

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON RECREATION CENTER PROJECT PATTERNS - PHASE III

VISION STATEMENT

The *Student Recreation Center* demonstrates the University of Oregon's commitment to physical activity as a necessary component of the healthy development of its students, faculty and staff. The center complements the university's academic mission by providing comprehensive, high-quality programs and facilities available to all members of the campus community. The center's design will facilitate positive social interaction among its users, fostering an increased sense of belonging and identity with the university.

PATTERNS AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES (phase three revisions in italics)

The use of patterns in a design process creates a common ground that allows designers and users to efficiently discuss issues related to the project and to create meaningful and remarkable architectural spaces. These patterns and principles represent an ongoing process and further refinements and additions to this list and are expected to evolve. Each pattern generated by the user group consists of a title, identification of an issue, and a policy statement.

- **MORE THAN JUST GOING TO CLASSES**

Issue: Today's students recognize that attending a university involves more than just attending classes and that fully formed individuals should be challenged both intellectually and physically. *Research conducted in 2003 reveals that students who participate in recreation and fitness activities are more likely to succeed at their college work and be more satisfied with their overall college experience.*

Policy Statement: The university needs to provide opportunities for students to address their intellectual and physical needs. Therefore, students should have access to recreational facilities that offer a comprehensive range of physical activities and provide balance to the traditional academic focus.

- **CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT SUPPORTS SOCIAL INTERACTION**

Issue: Leaving home and stepping up to the academic rigors of university *life* can be very stressful, especially for new students. *The current facility lacks social gathering spaces and interaction nodes and has no identifiable "hearth" or building "heart".*

Policy statement: Research shows that students who have developed peer support groups and feel a sense of belonging and identity with their college or university have higher grades and are more likely to graduate. Therefore, the recreation and fitness center's open areas, activity spaces, and service areas should showcase activity and facilitate social interaction *through locating activity spaces off circulation paths, establishing social nodes and transparency through spaces. An identifiable building "hearth" should be created.*

- **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF HOLISTIC HEALTH**

Issue: The daily pressures of keeping up with classes, homework, papers and exams, in addition to working part-time jobs, often leave students few outlets for tension and stress.

Policy Statement: Exercise and recreation can reduce emotional stress and are critical components in the holistic health of students. Therefore, recreation and fitness facilities should provide safe, on-campus environment for students to pursue a broad range of recreational activities.

- MAXIMIZE INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

Issue: The cost of obtaining higher education in the state of Oregon has increased dramatically in recent years, limiting access to college for many. Every aspect of the student's higher-education experience must be delivered in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Policy Statement: *The student recreation center depends on student fees for operational and equipment expenses. These expenses are subject to ASUO scrutiny and annual approval.*

As inflation drives up operation costs and as student-fee support for operations reach limits of tolerance, the recreation center must become increasingly self-supporting.

Therefore, while the center's purpose is to provide recreation facilities for students, the design should maximize current and new opportunities for generating income by developing versatile spaces that are adaptable to a variety of uses, both in the short and long term, and to the specific needs to fee-paying groups.

- CIRCULATION, SIGHT LINES, AND ADJACENCY

Issue: The current facilities have been altered several times. Although the maze-like series of corridors *have been improved*, they still frustrate the user *and lack nodes for interaction and gathering*.

Policy Statement: People find it easier to get around in large buildings if paths are logically arranged. Therefore, the recreation and fitness center should have easy circulation patterns with a system of corridors, stairways, ramps, and elevators that provide clear sightlines and common-sense adjacencies. *The elimination of dead end corridors and the establishment of a main loop circulation system are priorities.*

- FRESH AIR

People are sensitive to odor, often associating cleanliness with smell, and are not likely to frequent a place that lacks fresh air or holds unpleasant odors.

Policy Statement: Recreational activities necessarily engage people in close proximity to each other in team or group-use activities. Clear, fresh air, free from high concentrations of carbon dioxide, chemical smells, and high levels of moisture, is necessary to encourage use of the facility and to maximize health benefits. Therefore, air temperature and humidity levels should meet or exceed standards for the special needs to varying recreational activities such as weight lifting, jogging, and swimming. The systems must be flexible enough to adapt to desired adjustments in air quality and to future recreation trends.

- ROOMS THAT FIT AND THAT ARE FLEXIBLE

Issue: The current recreation facility contains rooms of many sizes.

Policy Statement: Spaces should be the right size for the activities they support and should be adaptable as the activities change. Therefore, the recreation and fitness center should contain spaces that are a good fit for the activities within them, that are adaptable to multiple activities, and that may be changed to meet future needs.

- ACTIVITY STORAGE

Issue: There is never enough storage. And over time, storage areas tend to be converted to other uses -- in the university's case, for use as offices!

Policy Statement: Storage needs vary with each activity housed in the building.

Additionally, some recreation and fitness activities not housed within the building need

- storage areas as well. Therefore, the recreation and fitness center should contain a variety and an abundance of accessible, appropriately-sized storage spaces, including, at a minimum, centrally-located storage and one storage space for each activity space, with adequate shelving, locked areas where appropriate, and sufficient lighting.
- **MAXIMIZE OUTDOOR PLAYING FIELD USE**
Issue: The university has limited year-round field space and the new artificial turf fields lack support spaces.
Policy Statement: The university is undersupplied with outdoor recreation fields and the problem is exacerbated by the weather, which makes some fields unusable from November to March. *The new artificial turf fields ease this problem and provide an outdoor extension of the SRC.* Therefore, the recreation and fitness center should maximize the use of outdoor playing fields by lighting those fields for late-afternoon and evening use, *providing adequate support facilities (restrooms and storage) and reinforcing their connection to the SRC by orienting activity spaces to face the fields.*
 - **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING SPACE**
Issue: Campus-wide tournaments are popular recreation events. The current facility does not contain a gathering space to support the organization of large events.
Policy Statement: Campus-wide tournaments or competitions should be held inside the new recreation and fitness center. Therefore, make a comfortable, easily accessible gathering space that is conducive to social interaction and that can accommodate the organizational needs of such events.
 - **LEAVE THE GOOD PARTS ALONE**
Issue: Some spaces within the existing building work well as they are. Other elements of the building, including wood flooring materials, are worth keeping as well. Additionally, the Esslinger Hall portion of the building is considered a primary candidate for City of Eugene landmark status because its architect, Ellis Lawrence, played a prominent role in creating the campus and designed many of its finer buildings, including five that are on the National Registry of Historic Places (Arty Museum, Knight Library, Gerlinger Hall, Susan Campbell Hall, and Hendricks Hall).
Policy Statement: It makes economic sense to retain the parts of the building that work as they are and focus the renovation efforts on the parts that do not work. Therefore, when the renovation plans are made, those areas thought to work well as they are should be left alone.
 - **ENERGY SAVED IS GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**
Issue: *Recreation centers are traditionally high energy consumers. With energy costs rapidly escalating using less energy makes economic sense. Energy creation and consumption also places stress on the environment.*
Policy Statement: *Sustainability should be considered when planning the building's form and organization.* Materials, as well as supporting systems, should be chosen to enable the efficient use of energy. *Passive alternatives to mechanical systems such as exterior sunscreens and natural ventilation should be considered.* Investments in building fabric, materials and mechanical and electrical systems should be viewed on a life-cycle basis, *and follow campus sustainability guidelines.* Therefore, *Use sustainable design practices.*

- ACCESS TO ALL

Issue: Facilities designed without considering the needs of individuals who have mobility, hearing, or vision restrictions may exclude those potential users.

Policy Statement: All university facilities are to accommodate the full range of potential users, including those with restrictions of mobility, hearing, or vision. Therefore, the new recreation and fitness center should be designed to accommodate all potential users. (All work must confirm to the standards of the ADA universal design standards for new construction and other applicable disability legislation as interpreted by the university).

- COMPREHENSIVE YET COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Issue: In the Erb Memorial Student Union, the newly renovated activity spaces include billiards, a video arcade, and Social-gathering spaces.

Policy Statement: The university needs to provide the full range of recreation facilities without creating a wasteful duplication of those facilities. Therefore, the new recreation and fitness center should include activities that complement those already in place in the student union and create a complete range of activities available in the recreation center itself. *It is desirable to have social gathering space associated with all new facilities.*

- EASILY SUPERVISED

Issue: Supervision required to ensure safe and effective use of facilities and equipment varies considerably from activity to activity.

Policy Statement: Labor costs associated with activity supervision account for a major portion of operational expenses in recreational facilities and can result in reduced facility-access hours. Therefore, the design of the facility should consider the unique supervision needs of each activity, including specialized design of supervisory stations, as appropriate, maximizing spatial control with minimal personnel. Sight lines, electronic communication systems, and video cameras, for example, may help facilitate supervision.

- TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Issue: The recreation center's potential for meeting recreational needs is linked to a number of factors, such as maximizing operational efficiency, limiting personnel costs, ensuring safety in routine and emergency medical situations, planning for building and occupant security, providing customer-oriented user services, and maximizing the potential for income generation.

Policy Statement: Readily available applications of technology can improve operational efficiency and facility flexibility and can increase user safety. Therefore, the design of the recreation and fitness center should consider possible applications of technology such as a public address system, music systems, communication for instruction and training, fiber-optic cabling, *wireless network*, fire and emergency systems, satellite linkage, etc. Where possible and desirable, centralized control systems, integrated systems, and wireless should be considered.

- EASILY MAINTAINED AND DURABLE

Issue: An inviting and safe environment for recreational users depends on a clean, attractive, well-maintained *facilities* with equipment in proper working order.

Policy Statement: Several characteristics contribute to making maintenance of recreational facilities especially challenging: high student usage, the physical nature of recreational sports, and the variety of activities and types of equipment and facilities. Therefore, the

- recreation center should employ architectural designed that maximize maintenance efficiency by using proven materials and surfaces. Appropriate space should be dedicated to storage and repair of equipment.
- **MAXIMIZE VALUE**
Issue: Funds for major construction are difficult to obtain. As a *partially* self-supporting entity the new recreating and fitness center must operate as efficiently as possible.
Policy Statement: Expenditures for new construction must be spent in ways that balance cost against a variety of factors, including building longevity, ease of maintenance, and appearance. Therefore, the value of the materials to be used in the recreation and fitness center must be determined by comparing the cost of the materials, their longevity, their maintainability, and their appearance.
 - **A GOOD FIT WITH THE CAMPUS ARCHITECTURE**
Issue: The University o Oregon’s Long Range Campus Development Plan states: “The continuity of the University’s campus environment over time also is materially affected by the character and architectural style of the buildings that are constructed. In order to achieve this continuity, the design of new buildings is to be compatible and harmonious with the design of adjacent buildings, though they need to (and in some cases should not) mimic them.”
Policy Statement: The exterior appearance of the recreation and fitness center should look like it belongs to the campus and, in particular, to this part of the campus. The materials used and the construction style selected should be considered carefully to effect architectural continuity. Therefore, new construction of the recreation and fitness center should be designed to fit into its campus context.
 - **A UNIFIED FACILITY**
Issue: *The current facilities have been altered several times. Circulation and wayfinding is confusing and unclear and there a few gathering spaces*
Policy Statement: *There should be clear circulation and gathering hierarchies. Users should be able to find major program elements without the use of “maps” There should not be drastic differences in the level of finishes and look between the old and new portions of the building An high level of transparency through most activity and circulation spaces allows the activities to enliven the spaces. Therefore, upgrade the existing “back” portion of the facility and integrate it with the 1999-2000 and phase three additions. (including HVAC and lighting) Evaluate a second public entry. Make wayfinding and circulation clear by creating major and minor circulation spines and gathering spaces and transparency through those spaces.*

PATTERNS FROM THE LONG RANGE CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LRCDP)

The LRCDP requires every project to consider the following patterns (from *The Oregon Experiment*, Christopher Alexander, Oxford UP, 1975, and *A Pattern Language*, Alexander, Oxford UP, 1977). At this point, the user group has not identified specific existing problems or issues to which these policy statements relate.

- **SITE REPAIR**

Take advantage of opportunities to improve the overall quality of that part of the campus in which the project is situated. Build on the worst part of the site, preserve the best.

- **MAIN GATEWAYS**
Mark major entrances to the campus in a way that identifies the campus as a special precinct within the larger community.
- **UNIVERSITY STREET**
Major campus activities should front on public streets which are essentially pedestrian in nature; new buildings should either connect to or extend these streets.
- **SOUTH FACING OUTDOORS**
Buildings should be designed to create south-facing outdoor spaces whenever possible.
- **ACCESSIBLE GREEN**
Maintain an open space in proximity to all buildings.
- **PROMENADE**
Maintain an open space in proximity to all buildings.
- **QUIET BACKS**
Connect buildings to a quiet space, removed and buffered from adjacent sources of noise.
- **POSITIVE OUTDOOR SPACE**
Place and form buildings to define and partially enclose outdoor space.
- **FOUR STORY LIMIT**
Generally avoid buildings which exceed four stories in height above grade.
- **CONNECTED BUILDINGS**
Connect new buildings to existing structures wherever possible.
- **BUILDING COMPLEX**
Generally, campus buildings should be built at a human scale; large space requirement should be met by grouping smaller buildings and connecting them.
- **FAMILY OF ENTRANCES**
Outside entrances to separate realms of a building or to separate buildings in a complex should be roughly similar and visible from each other.
- **ACTIVITY NODES**
Create small centers of activity, separated by quiet space.
- **SMALL PUBLIC SQUARES**
At activity nodes along important pathways, create small squares between 45 and 60 feet in width to accommodate small gatherings.
- **OPERABLE WINDOWS**
In the absence of compelling reasons to the contrary, all exterior windows are to be operable.