape is almost entirely open and exposed; there are no trees or shelter elements. The space is underutilized and not popular, it is thought, because of the lack of shade and shelter. The intention for the space—activation and performance—has never been realized. It is not a choice for congregational assembly.

Sigma Sigma Commons

The university is interested in considering the possibility of adding shade trees to the terraces of the amphitheater portion of the landscape to make it more amenable and attractive to students.

Irrigation heads

Maintenance vehicles access areas requiring work by driving on the sidewalks in some cases. Trucks pulling over to the side of the walks tend to damage the irrigation system heads that are typically located alongside the walks.

Mulch walk

A mulch walk leading toward the Engineering Research Center from Sigma Sigma Commons is unusual for the campus, and does not contribute to the visual appearance of the area.
Appendix C

University Commons

University Commons is located on the East Campus. It unifies a collection of buildings along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, including Proctor Hall, the Kingsgate Conference Center, and the Vontz Center. The commons features a spray fountain, two mounds, sinuous berms, and sculptural works.

Edwin B. Ahrens Family Fountain

University Commons is a large open space that joins the disparate architectural elements around it: Proctor Hall, University Hall, the Kingsgate Conference Center, and the Vontz Center. The focal point of the landscape is the Edwin B. Ahrens Family Fountain, which is broad, gently sloping, and accessible.

Mound (accessible)

Two sculptural landscape forms edge the fountain to its west. These mounds are conical and pyramidal in their earthen form. The conical mound is planted in fescue, and is punctuated at its apex with a circular planting of hornbeams. A concrete walk leads to an overlook space set within the circular planting of trees.

Pyramid (inaccessible)

The pyramidal mound is not accessible; there is no walk leading to its apex. The mound is planted in wintercreeper euonymus.

Serpentine berms

A series of four serpentine berms leads the eye on a merry chase between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and the side and rear façade of the Vontz Center. The berms are planted in turf grass.
University Commons

“Belief” by Terry Allen

A large bronze sculpture of a leaf links a brick plaza behind the Vontz Center with the fountain that serves as the centerpiece of University Commons.

Tree plantings

Honey locust, ash, river birch, hornbeam, and spruce are the dominant trees planted within the University Commons landscape. Honey locusts are utilized as street trees in association with outdoor plaza areas.

Hornbeams punctuate the top of the circular mound and edge benches sited along the ADA-accessible walk to the landscape from Eden Avenue.

Spruces are planted in association with the serpentine berms, and river birch in the lawn near the fountain.

Tree plantings

ADA-accessible walk

An accessible concrete walkway parallels the stair leading down to the landscape. A concrete curb edges the walk. Between the switchbacks of the walk, the banks are planted with liriope, daylilies, and hornbeams. Benches are located along some of the walk sections.

Concrete steps and brick walk

A long flight of concrete stairs with black painted metal handrails leads down to the University Commons landscape from the walk leading between Eden Avenue and Vine Street.

Seating area

A large stone retaining wall, faced with Briarhill sandstone, edges the stair below the Kingsgate Conference Center.

Behind the fountain and berms is a quiet seating area known as Proctor Plaza. The surface of the plaza is decomposed granite edged by concrete stair landings. Metal benches are sited beneath white ash trees.
A large area of brick paving edges the retaining wall below the Kingsgate Conference Center and the stairs leading down to the University Commons landscape. The brick plaza provides a connection to the circular mound as well as Proctor Plaza. Backless concrete benches are available for seating.

The brick walk leading to the prospect atop the circular mound also extends between the two mounds.

Lighting within the brick plaza area as well as the walkway and outdoor café area above include the plaza disc light seen elsewhere on campus as well as small ball-in-basket fixtures on the columns.

The pyramidal mound is planted in euonymus, which is an invasive alien species.
At the apex of the accessible mound, the view from this key point of prospect is entirely blocked by the circular planting of European hornbeam trees.

The black paint on the handrails associated with the stair leading down to University Commons is peeling.

The mounds have evidenced problems of fungus and patching along their bases. Maintenance personnel are constantly mindful of the need to be on top of such problems as soon as they arise or else they can get out of control quickly.

Resodding of the mounds has been necessary in the past.

**Conditions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mound prospect</th>
<th>Paint peeling on handrails</th>
<th>Grass on mounds</th>
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The Zimmer Roof Garden is a rectangle of open space that fronts Rieveschl Hall atop Zimmer. A pedestal paver walkway system allows free access across the space. Skylights pop up through the plaza that light the corridors of Zimmer. Planting beds in geometric configurations edge the walks. These are planted in grass, trees, shrubs, and perennials. A metal staircase leads down to Library Square below.
Concrete pavers

Paving within the garden is composed of pedestal-style concrete pavers. Paths are constructed of either a pebble-finish white concrete (“sidewalk”), or a random arrangement of gray- to-rose-colored pavers reminiscent of pavers utilized on Main Street (“Academic Ridge”).

Planting beds

Much of the plaza is planted in perennial and dwarf shrubs, although there are also tree plantings such as hawthorns. Key plants of the design include: dwarf arborvitae, aster, Siberian iris, Johnson’s blue cranesbill, phlox, sedum, gayfeather, lavender, Shasta daisy, liriope, and pachysandra.

Sculpture

The southeast quadrant of the roof garden features a sculpture by Kenneth Snelsen. The work is uplighted for nighttime effect.

Lighting

Ball-in-basket lighting as well as lower path lights are utilized within the plaza.

Metal stair leading to Library Square

A steep flight of metal stairs with metal handrails inset with glass panels leads to Library Square below the Zimmer Roof Garden.
Photography for Appendix C was supplied by John Milner Associates, Inc. and courtesy of the following offices of the University of Cincinnati:

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