



DRAFT

University of Oregon – Student Recreation Center
Workshop #1B - Programming

Synthesis of Tour Notes “Take-Aways”

Design

- Bold is not necessarily beautiful or “right.”
- Bold interior spaces are very desirable.
- A big, bold open lobby with multiple entry points is desirable.
- Powerful visual excitement and interest is highly desirable to the Committee.
- Don’t let form run roughshod over function. Make sure the two can well marry in your facility.
- Seeing activity spaces is a good thing, and highly desirable to this Committee.
- Steeply angled glass walls (like the ones at Ohio State) allow for very desirable views to the out-of-doors (out and up!).
- Being excessive (in space, or bling, or volume) can make a University look like a poor steward of resources.
- UO wants intelligent, well thought-out design, not excess!
- Proper organization of spaces is important.
- A well crafted, properly scaled exterior space – leading up the facility’s entry – can readily set the tone for expectations within a building.
- Having small pockets of social space throughout a facility is desirable for the Committee.
- Design visual corridors that allow patrons to see and be seen in a rec center.
- Having an open and airy building is desired by the Committee.
- Locating the fitness spaces (especially Cardio) on an exterior glass wall is a nice feature to replicate
- Great visibility into activity spaces is highly desirable to the Committee.
- Filling a recreation building with natural light is a great feature!
- Be aware of creating spaces that are “too open.” They may be unacceptably noisy, negatively impact audibility of the human voice, and or filled with too much reverberation.
- Winter Garden at main entry is a nice open airy feature.
- Low ceilings are oppressive.

Aquatics

- Public entrance for spectator events (ex: Swim Meets) can well be served via separate entrance.
- Physical access to the out-of-doors from a Leisure Pool is very important.
- Must well consider desired features in a Leisure Pool
 - Focus on intended audience (family vs. student)
- Ohio’s pool can be used for rentals without impact on others?
- Consider benefits of having two spas
 - Could be smaller than one large spa
 - One could be visible, the other not
 - One always operational even when serving other
- Creating a three-part (or similar) spa, like this facility enjoys, is highly desirable for a large capacity spa.
- Creating a Leisure Pool with a zero depth entry (can be a ramp) and spaces for volleyball and basketball are highly desirable.

Gyms

- Using portable basketball goals, as opposed to ceiling mounted varieties can “clean up” a large gymnasium volume.
- Pay close attention to the materials used in high impact areas of a building. Many materials won't hold up to the damage from fast moving balls and other objects of recreational play.
- A dynamic high flying jogging track can be beautiful for some, and scary for others!
- A Leisure Pool for a collegiate user need not have much equipment or space dedicated to child's play. Consider the collegiate user when designing the pool.
- Don't place flat top guard railings or a similar “shelf” in areas where hand weights are used. If (when) the hand weights fall, this can be a dangerous (even deadly) situation to patrons on the floors below

Fitness

- Placing Cardio equipment in a “Canyon-like” area is riskier than it appears. Pay close attention to view lines, and to what the user will see and experience when using equipment.
- Placing the free weights (aka the Meathead's area) at the “front door” of your Weights & Fitness area is a very bad idea. The Committee much prefers to locate that space away from the primary entry to this area, thus improving a patron's willingness to come in and explore the space.
- Locating the Meathead's and their free weight equipment in the “back” of the Weights & Fitness area is much wiser than putting them on display at the front door!
- If you have a Spin Studio, make it a dedicated (or at least mostly dedicated) space.
- Make sure you design enough space in and around activity areas (like Jogging, Weights, etc.). This improves safety, function, and the user's experience.
- Pockets of space in the Weights & Fitness area for both genders (e.g.: weights specific) is desirable.
- Multiple sizes of Group Ex rooms provides for great flexibility (each room is right-sized for the needs).
- Providing a “Women's Zone” (or similar, with a better name!) in the main Weights & Fitness area is a great idea.

Wayfinding

- Wayfinding should as intuitive as possible for patrons.
- Good wayfinding (with signage, if necessary) is critical.
- Environmental Graphics are a powerful story telling medium. This is desirable.

Free Zone

- Public meetings rooms are best in a Free Zone area.
- Creating a circulation path that passes through a rec center provides an opportunity for users and non-users to “shop the activities” within.
- Views into activity spaces from the main lobby are desirable, which aids the process of attracting users into these spaces.
- Locating a Guest Services counter in front of the control counter is highly desirable.

Climbing Wall

- Enclosing a Climbing Wall inside a smallish glass box is not a good idea. That does not invite users to use the wall.

Administration

- Administrative Suite must support a collaborative communication between members of the professional staff.
- Creating an open collaborative office suite is desirable to the Committee

Lighting

- Natural light is a very good thing when well harvested!

- Dark, dimly lit interiors are oppressive. It would be hard to work full time in such a facility.
- Make sure you install light fixtures in locations and places where you can readily change the lamps
- Use good and smart lighting, but make sure it is well controlled with proper systems for operation.
- Make certain to properly balance glass so as to avoid glare.

Jogging Track

- Even a Jogging Track needs suitable ceiling height (say 10' or better).
- Creating an asymmetrical Jogging Track is an exciting prospect for this Committee.

Materials

- Terrazzo flooring is visually desirable, and it always appears to be a good long investment.
- Good material selections matter! Terrazzo. Ceramic Tiles with Glass Tile accents! Colorful maple wood floors.
- Plain or colored CMU walls are a downer! Ground face block or better is necessary at Oregon.
- Using bold colors or school colors in a "heavy handed" way can easily create an undesirable result. Be intentional about application of bold and primary colors.
- Finish and detailing is important. More important than you might think!
- Heavy use of red and blue (school colors) was too much.
- Dayton has one interior designer for the campus
 - This individual makes all decisions on color, etc,
 - This includes signage
- Terrazzo is a highly desirable flooring material
- Painted CMU is not an acceptable material for extensive use in the Oregon SRC.
- More expressed desire for Terrazzo!
- Be careful about using "natural" concrete.
- Spray applied fire proofing is not an acceptable finish material in or around a MAC.

Food

- If building a Juice Bar, put it where patrons frequent, not in a remote portion of your building. This is not a destination venue for most patrons.
- Food Service, even when well placed and with what is perceived to be the right menu, does not mean it will be financially viable.

Amenities

- Committee loved the easy user interface for A/V equipment in the building.
- Furniture is an important part of how we all experience a building environment.

Special Events

- Creating a special events entry (even if is the main front door for a facility) is a good strategic idea.
- Creating a separate building zone for rentals and other special events is a nice feature.