East Campus Residence Hall Project
User Group Meeting #2: Notes
January 9, 2009, 8:30-10:00

Absent: J. Erlandson
Notes by: Cathy

1. Meeting #1 Notes – no changes or comments

2. Process Updates
   - Update on status of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) – Department of Justice is reviewing, once RFQ is finalized will publically advertise project and distribute RFQ
   - Also once the RFQ is finalized will revise project schedule and distribute to User Group
   - Reviewed role and membership makeup of East Campus Open Space Framework Advisory Group
   - Electronic vs. paper distribution – will provide some copies of electronically distributed information/documents at User Group meetings

3. Next Steps
   - Identify which User Group members want to be involved with shortlist and interviewing of consultants (need to be available immediately and commit to 1-2 days of interviews)
   - Preparation of draft project description can occur once draft program, pattern list and project goals are finalized
   - Requested:
     - User Group members submit articles on long-term building flexibility
     - User Group members to identify/list changing student needs

4. Program development
   Also see attached Whiteboard notes
   - Program development goals:
     - Want to start program/project scope development prior to hiring consultants
     - Have in-house expertise to draw on to create a description of what the new residences hall will be – more cost effective if this can be documented prior to bringing the consultants on board and having the consultants do this work
     - Project description is a living and fluid document that can be changing based on development of project
     - Want Project Description to describe the qualities that are important to incorporate in the new Residence Hall
     - Last piece of program puzzle is the assignment of sizes and spaces

East Campus Residence Hall
Program group discussion:

Issue: How public should the new residence hall be? How many non-residential functions can be accommodated while still maintaining the resident experience?
- The residence hall will be a facility people both live and learn in
- How much is the learning component going to dictate the overall building experience?
- Core function of building is to be a residence hall
- Need to be aware and accommodate different building dynamics related to visitors coming into/visiting and people living at the residence hall
- Is there a potential conflict between place of residence and outside classes and accommodation of non-residents within the same facility? How are these potential conflicts alleviated?
- The Living Learning Center’s (LLC) non-residential spaces have been very successful – could use more of them
- LLC has successful multi-dimensional classroom spaces (multifunctional, technology-infused) LLC has successful non-academic programs – all students (residents and non-residents) feel welcome
- Brings larger student population that just students that live in the LLC to the building
- LLC could use a larger programming space to hold larger events

Issue: Freshman student experience/Upper class student experience
- Need to address needs of all student levels

Issue: Main entrance, multiple entrances
- LLC has many entrances but not a clearly defined main entrance
- Louvre – IM Pei’s glass pyramid works as a beacon that defines the main entrance point
- What is the building address? This is the location should be understood and read as the main entrance
- Lillis entrance – very clear main entrance – glazed, large scale, like a hotel entrance
- A successful main entrance must have the following elements:
  1. must be identifiable from a distance,
  2. must be recognizable all times of day and night,
  3. must be in a logical location based on site, and
  4. must be connected to a ‘nerve center’.

Issue: Hotel Lobby typology
- public spaces should have a graciousness and public space feel much like a successful hotel lobby
- public spaces should be very visible
- have a variety of room sizes and non-programmed spaces within and adjacent to ‘lobby-type’ space
- Good examples of this type of spaces include MIT Baker House and Paimio Sanitarium both designed by Alvar Aalto

East Campus Residence Hall
Issue: Accommodate non-classroom learning spaces
- I.e. music practice rooms, language learning/music listening rooms, reading/study rooms, multi-functional rooms

Issue: Location of new residence hall
- Although in East Campus and the Museum of Natural and Cultural History and the Law School have ‘backs’ to the site the new residence hall cannot be viewed as off-campus
- Need to be able to cross campus boundaries
- Needs to be a destination and a critical part of the campus community
- Incorporating building into the traditional classroom schedule could be a stretch (outside the 10 minutes walking circle) and therefore needs to be well thought out
- The academic core is where the classes (registrar scheduled), classrooms and faculty are
- However, nearby Law/ROTC/Education programs would all use classrooms if in new residence hall (near School of Law, ROTC, College of Education programs housed in childcare facilities)
- Seminars for freshmen could be held
- Language seminars/halls would work
- Teaching may change over time
- Academic opportunities also occur outside of the traditional classroom
- Academic programmable spaces needed, otherwise these activities cannot occur. “If you build it they will come…”

Issue: Multi-functional learning spaces
- How successful are the LLC classrooms purely as classrooms?
- May be a bit like being in a fishbowl with lots of distracting activity outside
- Need various sizes of gathering spaces, in particular a very large space – larger than LLC room 101 that is very heavily booked and can hold 180 occupants
- Spaces need to be equipped for a variety of functions in order to be useful for a number of functions

Pattern development:
Also see attached East Campus Residence Hall Project – List of Policies and Patterns (dated 11/17/08)

- The term “pattern language” is best known from the book A Pattern Language.
- Its principal author, Christopher Alexander, helped the UO develop its planning process in the early 1970s
- Patterns are statements about the built environment that describe and analyze design issues and suggest possible ways to resolve them.
- These patterns ideally function together as words in a sentence, creating a cohesive whole built on a common design language, the “pattern language.”
- Attached to these meeting notes is a CPC approved list of Policies and Patterns that must be reviewed as part of the East Campus Residence Hall project. The list of policies and patterns originated from the Campus Plan and, because the project is sited in the East Campus Area, the 2003 Development Policy for the East Campus Area. (The most useful patterns tend to be developed by the User Group and are project specific)
- ‘Wings of Light’, ‘Heart of Darkness’ and ‘No Building Signage’ patterns are examples of patterns created for specific projects

5. Other
- Schedule User Group tour of Living Learning Center

6. Next meeting:
   - A joint meeting with the Creating a Residential University Committee is scheduled on January 20\textsuperscript{th} from 4:00-5:00, location tbd.
East Campus Residence Hall Project
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Whiteboard meeting notes from User Group meeting #2
Nerve Centers (See ‘Building Hearth’ pattern) [draft]

Issue: The residence hall should be immediately welcoming and comfortable to both residents and visitors. To accomplish this requires a ‘nerve center’ or series of nerve centers. Nerve centers = a place to go and congregate, readily apparent from the entrance.

Principle: Nerve Centers should have visible vibrancy, be a welcoming start point, provide communication for the public, visitors and residents, and provide services such as mail, keys, food information, etc. much like a hotel lobby. Different nerve centers could include classroom and dining areas.

Staged Independence [draft]

Issue: Social and housing needs depend on resident’s class level, most particularly between first year and upper level students.

Principle: Create special communities or unique identity for the different groups while observing need for effective and efficient supervision of residences by RA’s. Note the staffing differences between freshman and upper level students (upper level students = less staffing needs).

BUILD BY A PARK
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East Campus Residence Hall

Main Building Entrance

Issue: Building entrance(s) is perhaps the single most important step taken during the evolution of a building plan.

Principle: Placement of the main entrance(s) of the building at a point immediately visible from the main avenues of approach, and give it a bold shape in the front of the building.

Wings of Light

Issue: Buildings are often shaped without concern for natural light and depend almost entirely on artificial light. Buildings that do not allow natural light as a source of illumination are not comfortable places to spend the entire day.

Principle: Shape buildings in ways that allow natural light to penetrate through.