Public Spaces | Public Life
for the University District—West of 15th
2012 Scan|Design Interdisciplinary Master Studio

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Foreword

The University District Neighborhood “West of 15th” 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 including a “neighborhood greenway.” A diverse group of partners passionate about the quality of their neighborhood have joined together to envision and enact the district’s future, advancing commercial revitalization, exemplary pedestrian and bicycle environments, and an urban design framework to guide development of the public realm.

Taking up the challenge of the district’s imminent transformation, our studio focused on imagining an active, creative, high-performance “West of 15th” district, proposing design solutions for sites within the district with the goal of contributing to a high-functioning, just, and ecologically healthy city. Applying their unique skills, students worked in interdisciplinary teams at three different time and space scales: first, to understand and interpret existing forces and questions, expressed in temporary installations deployed at various sites throughout the district; then, to assess current patterns and imagine the optimum “blue sky” future health of a particular district system; and finally, to explore how the design of a site or street could contribute to the long-term visions of a public realm that is lively, artful, socially responsive and environmentally regenerative.

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 walked both Copenhagen and Malmo’s public spaces, sketching their design qualities and analyzing their social performance using Gehl Architects’ methodologies. The group bicycled around these exemplary cities to experience their renewed neighborhoods, innovative architecture, and thriving public spaces. The staff of Gehl Architects, Copenhagen’s bicycle planners, Malmo’s Sustainability experts, COBE Architects and others were our guides, providing 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 acquired and applied the rich set of images and experiences from Scandinavia or so deeply integrated Gehl’s approach in our design work. We are sincerely grateful for Bianca Hermansen’s generous, clear and insightful teaching and critique, and to her and others at Gehl architects for the fantastic lectures and tours in Copenhagen. Our Scan|Design interns Ashle Fauvre and Peter Cromwell introduced innovative urban analysis methods, aided by Josh Kavanagh and UW Transportation Services’ generous provision of GPS units that we used to track our movement on foot and bicycle. We were additionally fortunate to have Lyle Bicknell serve as our guide both in Copenhagen and in the Seattle studio, contributing his inspired enthusiasm and seasoned urban design expertise to our learning. We are grateful to many people in Seattle who helped us understand the conditions, forces and potentials in the U-District and provided feedback on our work, and especially Dave LaClergue, Kristine Kenney, Rebecca Barnes, Howard Fitzpatrick, Don Shultz, David Amiton, David Graves and Anne Gantt for their presentations and multiple interactions with the studio. We are additionally ever grateful to Jess Michalak for her invaluable assistance throughout the study-tour, studio and production of this document.

We thank you all, and hope that this work be useful in offering thought-provoking, innovative, responsive ideas for transforming the University District into a neighborhood that performs for all.

Nancy Rottle, Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture
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Travel Study—Copenhagen and Malmo

Immersive Education
Scan|Design Travel Study

Prior to the beginning of autumn quarter twenty-three graduate students from Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Planning participated in the 2013 Scan I Design Foundation Travel Study Program. The trip focused on the urban planning, architecture, and public spaces of the Øresund region. The subsequent interdisciplinary studio and the mix of students shaped the diversity of the trip itinerary. Through study of the built environment in Copenhagen, Helsingør, and Malmö, students were introduced to ideas and concepts that transcended and united the 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 should encourage “life between buildings” to improve people’s quality of life and create sustainable and healthy cities was illustrated both in lecture and on the group experience. During the trip, students were afforded the unique opportunity to study with Allison Dutoit, Bianca Hermansen, and Lars Gemzée, founding and principal members of the internationally acclaimed Gehl Architects office. In addition to more traditional lectures, the Gehl methodology was presented via tours of Copenhagen’s public space and bicycle networks, enabling students to experience the breadth and depth of Gehl Architects’ work in the Øresund region.

These 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. In Copenhagen, students visited the offices of COBE and Public Architects, toured the Royal Danish Playhouse and Tietgenkollegiet, and visited the Carlsberg Brewery redevelopment site. In Malmö the trip included a tour of the sustainable developments at Bo01, Augustenborg, and the Swedish Green Roof Institute, complemented by presentations on the city’s history and future development goals.

Students embraced Scandinavian culture during the trip, with authentic Scandinavian meals being a highlight of the experience. In Copenhagen, the students enjoyed a dinner with members of the ScanIDesign Fellows and alumni, who introduced them to traditional Smørrebrød among other local favorites. In Malmö, the students used the hostel’s kitchen to make a fantastic group dinner.
6. Even if the water is cold, the company is wonderful!
7. Nancy & Jim teaching on the walking tour of the city.
8 & 9. Traditional architecture in Copenhagen, at Nyhavn and along Strøget.
10. Bianca lectures the students in front of the Radhuspladsen.
11. The students learn about engaging public space first-hand.
12. Students toured Tietgenkollegiet, designed by Lundgaard & Tranberg.
13. Biking is a huge part of the experience in Copenhagen.
Design Methodology
15 Quality Criteria

During site analysis, students used Gehl Architects’ 15 Quality Criteria approach for observing and assessing sites for their pedestrian quality. This approach complemented the project area’s quantitative pedestrian analysis, allowing students to understand how people might experience the neighborhood. The students also used these 15 Quality Criteria to evaluate their finished design proposals.

Life | Space | Building

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.

Studio Team and Group Work

Throughout the quarter the students had the chance to work in various groups to take advantage of the interdisciplinary studio format. The students were divided into small groups for site analysis and the In Sight—In Site Installation in the University District. For the final design project, students were given the choice to work individually or in teams to develop their interventions for the University District. 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 Bianca Hermansen of Gehl Architects.

Gehl Architects Master Instructors

Students were first introduced to Gehl Architects’ working methods while in Copenhagen, through lectures and exercises. Students benefited from an additional two weeks working with Bianca Hermansen in Seattle, prior to midterm and at midterm reviews. Students also benefited from Bianca’s experience via Skype lecture. Bianca provided valuable feedback to guide the development of students’ designs for improving the University District.
Methodology and Studio

PROXIMITY

connections

destinations

city life

functions

Concept of proximity vs. density
Source: Gehl Architects

Mid-Review presentation of the waterfront group.
Source: Nancy Rottle

Final project reviews with guest critics and faculty.
Source: Kei-Sing Yiu

Formal reviews included guest critics in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning.
Source: Kei-Sing Yiu

Life | Space | Building
Concept Illustration
Source: Gehl Architects
The DOORS
Kevin Bogle, Tory Kovacs, Don Mack, Emily Perchlik, Mike Schwindeller, Erinn Walter

A four-foot retaining wall runs along 15th Avenue, separating the western edge of the University of Washington campus from the University District neighborhood to the east.

Today, the university has expanded its holdings and activities west of 15th Avenue. The western portion of campus has several spaces and facilities which have the potential to become neighborhood amenities. These places also present opportunities for students and the larger U-District population to mingle. However, the retaining wall along 15th Avenue acts as an impediment to campus access. The Doors installation speaks to this need to permeate the wall and positively connect the university with the public.

Three bright yellow doors were hung from the retaining wall, directly west of the university’s Burke Museum using fabricated metal brackets. These doors stood slightly ajar, inviting curiosity and interaction. Opening the doors revealed posters for Burke Museum events, volunteer opportunities and a map showing how to walk from the sidewalk to the museum. One of the doors also contained writing materials and a mailbox for leaving messages.

The Doors installation raised awareness of the Burke Museum in a playful and interactive manner. Furthermore, The Doors supported stronger connections between the University of Washington campus and the U-District, inviting people to visit the Burke Museum.
8686 + 8687
Nancy Chan / Andrew Hansen / Hillary Pritchett / Malda Takieddine / Hsien-ai Wang

TODAY WE’D LIKE TO HONOR TWO LIVES WELL-LIVED.

Two days before two ailing elms—8786 and 8787, or so their tags named them—were scheduled to depart this life, we assembled an installation to celebrate what they had provided the University District in their many decades on Campus Parkway.

Experts say that when elms mature in such proximity, their roots connect, becoming one. Our installation communicated the beauty in living and dying—connected.

street trees matter
for the environment.

“The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.”

street trees matter
for your mind.

“. . . office workers with a view of nature liked their jobs more, enjoyed better health and reported greater life satisfaction.”

street trees matter
for society.

“. . . trees in the public right of way are associated with lower crime rates.”

street trees matter
historically.

“The first major industry to grace the emerald shores of Elliot Bay was logging. From the time of the first colonial activities in 1851, the timber trade proved to be the primary source of growth in this small northwestern town.”

street trees matter
for the future.

“[Seattle] has set up the goal to achieve 30% canopy cover by 2037. According to results from the 2009 satellite assessment of 2007 data, Seattle has about 23% canopy cover.”
This series of photos depicts all installation components: A glowing, leaf-adorned heart is suspended by fishing line between the two elms. A wooden box conceals speakers playing a soundtrack of trickling water sporadically interrupted by a motion activated recording of a chainsaw’s whine. Passersby are encouraged to scan a ‘QR code’ positioned on the front of the box directing them to our informational website: http://streettreesaregood.carbonmade.com/projects/4517763

Two days after the start of the installation, a tractor removes it along with the two elms.
Leave Your Mark

Betsy Anderson, Leann Andrews, Yu Ting Lin, Finis Ray, and Angelica Rockquemore

Leave Your Mark was designed to raise awareness about the pedestrian experience in the University District. The neighborhood itself is defined by restrictions: users are continually assaulted with signs telling them what they can and cannot do. To disrupt this culture of restriction and manipulate the streetscape, pedestrians and bicyclists were encouraged to track through giant swatches of washable, biodegradable paint. Two sites were selected: the Saturday Farmer’s Market at 50th and University and the future site of the light rail station at Brooklyn and 43rd.

The project study areas are outlined in yellow, indicated in the District Map.
The intervention by local “authorities” only served to create interest in the paint, further reinforce the neighborhood’s culture of restriction, and allow the most daring of people the opportunity to act out in civil disobedience.

With time, the tracks took on a life of their own: for some they were surprising, for others threatening - as evidenced through the choreographed interventions from local “authorities.” Still, others seemed as if they’d waited their entire lives for the opportunity to leave a mark.

Some of the most proactive marks were those left through civil disobedience in the form of literary outcries - expressions of love, art, and truth.
**Occupy Space Dance Party!**
Brooke Alford, Erica Bush, Natalia Chetvernina, Diane Walsh, Kei-Sing Yiu

Our design intervention attempted to transform an empty and confounding private space—with stairs leading to a blank wall—into a publicly claimed experiment in the activation of the street. A “red carpet” highlighted the nonsensical design of the space and set the stage for a 15 minute “Occupy Space Dance Party.” We distributed lights to the dancers to digitally record the contrast between the dynamic movement of the tightly packed people with the gridded lines created by the cars that typically dominate the intersection. The temporary installation attempted to highlight the need for an enhanced public street life supportive of people rather than cars.

**Lights...**
**carpet...**
**action!**

1. Event announcement
2. The site at night
4. Existing site conditions
5-7. Site preparation.
8. The main event, tracing the human movement
9. The dancers
10. The dancers’ trace
11. Sliding the rail
12. After the party’s over
13. Linear lines of traffic: human traces as the flash mob started
**Ping Pong Parkway**
Lawrence Chung, Kristina Gallant, VeraEve Giampietro, Shu Kuei Hsu, & Jordan Lewis

This installation is an effort to activate a highly visible yet rarely utilized site along Campus Parkway. While the site is prominent and the design provides an open forum for democratic process (i.e., a speaker’s podium), there was no hook, no invitation into the space. Our team installed two ping pong tables, complete with balls and paddles, in an attempt to draw people in and engage them first in a game, and then ultimately with the site’s existing features.

Situated among student residences, the median’s substantial open space would seem a welcome opportunity for both active and passive recreation. The site, however, is often very loud with bus traffic. It was designed for passive use, but the noise and smells create an unpleasant and even aggressive environment. There is little opportunity for the user to shape or personalize this space – she could hardly carry on a comfortable conversation. The energy, the noise, and the communication all flowed in one direction – at the user. Even the benches were speaking to her, with the noise crowding out any opportunity for her to engage or speak back.

Open plaza yearning for social interactions.

Serving the student body.

Inspirations from Copenhagen.
Ping pong is thus conceived of as an invitation to converse, through movement and play, with other users and the site, and to personalize it with a game. The installation responds also to the lack of opportunities for outdoor recreation within the University District. Recognizing a commonly-held fear of vandalism or theft of public amenities, the team designed details that encourage stewardship of the site by having designated spots that are understood as incomplete without their accompanying ball or paddle. Each ball has a nest; each paddle, a clip. At the end of a game, the user is invited to contribute to the order and beauty of the space by returning all parts to their proper place.

What do YOU think?

Family fun in the University District.

Ping pong match on a sunny day.
**Access and Mobility**  
Lawrence Chung, Victoria Kovacs, Jordan Lewis, Mike Schwindeller, and Erinn Walter

The existing conditions for access and mobility in the U-District are a mix of challenges and opportunities. It is a very walkable district with active storefronts lining streets, and it has a well-connected bus service to the rest of the city. However, these infrastructures are just the starting point for an integrated and complete active transportation network. With the introduction of a new light rail station in 2020 on Brooklyn Ave between NE 45th St and NE 43rd St, the district faces a perfect opportunity to transform itself into a truly multi-modal transportation hub.

Our vision enhances the connectivity and the quality of the pedestrian experience within the neighborhood. For instance, we propose a series of mid-block connections between University Way ("the Ave") and Brooklyn Avenue to augment east-west pedestrian flows. We also propose alleyway activation between 15th Ave and Brooklyn Ave to increase the amount of active storefront and public space in the neighborhood. Lastly, we recommend removing street parking, rerouting buses from the Ave to Brooklyn Ave and 15th Ave, and implementing a new street car line. This scheme improves the pedestrian environment on the Ave by reducing potential pedestrian-vehicle conflict, and introduces the street car as a new mode of transportation.

To improve linkages between the existing active transportation networks, we propose a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge crossing I-5 at 45th St to reach Wallingford, and reconstruction of Brooklyn Ave to a complete / green street to provide direct access to the waterfront. Lastly, we propose implementing a bike share program to increase bike ridership in the neighborhood. Our vision will shape the U-District into a high performing multi-modal transportation hub by integrating mass transit, an active transportation network, public space, and ecological infrastructures.
The amount of surface parking in the University District is three times that of public parks.
In walkable urban areas, street blocks are generally compact and offer a variety of visual stimuli and activities for a person traveling on foot. The orange dotted line above represents the distance an average person travels in four seconds on foot. As a general rule of thumb, building facades or blocks should provide new visual stimuli (such as shop entrances) every four seconds of foot travel. While the block size in the University District is much longer than urban blocks in Portland, Seattle and Copenhagen, it offers a unique variety of storefronts within each block. As a future strategy, the University District could further enhance walkability by utilizing mid-block connections to decrease block length as well as revitalizing alleyways.
Transportation Vision

The goals express the fundamental principles for ensuring ease of access and mobility in the West of 15th district. They were developed with a keen awareness of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit needs. The objectives and strategies provide clear direction for achieving these goals with specific infrastructure and design improvements.

Goals

- Establish multi-modal transportation connections
- Improve safety of pedestrian / bicycle environment
- Encourage active transportation
- Encourage an ecologically-sensitive transportation network

Objectives

- Enhance pedestrian / bicycle environment by improving active transportation infrastructure
- Integrate ecological infrastructure and active transportation
- Decrease bicycle theft
- Decrease collisions between all modes of transportation
- Strengthen public space connections
- Improve access to the waterfront
- Expand transit infrastructure

Strategies

- Bicycle / Pedestrian bridge at 45th St and I-5
- Mid-block connections between The Ave, Brooklyn Ave and alleys
- Complete / green street on Brooklyn Ave
- Add one-way cycle tracks (see map)
- Add a two-way cycle track on south side of 45th St
- Activate Alleys (between 15th Ave and Brooklyn Ave)
- Real time arrival signs at bus / street car stops
- Move bus routes from The Ave to Brooklyn Ave and 15th Ave
- Eliminate parking for cars on The Ave
- Implement Green Wave / Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology on major car and bike arterials
- Implement bike share program
- Provide locker/shower/repair facilities for cyclists
Existing Street Section

Proposed Street Section
Transit and Information Hub

Modern facilities and technology are enhancing the experience for transit users, making it more efficient and user friendly.

Safe Streets for All

The perception of safety is essential to a thriving pedestrian and bicycle environment.

Public Amenities

Creating public space that is engaging and well networked requires innovative pedestrian focused urban design.

Bike Station—Long Beach, CA (top) was the first full service bike shop and secure bicycle parking station in the U.S. integrated into a multi-modal hub for light rail, buses, pedestrians, and a local shuttle. Real time transit information like that offered by One Bus Away—Seattle, WA (bottom) or station display boards make taking transit a viable alternative to cars.

The Portland Mall (top) implemented traffic calming strategies such as textured pavement, speed tables, shared lanes and improved signage to improve the pedestrian environment with ecologically sensitive infrastructure. Copenhagen, Denmark (bottom) is the epitome of perceived and actual bicycle safety. An extensive network of raised, dedicated cycle tracks achieve high levels of safe bicycle commuting.

Linden Alley in San Francisco, CA (below) facilitates pedestrian traffic with minor intervention and investment. Establishing city and regional pedestrian infrastructure connections might require a greater investment like the pedestrian/bicycle bridge built in Copenhagen, Denmark (bottom).
COMMUNITY
Kevin Bogle, Erica Bush, Natalia Chetvernina
Kristina Gallant, VeraEve Giampietro, Andrew Hansen, Emily Perchlik, & Finis Ray

COMMUNITY VISION
The University District community character is a woven narrative belonging to students, faculty, small business owners, long time homeowners, families, campus staff, homeless youth, and the thousands of people who traverse the area on a daily basis. Combined with a pastiche building fabric and major transit hubs, the area is energetic, dense, and rapidly changing.

There exists a constellation of public services and commercial goods available in the University District, which together meet the needs of a diverse population. Each of the groups represented here experiences the district in a different way, but it is visibly apparent that different members of these groups congregate and then redistribute themselves at regular intervals, interacting in such a variety of environments as churches, bus stops, cafes, and parks.

This team’s analysis of all types of amenities, spaces, and services brought forward some behavioral landscape patterns that suggest we might be able to take advantage of existing and emerging activity nodes in the area. Community nodes of slightly different character are shown distributed across the district, and proposed connections between them would help channel and connect all those who dwell here with the services and goods they seek.
HISTORY & NEIGHBORHOOD FABRIC

Utilize adaptive reuse strategies to provide growth while retaining the character of the neighborhood. Connect the district to the waterfront and maintain the historical marine industry. Adapt old, monolithic buildings to accommodate for activity and human scale.

Diagrammatic representation of adaptive reuse

ADAPTIVE REUSE
Melrose Market, Seattle

Originally built in 1919 and 1926 as automotive warehouses, Melrose Market has been renovated to include the mixed uses of retail, restaurants, and a food market.

The renovation of the structures stands as an example of responsible adaptive reuse - updating the buildings for modern use while still maintaining the character of the historic buildings and surrounding neighborhood.
**COMMUNITY HISTORY**

Seattle and its University District community have together developed a modern form since the first white settlers arrived in the mid-1850s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>September 8, Surveyors marked a line between sections 16 and 17 of Township 24. That line is preserved as 15th Avenue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Isthmus between Portage Bay and Lake Washington’s Union Bay was cut through with a narrow canal for the movement of logs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>Much of the north shore of Lake Union was harvested in the University District. Engineer and future Seattle mayor George Cotterill, when charting the north shore of Lake Union for the construction of the railroad, describes it as “a maze of undergrowth and stumps.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>April 15, Origins of Burke Gilman with the founding of the Seattle, Lake Shore and Eastern Railway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Seattle’s super-developer James Moore laid out part of the Brownfield farm for a town site. That section of land, east of 15th Avenue, was reserved as a resource for the University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Brooklyn development platted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>David Denny decides to lay tracks for his new electric trolley up Columbus (the future University Way).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Move of the Territorial University of Washington relocates to current site, what was then called Brooklyn. University of Washington founded at new site, on section 17.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Seattle Public Library University Branch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Realization of Campus Parkway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Decommissioning of the Railroad and creation of the Burke-Gilman Trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>First University Street Fair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Establishment of the University District Farmers Market.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2012 | Proposal: Restore historic mid-century buildings, such as Condon Hall, Gould, the School of Social Work, U District Post Office, Applied Physics Lab, and Schmitz Hall. Make use of their thermal mass to facilitate greenhouse.

*Timeline credit: http://www.historylink.org/*
Releasing water into the Montlake cut August 1916.

Construction of the University Bridge, 1917.

Construction of I-5 bridge foundations, 1959.
CENTRALITY

The Eastern Market Metro Station in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, DC, is an applicable precedent. It serves as a transit hub that moves a comparable amount of people to what is predicted for the U-District Link Light Rail station, and connects a dense residential neighborhood to a vibrant commercial corridor reconnecting Capitol Hill to the Anacostia River using historic preservation and the arts as economic development tools and benefiting the broadest possible local community.
CONNECTIONS

Connections within the existing framework of the University District need to be strengthened. As seen on the map below, there is a wide variety of activity in the U District ranging from educational and social services to restaurants and cultural facilities. These resources, however, are scattered throughout the district creating a lack of legibility that isolates individual functions in the area.

Focusing on strengthening the district’s identity and creating stronger links within the physical spaces of the district will link services and the diverse user groups. Facilitating a healthier pedestrian experience as found in Vancouver and Copenhagen, could increase the links within service networks and provide connections between different user groups.
**ENGAGE DIVERSITY**

Connect existing housing types and provide larger demographic diversity. Create links between residential areas and parks, open space and cultural amenities. Create housing options for both families, professionals and students.

Proposed mixed-use developments such as Curve (above) Avalon Bay (left) are a clear indication of the increasing density of housing being built in the area.

Alternative housing proposals could bring added diversity. The proposal for Raleigh, NC by in Situ Studio and David Hall (below)
**STRENGTHEN AND CONNECT EXISTING NODES**

In order to connect commercial strips on University Way and Brooklyn Avenue, links will be provided through a chain of parks and Green Streets. Pedestrian thoroughfares and open spaces will connect to businesses. Small storefronts and building subdivisions will allow for incubator opportunities.

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**I4TH AVE NW PARK BOULEVARD**

Community members in East Ballard came together to reclaim a large right-of-way to create a new park. In addition to providing new neighborhood open space, this project will enhance storm water, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure.

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**MAP: COMMERCIAL + GATHERING SPACES**

- **Retail**
- **Mixed Use**
- **Office**
- **Vacant Lots**
- **Existing Gathering Spaces**
- **Potential Gathering Space**
Everyday, every minute, energy in the U-District is consumed. The heating in campus buildings, the electricity to power computers, the food that we eat; the patterns of energy consumption far outweigh the patterns of energy production. What if we could change this? What if the U-District became an energy producing district, the E-District? Expanding and enhancing on existing energy assets, our vision transforms the U-District into a regenerative, self-sufficient, energy-producing district.

**U-District Statistics, at-a-glance**

(Right) This graph shows that 51.1% of individuals living in the U-District live alone. (Left) 85% of people that live here are for educational reasons.

(Right) In the City of Seattle, 51.9% live in renter-occupied homes.

(Left) Within the U-District, 82.4% of the housing is renter-occupied.

With 8 miles of underground tunnels, the UW Power Plant is the main generator of campus wide energy. Providing 174 campus buildings, including the Medical Center, with steam, chilled water for air conditioning and compressed air, the Power plant is a proven energy asset. In one hour, 800,000 pounds of steam, 12,000 tons of cooling and a the capacity to provide emergency power within 10 seconds of an outage.
Sunnyside Neighborhood Project | Portland, OR
A model for community owned and operated district heating and energy

Central Plant | Sacramento, CA
Retrofitted power plant equipped with solar panels, providing heat and electricity.

Eva Center | Laxxmeer, Netherlands
A model for incorporating self-sustaining, decentralized units.

Simon Langton Grammar School | Canterbury, England
Tiles harness pedestrian power, lower carbon emissions and produce energy.

Ballard Public Library Green Roof | Seattle, WA
Green roof application that targets energy and water conservation.

High Point | Seattle, WA
Communities using centralized public spaces to gather and share resources.

(Left) The map indicates our vision of expanding the network of the Power Plant to provide and produce energy to the west of campus. The three target areas are indicated in the above photos (the Power Plant, UW Tower and Residential dorms). Major additions include retrofitting the Power Plant with solar panels, “energy dorms” or solar panel and permaculture installations and “walking electricity” or energy-producing sidewalks.

(Above) Diagram showing the inputs into the power plant and the outputs of electricity, steam and chilled water. (Right) A rendering of the potential of the power plant to be retrofitted with solar panels and green walls to increase energy efficiency.
Currently, every building has only one use, at night when offices close, the streets become empty.

We envision to provide a variety of usage into the building including: residential dorms and commercial businesses, making buildings multi-functional.

Create diversity of usage in the region, bringing more activity, and more people.

Sharing resources, reducing waste, utilizing central heating and waste system: making an energy efficient, multi-functional system.
Sources

University of Washington Energy Data
http://f2.washington.edu/cpo/sites/default/files/file/sustain/uw-energy-power-sources.pdf

University of Washington Climate Action Plan and Energy Resource Data
http://www.washington.edu/facilities/ops/

(Above) Diagram showing the potential development of the “energy dorms” to be mixed-use, multi-functional and energy efficient. (Right) A rendering of the potential of the dormitories to become self-sufficient energy producers and provide opportunities for food cultivation and gathering. The main targets of the “energy dorms” include every building producing their own food and energy along with recycling water and generating energy for multi-functional uses.
A vestige of primeval forest still stood in the Brooklyn neighborhood when the University of Washington arrived in 1895. These lowland and riparian forests offered unparalleled habitat value and delivered significant ecosystem services to connect, protect, and nourish indigenous communities. The development of the University and surrounding city has greatly—but not completely—depleted these resources.

ANCIENT LOWLAND FOREST
Multi-layered canopy of predominantly Douglas fir, western red cedar, and western hemlock, with bigleaf maple and red alder.

ANCIENT RIPARIAN FOREST
High tree diversity and lush shrub layer, dominated by western red cedar, black cottonwood, red alder, Oregon ash, bigleaf and vine maples, western hemlock, and Douglas fir.

OTHER CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES
Pacific yew, red elderberry, salal, Oregon grape, huckleberry, salmonberry, swordfern (forest understory) | cattails, willows, spirea, sedges, skunk cabbage (wetlands) | many thousands of wildlife species and thousands of fungus alone!

[General Land Office Survey, 1860; U.S. Coast + Geodetic Survey T-sheet, 1902; Google maps, 2012.]
Ecosystem Services Provided by Historic Vegetation

PROTECT
- shelter, shade, predators,
- clean water, safeguard from flood or drought, climate moderation

NOURISH
- nutrients for plants, fungi,
- terrestrial + aquatic life

CONNECT
- corridors, density,
- microclimates, nutrient + water flows

Services Today

rest

eat

commute

U-District Tree Cover Compared with Washington State, 1902

Washington Classification of Lands, 1902
[U.S. Geological Survey]

A Pattern of Deforestation, 1895—

Campus, 1894 [UW Special Collections]

UW students clearing campus, 1904
[UW Special Collections]

Habitat + Ecosystem Function
Current Habitat Corridors + Connections

Through decades of development, overall habitat for indigenous species has declined in the region, creating increasingly smaller patches of habitat and fewer corridors for many species to travel. This is reflected in the University District as well, where scattered green spaces can only be traversed by certain species. The current canopy cover of the U District was last estimated in 2007 at 21.7%.

Regional Habitat Flow Map

Neighborhood Context Habitat Flow Map
The Species Allocation and Species Movement Maps illustrate the spatial distribution of areas under study that support humans, non-humans, and all locally occurring species. The area west of campus shows a lack of non-human habitat, while the main campus provides the most habitat for all species. The campus also provides the greatest opportunity for interaction between all species.
Scientists often study species in terms of their bioenergetics, or the flow of energy through living organisms and their environment. Organisms, including humans, expend energy searching for food and shelter, gain energy by eating, and conserve energy through safe resting spaces. Healthy organisms have a balanced bioenergetics equation, and healthy ecosystems provide equal places for protection, nourishment, and connections.

Currently the bioenergetics of the University District are unbalanced, providing mostly connections, or spaces for commuting to food and/or shelter. The main campus landscape has a more balanced bioenergetic flow, providing a diversity of energy functions including spaces for protection, nourishment, and connections. With upcoming redevelopment efforts, the University District has the potential to rebalance the bioenergetics equation.
50-year Visioning Strategy for Habitat in the University District

Historic ecosystem function is the inspiration for a future University District that connects, protects, and nourishes all its communities. Interim targets for canopy cover, pervious surfaces, species diversity, and linkages will guide the neighborhood’s transition into distinct urban ecotones, serving as a regional model.

33% nourish
33% connect
33% protect

...equally for all urban + non-urban species.

the U District is uniquely positioned to achieve these goals

goal: to foster high-functioning diverse habitats

Precedents

Thornton Creek: a degraded stream is daylighted at both residential and commercial segments [flickr.com]

The Pollinator Pathway: a corridor between greenspaces is planted to support pollinators [seattleartmuseum.crg]

The Swale on Yale: approximately 200 gallons of runoff will be filtered, and new public greenspace provided [seattle.gov]
Residential Matrix
• biodiversity microcorridor
• incentive programs for row and backyard biodiversity
• neighborhood gardening groups + block parties
• convert underutilized properties into public resting places

Campus Succession
• utilize existing building envelopes to provide ecosystem services
• maintain orderly frame + historic touch
• convert lawn into diverse plant life
• targets to make recreation areas more sustainable
• connect building + grounds to academic research + projects

Riparian Retrofit
• daylight piped streams where possible
• increase hydro function by restoring groundwater + surface water
• provide riparian buffer + biodiversity programs
• incentives programs for public space + restoration

The Core (Forest)
• convert underutilized properties into public resting places
• aim for elevated + subterranean ecosystem services + habitat creation
• incentive programs between government + commercial + residents for biodiversity
• target future light rail station + proposed greenways for initial habitat rejuvenation efforts

Shoreline
• convert bulkheads to more natural shorelines
• increase hydro function through wetland creation
• convert shoreline row + campus edges into biologically diverse public resting places

A Pattern of Reforestation 2012—
Water
Nancy Chan / Don Mac / Malda Takieddine / Diane Walsh

Urban development has fundamentally altered the water cycle. Polluted stormwater, lack of infiltration, compromised aquatic habitat, inadequate water reuse, and lack of public awareness constitute the major challenges faced by most urban areas. The U-district spans two catchment basins with significant slopes that drain stormwater runoff into Lake Washington and Lake Union. We envision a future where pervious paving, greenroofs, greenwalls, and greenways capture and filter rainwater, where buildings reuse and store water to ease the demand on imported clean water, where the quality of water entering our waterways supports ecological health, and where people are knowledgeable of their connection to the water system. A socially and environmentally integrated approach to better water management could provide improved public space, healthy habitat, and increased access to a clean water supply.

(Top) Annual Rainfall- U District drainage basins, (Bottom) Annual Rainfall- U District
**Introduction**

District Systems—Consultancies and Visions

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**Ravenna Creek**

Creek Daylighting

Ravenna Creek in Roosevelt and Ravenna neighborhoods of Seattle. 1.1km daylighted within Cowen and Ravenna Park. Daylighting began in 2006 through a partnership between Seattle Parks and Rec and the Wastewater division of King County Department of Natural Resources.

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**Precedents**

- a dam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies Oberlin College
  - U.S. Dept of Energy “one of the 30 milestone buildings of the 20th Century”
  - sustainable landscape: “Living Machine,” lawn with low-mow mix, wetland, orchard, and organic vegetable garden
  - water and energy metering
  - Zero-Energy Building, Green-Building Challenge

- Shanghai houtan Park
  - Waterfront Rehabilitation
  - A “regenerative living landscape” developed on a former brownfield site on the Huangpu River waterfront in Shanghai, China. The project was led by designer, Kongjian Yu, of Turenscape and commissioned for the 2010 Shanghai Expo Bureau.

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**Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies**

Oberlin College

William McDonough + Partners

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**Shanghai Houtan Park**

Waterfront Rehabilitation

A “regenerative living landscape” developed on a former brownfield site on the Huangpu River waterfront in Shanghai, China. The project was led by designer, Kongjian Yu, of Turenscape and commissioned for the 2010 Shanghai Expo Bureau.
Swale on Yale
Urban Biofiltration swales

An ongoing joint project of the Seattle Public Utilities and neighborhood businesses and property owners to develop four blocks in the Capitol Hill District into an urban stormwater treatment system.

Oyster-ecture
New York City
Scape Studio, Kate Orff

- A vision for an oyster reef and park at the mouth of Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, small pilot project currently underway
- Single oyster can filter 50 gallons of water a day
**Water Quality and Quantity Goals**
1. Reduce water usage and sewage flow across all sectors
2. Reduce site runoff
3. Re-use stormwater, greywater and blackwater
4. Increase water storage capacity
5. Reduce pollutants entering water bodies
6. Improve aquatic ecosystem health
7. Repair existing infrastructure

**Awareness Goals**
1. Increase visibility of water usage/accountability
2. Increase visibility of water cycle and water processes
3. Increase water recreation, fun, engagement

**Strategies**

**Built Environment**
- Stormwater Detention and Retention
- Infiltration
- Filtering
- Supplemental and Pretreatment Practices
- Irrigation Systems
- Green Roofs
- Building Water Capture and Reuse

**Culture**
- Public display water metering
- Expand Seattle Green Factor to entire U District
- Public water savings competitions
- Water-centric art campaigns
- Lake Union/Lake Washington Basin Initiative (LULWAI)
- Public/private partnership strategies

**Visioning**

**Inexpensive First Steps**
- Tree strips, swales and bioretention cells
- Shoreline rehabilitation
- Rainwater harvesting
- Infrastructure maintenance

**Larger Investments**
- Greenway network
- Green roofs and green walls
- Daylight Ravenna Creek through University Village
- Cisterns and vaults
- Greywater systems

**Water Analysis**
Asset Map of University District
Blue City
University District 2062 Cost-Effective Vision

Sources

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http://www.asla.org/stormwatercasestudies.aspx

(Left Image) Inexpensive First Steps; (Right Image) Blue Sky Visioning
The twenty-six students who participated in the interdisciplinary master studio built upon their contextual learning from Copenhagen, personal insight into the University District gained through their In Site—In Site Installations, and their District Systems Analysis to craft their proposals for the University District. The students, individually or in small teams, chose their sites within the University District, West of 15th Ave.

They presented their initial proposals for their chosen sites at midterm reviews. The students were able to incorporate and address feedback from guest reviewers for their final presentations. Bianca Hermansen, visiting Master Teacher, helped students refine their visual representation skills via in-person and Skype lectures.

A map of their locations is depicted below with the color intensity showing more than one proposal for each site or the intersection of chosen sites.

Students were asked to address the following questions in their individual projects:

- How does it satisfy the 15 quality criteria for good public space?
- How would it achieve ecological objectives of systems such as energy, storm water and habitat?
- How does it address the historic, cultural, and social function of the district?
- How does your design relate to district, the larger city and regional contexts?
- How does the human scale read through your design?
- What design language is helping to develop the concept?
Group Projects

Campus Parkway
Kristina Gallant & Finis Ray

The Green
Erica Bush and Angelica Rockquemore

Graft
Betsy Anderson, VeraEve Giampietro, & Erinn Walter

Linking the Link
Lawrence Chung, Victoria Kovacs, & Diane Walsh

Stay and Stroll
Kei Sing Yu & Hsien Ai Wang

U-District Waterfront Park
Leann Andrews, Shu-Kuei Hsu, Jordan Lewis, & Malda Takieddine

University Heights Hub
Nancy Chan & Natalia Chetvernina

U Square
Emily Perchlik & Hillary Pritchett
12th Avenue Greenway: Diverse Flows
Brooke Alford

The Community has a vision for 12th Avenue—to be a residential street and thoroughfare, friendly to residents, pedestrians and bicyclists, while accommodating vehicular traffic through the local region. This was the genesis of the Diverse Flows project.

Research of the habitat and ecological conditions of the University District found that the west of campus area to be extremely deficient in tree canopy and wildlife vegetation, and dominated by impervious surfaces. Furthermore, InSight research found a lack of public street life in the area and a lack of spaces for the public to gather despite the high number of private commercial enterprises. Public open space and wildlife habitat were found to be priority needs by our studio teams.

With the coming of the Brooklyn Light Rail Station, some parcels along 12th Avenue are already slotted for redevelopment. It is likely that within the next 10-20 years, the blocks along 12th Avenue, will be redeveloped to current density regulations—particularly those blocks nearest the station. This project looks at what that development pattern might look like and articulates a strategy for integrating habitat and public life into the 12th Ave Greenway in an area that will likely see the most residential redevelopment.

Diverse Flows aims to accommodate and enrich the flows of local residents on bike and on foot, the stormwater flowing south to the water and the wildlife currently lacking suitable habitat.
Priority Greenway Segment: 45th Street to the Waterfront

Current housing stock in the 41st block of 12th Ave

New Cedar Apts. recently developed in the 41st St block of 12th Ave

Current traffic island at the 42nd St intersection of 12th Ave

Current, updated zoning code allows buildings to 60ft and reduced open space compared to past regulations. This narrow street will become a tighter valley with a much denser population. This plan proposes developing the street for local residents, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Existing trees to be protected, and emulated on 12th Ave

Changing Development Patterns on 12th Avenue

Current Development in 2 blocks of 12th Ave

Future Development in 2 blocks of 12th Ave

Proposed Greenway

http://f2.washington.edu
Life on the Edges:

New developments are encouraged to have open space adjacent to sidewalks, adding life to the public realm.

Larger parcel buildings have courtyards, providing semi-private space.

Smaller parcels needing to maximize space are encouraged to compensate ground level open space with rooftop open space.

Mid-sized developments utilize front verandas, stoops, or private patios and balconies as part of the open space plan.

Corner developments are incentivized to have maximum corner setbacks with semi-public open space.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Biodiverse Habitat:

Incorporated rain gardens and bioretention channels collect stormwater from 42nd St and surrounding buildings.

Upland habitat gardens are incorporated throughout the public space.

Low-mow grassy areas between paved terraces allow flex space.

Terraced gathering areas use permeable pavers and include benches and tables.

Heritage Sycamore Tree.

Picnic shelters provide barbecue spaces.

Raised intersections, permeably-paved, provide traffic calming; the planting areas provide tree canopy.
Conceptual Perspectives

View from lower (south) raingarden, facing north

View over paved plaza

View from north picnic shelter looking south

View from south end of the plaza looking north
12th Avenue Neighborhood Greenway
Kevin Bogle

Greenway (n.): A street designed to provide a safe and welcoming bicycling and walking route.

Neighborhood (n.): A district, forming a community within a city.

12th Ave Neighborhood Greenway (concept): A corridor designed to encourage bicycle and pedestrian traffic and facilitate community engagement and dialogue.

A series of elements introduced to slow traffic and prioritize active transport cohabitate with incubator spaces, on-street seating, and gathering areas intended to increase extra-commercial public and green space within the unique four block span at the southern end of the proposed 12th Avenue Greenway.

This will benefit residents of the U-District core (where only 37% of working residents own an automobile), and serve the many University District commuters from Ravenna by completing a safer, low-stress bicycling and walking route.
From an underutilized street for cars...

To a safe and inviting place for people!
Prefabricating Flexibility

Andrew Hansen

Advances in manufacturing methods and techniques have introduced new levels of quality and efficiency to the building industry. Economical sustainability can be realized without compromising quality. Faster on-site construction, reduced waste, and favorable working conditions are all by-products of recent trends in prefabricated architecture and construction. The proposed mixed-use development utilizes a combination of precast, panelized, and modular elements to provide affordable and flexible housing options to existing and future University District residents.

Small living encourages social, environmental, and economic sustainability by consuming less, traveling shorter distances and engaging in a dense urban environment. The increasing desire to live close to the city’s amenities has also brought the demand for lower cost housing options. The smaller living area equates to lower rental rates while also providing closer proximity to highly desirable amenities such as the University of Washington and the upcoming light rail station. As a co-housing community, the residents would enjoy the benefits of communal living with ample shared amenities and services. Ground level retail, buffered from the street by seating and treescape, will add convenience, safety and activity to the street front. A below ground parking garage would be dedicated primarily to the shared use of zip cars for the residents and community abroad. The public plaza hosts communal buildings, such as the community kitchen and multipurpose space. Tying into the larger cultural community, the plaza would also facilitate a mid-block crossing that would connect through to the lobby of the Egyptian Theater if it were to be rehabilitated. Realizing sustainable living, community comes first.
Utilizing a hybrid prefabrication method, each individual residence is composed of a kitchen and bathroom pod and adjustable partition panels. A raised access floor system enhances flexibility and facilitates the installation of partition panels. Hollow core slab sections support the floor and roof. A green roof system adds much needed permeable surface to the area and aids in water retention during heavy rains, thereby easing the load on the city sewer systems. Sliding screens and a terra cotta rainscreen system finish the cladding on the exterior allowing an adjustable degree of solar control and weather protection. Inherent flexibility within the overall system allows multiple configurations. The precast concrete frame provides added durability.
The tartan grid frame breaks down further into a 2’ x 2’ interior grid within each unit. Movable sections of wall panels allow the occupant to customize their interior as needed, or join multiple units together. The raised access floor facilitates the relocation of plumbing and electrical lines, allowing greater design possibilities as functional needs change or equipment becomes outdated.
**The Oval**

Don Mack

Considering the U-District’s abundant energy and prosperity, there is a surprising lack of park space in the neighborhood. This lack is particularly apparent on University Way, known as “The Ave”, the heart of the U-District.

The first aim of this proposal is to identify an ideal park location along The Ave, a location that will simultaneously meet the goals of the University and the U-District community.

These goals include: making cross-block connections at mid-block, activating alleys, connecting the university’s resources to the larger neighborhood, and increasing public open space.

This proposal targets a parcel of modest size, to minimize the budget and maximize the benefits of public space investment.

The Oval satisfies these intentions and more. The two greatest strengths of this U-District Site Vision are the analysis that helped identify the site, and the design’s potential to stitch together and amplify the functions of adjacent assets.

Affirming its immediate context, The Oval creates outdoor gathering places that mesh with existing food establishments, makes a cross-block connection at mid-block that carries through to 15th Avenue, and leverages the location of UW’s School of Social Work, transforming an existing small storage building into an outreach laboratory for the School of Social Work.
U District Goal - Activate Alleys

Site alley block contains nearly half of all outdoor cafes in district.

Immediate site context

The Wall...
Pedestrian Priority & Protection at University Light Rail Station
Mike Schwindeller

This design establishes a typology for the streetscape and active public space that facilitates interaction and negotiation between divergent populations and forms. The standard hierarchy of sidewalk and street, vehicle and pedestrian, is blurred. Public life is nurtured by prioritizing the protection of people from vehicles and the elements. These are key elements to successful public space promoted by Gehl Architects.

The spaces created go beyond protection. Designed to be open, flexible, and permeable, they are able to accommodate a variety of activities and events. These nodes are situated along a curvilinear spine that breaks the rigid city grid, providing a choice of invitations to congregate and even play in a variety of conditions and situations. The network of glass canopies along the spine function to protect people, mitigate the imposing scale of the block and UW Tower, as well as foster dynamic and passive interaction. Recreation and people watching are primary activities throughout the site.
Active Play in the Terraced Plaza (Section A)
(Left) The streetscape is transformed into public space with slow-moving traffic permitted south bound during rush hour. It can be closed to traffic for lunch and events.

(Below) The scale of the UW Tower is mitigated by the canopies while a diversity of invitations to stay, watch and play activates the space.
Bouldering Under the Canopy
Fragmentize and Animate
Yu-Ting Lin

The planned zone is located in U-district, and I focus more about the Condon Hall and the outdoor space around the building, and the environment between NE41ST and the new dorms. Dealing with the edge and the connection between campus and community, indoor and outdoor, trying to create a soft edge and comfort environment for ALL people.

1. Other relative plan
   - Pedestrian
   - Park

2. The role
   - Edge
     - campus - community
     - park - building
     - building - building

   - Centre
     - dorms around

1. Retaining walls
   - no connection between
     - indoors and outdoors
   - View obstruct
   - High retaining walls
   - Unfriendly pedestrian

2. Institution for students and staffs
   - no people here at night, in vacation and on the weekends.

What role it should be
- Good connection
- Public building for all people
- Safety - view penetrate
  - lighting
  - more people
- Human scale

But now...
- Limited by the boundary
- Building just for students and staffs
- No Safety - view obstruct
  - lighting is not enough
  - no people
- Not human scale
  - high retaining walls
  - unfriendly pedestrian
It is an important area for ALL people, including students, residents, staff, and homeless. ALL the person could use and share this space.

Providing more activities here, including coffee shop, bench area, big plaza, community library...

Proving different kind of spaces, quite space, animated space, private space, open space..

Combine a book library with tools. Library provides a wide variety of tools, training, and sustainable resources for all people.

Permaculture for producing and filtering, it could provide for low-income and homeless. The library provide indoor learning by seeing the process of cultivation and filtering, this place also could be an outdoor learning for people.

Tree house (the pieces of building) not only for people sleeping, relaxing, seeing the stars, it also for creatures be a home. To create an ecotone here.
**F&A**

**Library:**

The community library provide for all people. Based on the distance to the other libraries and the permaculture.

Combine a book library with tools. Library provides free, community access to a wide variety of tools, training, and sustainable resources.

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Tree house: for people and creatures

**Before**

**After**

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Site Visions
Design 6~7 filtering phases using differences in height. Main wastewater in this area is divided into life wastewater and miscellaneous wastewater for filtering for different plants.

A filtering sculpture with demonstration and educational properties may filter rainwater and part of recycled water. Sculpture material is reinforced glass and different plants are planted, and also use glassily wall, so people on and under the bridge may directly see how the water is filtered.

Collect rainwater from the roof and collect gray water from community to the garden and recycled water treatment system.
Reinventing Campus Parkway
Kristina Gallant and Finis Ray

Campus Parkway was originally envisioned as a grand entrance to the University. However, its axial orientation is weakened by barriers to the east and west, with large spaces in the middle that feel gaping and lifeless rather than monumental. Our design strives to restore Campus Parkway’s glory as entrance to the University while endowing it with a vibrant street life. Toward this end, we propose removing the northern half of Campus Parkway, redirecting all motor traffic to the southern lanes. This will be reinforced by new cycletracks and a streetcar line connecting the neighborhood to downtown Seattle.

We proposed restoring a direct connection to campus by carving stairs out of the face of the Henry Art Gallery and removing the existing pedestrian skybridge. At the new fountain at 15th & Campus Parkway, students will meet before classes to chat, people watch, and catch the occasional sun break. Here, the University and University District begin to blur.

2 COMMERCIAL INCUBATOR SPACES
Small, flexible commercial spaces should be developed in the space of the former medians. These spaces will serve as incubators for new businesses, in partnership with the University and/or community organizations. These buildings have been oriented as to create small defensible spaces outside storefronts, where shop interiors can spill out. In addition to giving shopkeepers flexibility, this will make facades that are more engaging on the pedestrian scale.
CAMPUS PARKWAY PLAN AND PUBLIC LIFE AMENITIES

3 BIKE SHARE PROGRAM
4 OUTDOOR THEATRE
5 MEETING FOUNTAIN
6 PING PONG TABLES
Reinventing Campus Parkway

EXISTING CONDITION

Residential  Commercial  Auto Dominance  Unfriendly Facades  Missing Connections
PROPOSED REMEDIATION

Residential  Commercial  Pedestrian-Scale Streets  Fine-Grained Facades  New Connections
1. Defensible space diagram
2. Stormwater diagram
3. View of incubator spaces from the north
4. Pedestrian walkway detail
5. View of Elm Hall, incubator spaces, streetcar, and Lander Hall from the east
1. Section of 15th Avenue facing west

2. Section of 15th Avenue facing north including proposed stair

3. Interior view of Henry Art Gallery, below stairs
The Green
Erica Bush and Angelica Rockquemore

The University District of Seattle is a vibrant community full of rich history, varying activities and over 60,000 students and staff who enter its boundaries on a daily basis. Today the University District is experiencing change at a rapid rate. The University of Washington has created and continues to expand an entirely new residential component of campus, currently housing over 3,000 students. In 2016 the University District welcomes the implementation of two long over-due massive infrastructure projects. The two light-rail stations now underway will drastically increase the district’s connection to the rest of Seattle and invites us to rethink and imagine how this community can celebrate this change, and best respond to this investment as a catalyst for a healthier district future moving forward.

With this in mind the inspiration for The Green came to light. The project aims to create a green corridor which will serve as a pedestrian oriented ribbon within the shifting urban fabric of the new West Campus. Serving the new residential population and the surrounding community, The Green creates an inviting outdoor space in an area impoverished of open green space and public gathering areas. Furthermore the project fills a void for both pedestrian and bicycle movement in and east to west direction, linking Wallingford and Downtown to Campus via a convenient, quiet, enjoyable and safe route.

District Goals
- Foster higher functioning diverse habitat
- Create stronger pedestrian and bicycle linkages
- Decrease energy consumption patterns
- Increase spaces designed for human scale

Site Strategies
- Install rain gardens and more green space
- Create a safer bike route running east to west
- Develop solar energy and rain catchment technology
- Increase permeability, create safe streets

Reimagining West Campus as an outdoor living space
The Green creates an outdoor living room for 3000 people!

Existing Site Conditions

1 Condon Hall
2 Elm Hall
3 Poplar Hall
4 Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse
5 Cedar Apartments
6 Proposed apartment building
7 Del Capri Apartments
8 Levere Apartments
9 Tyee Apartments
10 Brooklyn Plaza
11 Christian Science Organization
12 Wells Fargo Bank
13 Schmitz Hall
14 Social Work Building
15 Commercial restaurants
Focus on building in built environment

Focus on spaces within built environment

Car space as priority

Pedestrian space as priority
Site Visions

Cedar Apts. 1a
Cedar Apts. 1b
Condon Hall
Elm Hall
Poplar Hall
Schmitz Hall

11th 12th Brooklyn The Ave 15th

Lighting
Rain gardens
41st as a shared street, with pedestrian priority
Bike ramp at 15th as gateway connection to campus

Modular furniture
Street paving
Harvest rainwater from roof surfaces for supplemental runoff treatment.

Lights illuminate raingardens and can be used in the next phase of design for visually demonstrating the cleanliness of the water as it enters and leaves the system.

Large species of Street trees add to the ambiance of the walkway, sequester carbon and assist in climate control for the neighboring buildings.

Large awnings protect pedestrians during inclement weather, transferring water for treatment.
The Green
The construction of Interstate 5 in 1962 cut a north-south chasm through the city of Seattle. In some places the opening was as wide as two city blocks. Thriving pedestrian- and commerce-oriented neighborhoods such as Wallingford and the University District lost their fine-grained connection to one another. Houses were demolished or carried away on trucks. The rich urban ecotone of these communities was replaced by an overscaled, car-dominated environment that obstructs physical connections and depletes habitat for human and non-human species alike.

Ironically this site once offered some of the finest habitat on earth: an ancient forest stood here that was among the last areas in the city to be deforested in the settlement boom of the late 19th century. A lid over I-5 and accompanying cycle bridge will restore the complex vibrancy of these lost forest and neighborhood relationships, while illustrating potential synergies between built form, ecosystem function, and community interaction.

5TH AVENUE NE AT 50TH ST.
Existing amenities flank either side of I-5. Residential areas, a playfield, a church, a library, multiple schools, several shopping districts—but the network is cut down the core.

5TH AVENUE NE AT 45TH ST.
I-5 dominates this edge. Traffic moves quickly, and an adjacent onramp indicates urgency to drivers and pedestrians alike.

WALLINGFORD
Largely intact, this fine-grained, single-family neighborhood would benefit from a reconnection to the University District and protection from traffic noise and freeway particulates.

7TH AVE. NE AT NE 47TH ST.
Giant swathes of roadway are underused. The adjacent existing fabric is a mix of multifamily and single-family residences. Opportunities exist for joining a new mixed-use corridor to this edge.

7TH AVE. NE AT NE 43RD ST.
Residential-street-turned-offramp creates a major obstruction for cyclists and pedestrians. The future 43rd Street Greenway tees into this street.

I-5, LOOKING SOUTH
Two blocks were removed between Wallingford and the U District when the interstate was constructed in 1962, creating significant physical and experiential barriers for all organisms.
Connectivity

Connecting schools with residences
Car-free routes for bikes + pedestrians
Repairing habitat corridors
Sharing amenities across the freeway
Libraries
Promoting pedestrian trips
Festival street
Coffee + groceries within walking distance

New Community Amenities

Hard courts
Skate park
Community center
Public restrooms
Night market
Food trucks
Recreational park/playfield
Sense of identity

Diverse Residential Options

Dense, affordable townhomes
Senior housing
Student housing
Faculty housing + daycare
Green park + ride
Mixed-rate multifamily housing
Live/work units
On-street parking
MICROCLIMATE ANALOGY

VARIED SIZES + CONDITIONS FOSTER DIFFERENT USES + HABITATS

WIND PROTECTION

SPATIAL DIVERSITY ALLOWS FOR MICROCLIMATES

HORIZONTAL + VERTICAL SURFACES FACILITATE CONNECTIONS

COLLECT + HOLD RAIN

2015

GRASSCRETE SUCCESSION

2025

the forest returns . . .

2050
TOPOGRAPHIC MODELS | 10’ CONTOUR INTERVALS
CONCEPT | PLAN + SECTIONS
The University District Station, located along Brooklyn Avenue NE between NE 43rd St and NE 45th St is scheduled to begin operation when the Northgate Link Extension opens in 2021. This underground station will not only benefit the University of Washington campus, but will also serve the “Ave” business district and companies, as well as the immediate residential community. In addition to providing an excellent transit linkage to connect the U-District neighborhood to the greater Seattle district area, our group also sees that the physical space of the site itself can be used as an open space for local residents, students, and employees. Our group seeks to achieve these goals by implementing a strategy that focuses on four main interventions.

The first intervention is to reactivate the alleyway located east of the two station surface entrances. By including an alley bar south of the Neptune Theater, creating active storefronts, and installing a canopy that also functions as part of the stormwater treatment facility, we hope to create additional visual stimuli to attract visitors to the area. Our second intervention is to establish a mid-block connection that links the plaza to the University Way NE. The goal is to draw pedestrians from the busy University Way and connect them to the station entrances.

The third intervention is to construct a market structure that serves both local residents and visitors from nearby areas. The structure itself is consisted of a canopy supported by columns with permeable edges that allow easy passage to the plaza. Our last intervention is to focus on the physical space of the plaza. The physical space is divided into various rooms serving different purposes, such as the play room, the dining room, and the shopping galleria, etc. The “rivers” and the “pond” collect excess urban runoff and also serve as a play feature for users in the plaza.
Future Activity with New Light Rail Station

Alley Activation and Midblock Connection

Accommodating Desired Flow Lines

Existing Station Design

Mid-Block Connection

Station Head House Redesign

Bound the Plaza

Imbuing Identity

Connected Public Life

Market Structure and Plaza

Wayfinding and Identity via Water Feature

Enhanced Activity, Connectivity, Identity
The University Light Rail Station: An opportunity to create active public space, to enhance connectivity, and to better reflect the diverse identity of the University District.

MAIN GOALS:

to ACTIVATE space

to facilitate CONNECTIONS

to foster a sense of IDENTITY
The Plaza and Marketplace: A place to shop, eat, play.
The Off-the-Alley Bar/Cafe: After hours Activation and Connection to Local Establishments

Scale 1/8"=1'

Precedent: Kolstrand building, Ballard, Seattle
Alley Activation and Mid-Block Connection

Mid-Block Connection (Daytime) Scale 1/16"=1'

Mid-Block Connection (Nighttime) Scale 1/16"=1'

Linking the Link
1. Constructed River: Stormwater Collection

2. Canopy Rainwater Catchment

3. Head House Rainwater Catchment, "Source"
   Spring of the River and Irrigation for Greenwall

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1. River

2. Canopy

3. Greenwall

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WATER FEATURES

8 ft loss of elevation

storage

meets bioswale

rainwater catchment

_Storage_
4. Central Pool and Rainwater Storage

5. River Connections to Greenstreets Bioswales

6. Market Structure Rainwater Catchment and Connections to River

4. Cistern

5. Bioswale

5. Market Structure
Night View Employing the Lighting Palette
Stay and Stroll
Kei Sing Yu and Hsien Ai Wang

Site located along the Roosevelt Way NE and 11th Ave. NE. The main goal is to build the accessible connection of a walkable, reliable and enjoyable framework vision for the UW community of the project area.

Also, the project aims to find out the possible solution to elevate the human priority and mitigate the traffic issue. And tries to develop the ability and activity to make effective contributions to the urban problems.
**Issue**

FOR WHO?  Campus+Community  
WHAT’S THIS NEEDS?  Safety  
HOW TO ACHIEVE?  Make a walkable, livable way

Spatial Study  
only 10%-30% for people/bike

**Approach**

Parking lots present an opportunity to open up and unify the public space on the site. This project would change parking into a central area and could open up new spaces for pedestrian walkways and public gathering space.

01_Hard to cross  
Propose: Change the single to two way

02_Dispersed space  
Propose: Integrate spaces

03_Low attraction  
Propose: Multifunction+Diverse use
Concept
Attract people to attract people to protect people to invite people....

SPATIAL CONNECTIONS

Strengthen pedestrian spaces to establish a safe and attractive atmosphere for pedestrians will create a lively street life and encourage people to connect with the community or campus.

METAPHOR CONNECTIONS

Program
Plan

01 3-D Basketball court
02 Cafe’s shop plaza
03 Exercise facility
04 Soccer field
05 Bus transition
06 Pedestrian crossing area
07 Fountain gathering plaza
08 Community center (workshop)
09 Kids playground
10 Wasting water purification
11 Food vendors
12 Urban farm
13 Mix-used housing
14 Quiet space
15 View watching
Site Visions

Strategy
01_Activity System

02_Circulation System

Create a balanced land use and affordable housing

03_Building System

04_Planting System

05_Water System

06_Lighting System
This project aims to change from an abandoned parking lots to a vital LIVING SPACE for species.
**Detail design-Main path**

*01_Activity System*

Objective view to indicate the directly guides you way  
Strolling pathway to invite people to stay  
Changing plants to connect the environment  
Seasonal activities to connect people's emotion

**Multifunctional street furniture**

- Brick Plaza
- Wood Chair
- Stone Pavement
- PU Court

- Spring_Weekday Market
- Summer_Balloon Festival
- Autumn_Furniture Workshop
- Winter_Holiday Season
Stay and Stroll

Top view of night

Urban farm

Entrance of main path
University District Waterfront Park

Leann Andrews, Shu-Kuei Hsu, Jordan Lewis, Malda Takieddine

The University District Waterfront Park is responding to recreation mitigation requirements of the SR-520 Expansion Project as well as a community need for a publicly accessible waterfront as part of the University Ecodistrict Vision.

The design emerges from response to existing site structures and groundforms by salvaging materials and molding the landscape to respond to the diverse human and ecological users of the site. Ecological zones, recreational activities and built infrastructure intrude upon each other, creating a heightened function and experience. Repurposed site materials extend into the surrounding neighborhood, drawing users to the waterfront. Stormwater treatment strategies and habitat function are integrated into the design to stimulate education and performance. An ecologically sensitive shore edge creates a diversity of experiences welcoming for all species.

The diagram to the right explains the context and connectivity of the park for different users.
Site Strategies
Human Infrastructure
Provide access and transparency to the waterfront. Provide wayfinding and a variety of active and passive spaces. Utilize existing building structures.

Ecology
Restore critical salmon habitat, expand the fisheries building bioswale to the North of the site to treat stormwater on site. Improve shore edges.

Recreation
Build upon nearby recreation amenities: Agua Verde, Recycled Cycles and the marina. Provide swim access, play areas and temporal programming.

Program Strategies

Concept Diagram
Reuse approximately 10,000 bricks to create wayfinding elements leading to the waterfront site.

Preserve 10’ strip of existing road for bike + pedestrian trail.

Recycle paving materials for use in berms (7000 SF of asphalt, 863 SF of concrete) and fill from wetland creation.

Repurpose building materials in the site furniture.
1. Create social + bioretention nodes leading into site

2. Repurpose Bryant Building facade into wayfinding elements and create a historic exhibit about the history of the site.
Street Treatment + Wayfinding Into Site

Section A: looking North onto Brooklyn Ave

Section B: looking east on Brooklyn Ave

Existing street conditions
(Boat Street)

Proposed street design

Existing Streetscape

Proposed street design
(East Entry)

Existing Streetscape

Proposed street design
(West Entry)
Process + Design Evolution

- Remove building mass - Create open space
- Add habitat spaces and floating wetland islands
- Shrink the road and remove the retaining wall
- Remove building cladding to maximize transparency
- Groundforming for easy access to the water
- Create ‘launchpads’ for people to gather in response to pedestrian flows to the site
- Connect existing bioswale to the waterfront
- Provide flexible space for recreational and ecological patterns to emerge
1. Western Pedestrian Entrance + Wayfinding
2. Pedestrian Crosswalk + Festival Activation Space
3. Accessible Crushed Gravel Trail
4. Stepped Raingardens for Stormwater Treatment
5. Habitat Enhancements + Tree Planting
6. Elevated Wetland Boardwalk + Viewing Platform
7. Wetland Pools + Experiential Trail
8. Existing Bioswale
9. Existing Bioswale Extension
10. Floating Habitat Islands
11. Kayak Exploration Area
12. Historic Structure
13. Wetland Play + Recreation
14. Viewing Platform
15. Ping Pong Plaza
16. Amphitheater + Seating
17. Cafe + Wetland Education Center
18. Kayak Storage + Public Restrooms
19. Cafe Seating
20. BBQ + Picnic Area
21. Public Beach + Kayak Launch
22. Swimming Platform
23. Native Grasses Geese Barrier
24. Flexible Recreation Lawn + Subsurface Wetland
25. Children Play Mounds
26. Road Remnant Bike + Ped Trail
27. Viewing Platforms
28. Stepped Raingardens
29. Feet Dangling Deck + Fish Shelf
30. Floating Dock for Public Barge Activities
31. Vehicle Drop Off Area
32. Eastern Entrance + Wayfinding
Eco-Stormwater Strategy

- Road + parking runoff capture
- Stepped raingardens
- Building runoff capture + stormwater pipe diversion
- Floating wetlands
- Pavement removal + groundwater restored
- Wetland treatment
- Extension of existing swale + parking lot capture
- Cistern storage
- Roof runoff capture of proposed building
- Subsurface wetland
- Road surface runoff + pipe diversion
- Stepped raingardens
- CSO overflow reduction

Site Visions

PRODUCED BY AN AUTODESK EDUCATIONAL PRODUCT
**Building Re-Use/ Facilities Strategy**

The building program includes a cafe, public restrooms, kayak storage and a wetland learning center. This new program is inserted into one of the existing timber frame buildings to support and activate the site with diverse users and activities.

**SOLAR STRATEGY**
- Solar PV Panels
- Sliding Sun Louvres

**BUILDING REUSE**
- Preserve Existing Wood Frame Structure

**STORMWATER STRATEGY**
- Harvest Rain Water
- Permeable Surfaces
- Drain to Wetland

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The building program includes a cafe, public restrooms, kayak storage and a wetland learning center. This new program is inserted into one of the existing timber frame buildings to support and activate the site with diverse users and activities.
Section A: Dock

Existing Shoreline

Existing Issues:
- dense shade creates confusion + vulnerable species predator traps
- reaction distance for salmon decreases at light levels below 5 lux

Proposed Shoreline

Proposed Solutions:
- dappled shade helps regulate temperature + provides resilience against climate changing conditions
- light permeable overhead structures create shelter from avian predators

Section B: Beach

Existing Issues:
- vertical hard surfaces difficult for marine invertebrates (salmon food source) to occupy
- depth above 1 meter is competitive environment for all species

Proposed Solutions:
- shore edge depth less than 1 meter creates shelter for smaller vulnerable species
- shallow slopes allow for sediment deposition and aquatic vegetation

Vegetation:
- invasive vegetation competes with local vegetation and aquatic food sources

Public beach
- kayak shore
- reduced slope creates shelter for vulnerable species

Light penetrable swimming platform for education + shelter from birds

Viewing platform
- aquatic habitat bench
- light-permeable floating dock
- lighting for shade reduction + safety

Swimming barge with water cleansing mussels
Section D: Wetlands

- Wetland viewing path
- Playful lounging nets
- Building remnant as habitat
- Light penetrable floating wetland
- Kayak exploration
- Glowing floating wetland

Section C: Lookout

- Wetland pools
- Low vegetation to maintain views
- Naturalized overlook mimics removed dock
- Remaining dock pilings create habitat
- Solar powered mood lighting

Temporal Shore Edge Activation + Experimentation

- Floating habitat
- Clear plastic light-penetrable hydroponics
- Underlit soil-based system
- Stepped habitat lightweight soil pockets
- Water purifying swimming barge
- Community festival barge
- Re-imagined boat graveyard as public amenities
University Heights Hub
Nancy Chan & Natalia Chetvernina

This project focuses on the block to the east of the University Heights center and the University District farmers market—two important existing cultural assets in the U-District. This concept proposes to strengthen these assets by creating a stronger community node while establishing a robust public space network at various scales. At the block scale, three major conditions were explored: strengthening the sectional relationship of the upper alley to the street, supporting the existing small-scale businesses, and incorporating community education programs at University Heights. The proposed solutions involve re-thinking what the street could be and its edges, configuring a co-housing scheme on the rooftops, and activating the alley with artisan workshops.

We then chose to delve deeper into the design of the transitional zone between the public district scale to the more private neighborhood scale. The area serves not only as a mid-block connection but also as a public space for a community to grow by inviting people to pause, interact and gather. We had fun!
**University Way Between 50th and 52nd Street**

**Phase 0 Intervention**
- Temporary interventions to activate rooftops
- Street and alley redevelopment

**Phase 1 Co-Housing**
- Plaza/stairway connection to alley
- North section of retail and co-housing units
- Existing businesses relocate to North section of block

**Phase 2 Co-Housing Expanded**
- South section of retail and co-housing units
WHY CO-HOUSING?

CO-HOUSING

ECONOMIC

ENVIRONMENTAL

SOCIAL

“I know I live in a community because on a Friday night it takes me forty-five minutes and two beers to get to ... my front door.”

**SECTION A**

**STAIRWAY ELEVATION**

**SECTION B**

**PUBLIC SPACE AT CITY/DISTRICT/NEIGHBORHOOD SCALES**

**Users**

- Farmers Market Visitors
- Co-housing Residents
- Nightlife Crowd
- Homeless

**Edge Conditions**

- P-Patch to Street
- Street Retail
- Residential Inner Courtyard
- Alley Between Artist Lofts and Existing Residences


http://blog.seattlepi.com/greenbuilding/2007/02/06/cohousing-today/
TRANSITION ZONE

SECTION A  STAIRWAY ELEVATION
U Square
Emily Perchlik + Hillary Pritchett
The University District’s public space is defined solely by the right-of-way. This creates few opportunities for the district’s varied users to comfortably appropriate and share the public realm. Conferring both a center and an identity for the district as a link along a larger transit line, U Square satisfies this lack of intersection by accommodating defensible space within the larger public community. An adaptable strategy engages the sum of user-groups, engendering a sense of home, a sense of uniqueness, and a sense of community.

Clarity of materials and spatial organization orient visitors upon entry, facilitating intuitive wayfinding and movement to, from, and within the space. Individual appropriation of shared space augments transit station use by inciting ownership of the unique nodes within the plaza. Community appropriation stimulates pedestrian traffic and allows for larger gatherings and events. By pairing an overall transit system wayfinding scheme with unique station identity, the station will provide a cohesive experience along the rail line while defining the unique identity of the district.
1 NEW URBAN FORM

2 PUBLIC SPACE

3 DESIRE PATHS + ROOMS

STREETWALL ADDITION

ALTERNATIVE TOD: TOWER

BIKE AMENITIES

CUT THROUGH

PROPOSED TOD

DEMOLITION

INCREASED STOREFRONT

SMALL FOOTPRINT
1 SUNBATHING

2 URBAN SPORTS

3 STREET MARKET

4 COMMUNITY DINNER

5 PROTEST

6 OUTDOOR CINEMA

7 RACE START LINE

8 PERFORMANCE

9 URBAN CAMPING
TUNNEL DAYLIGHTING AT UPPER PLATFORM

SECTION A
3: AMPHITHEATER + BIKE AMENITIES

- PARKING FOR 90 BIKES
- FLEXIBLE SEATING

SECTION B
“The only successful approach to designing great cities for people must have city life and city space as a point of departure. It is the most important—and the most difficult approach, and it cannot be left until later in the process.”

Jan Gehl, Cities for People
Whether people are enticed to walk around and stay in city space is very much a question of working carefully with the human dimension and issuing a tempting invitation.

Jan Gehl, *Cities for People*