

## Advisory Planning, Architecture, and Aesthetics Committee JULY 21, 2009 - MEETING OVERVIEW AND CONCLUSIONS

### IN ATTENDANCE:

**Committee members:** John Delano, Janet Riker, David McCaffrey, Fardin Sanai, Steve Beditz, Sue Phillips, Josh Sussman (SA President), John Giarrusso

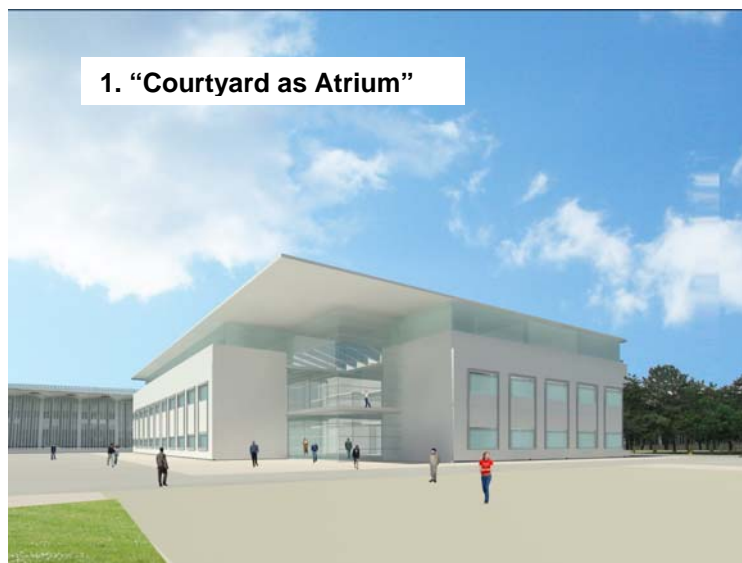
**Staff:** Errol Millington, Randall Olocki, Joe Ferguson, Cori Irwin, Michael Beaton, John Murphy (representing Student Success and APAAC member Christine Bouchard)

**Guests:** Bob Kanarkiewicz and Chris McGrath (SUCF); Rob Goodwin and Anne Kojima (Perkins + Will Architects)

### 1. Business School Construction Concept and Site Discussion

*APAAC is being asked to comment and provide guidance on the B-School project Steering Committee's direction regarding orientation of the new building on the construction site and the general design direction. Three concepts for the building have been developed and one deemed "preferred" by the Steering Committee.*

- Rob Goodwin (Perkins + Will Architects) presented to the committee.
- Mr. Goodwin discussed the challenge of the building site and the need to respect the E.D.Stone architecture as well as the new Plaza and University Hall building.
- He presented three concepts/schemes: "Courtyard as Atrium", "Courtyard as Street", and "Courtyard as Terrace".
- Each scheme incorporates the following design intents which play a large role in the development of the schemes: the building will serve as a gateway between the bus stop and visitors to campus through to the Podium (and the tunnel connection); the design should "activate" and enliven the Plaza through its architecture and how functions are placed in the building; the design should allow pass-through of visitors (especially in colder weather) without interruption or disruption to planned building activities; and the building should provide the proper image for the campus and the School of Business.
- He reminded the committee that the renderings (seen below) are only conceptual forms and are not actually engineered or designed with such important elements such as choice of building materials, actual window placement, etc. This kind of work occurs in design development, once a scheme is selected.



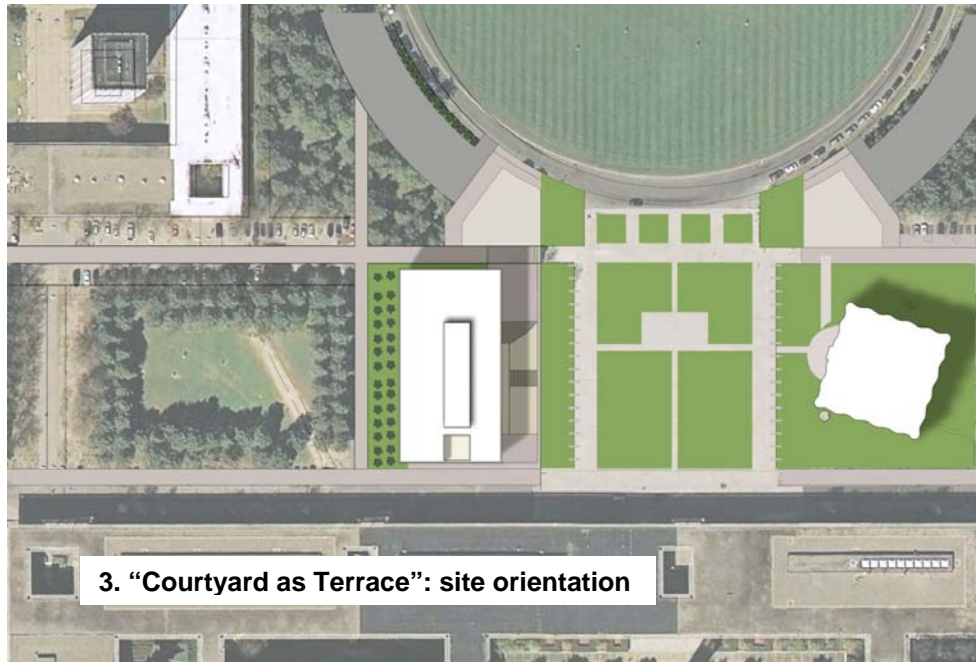
## 2. "Courtyard as Street"



- The preferred option by the B-School project Steering Committee is the third option presented: "Courtyard as Terrace", shown below.

## 3. "Courtyard as Terrace"





**3. "Courtyard as Terrace": site orientation**

- APAAC committee members commented and reacted to this third scheme.
- This third scheme is intended to create a transparent, active, building as a gateway to the campus, with a large amount of glazing and expansive views to the Plaza.
- Many in the APAAC group liked certain features of the building, such as a second floor open area for events and the notion of group study and break-out rooms ringing the classroom area.
- There was general concern by APAAC, however, regarding energy efficiency of this scheme given the large amount of glazing. The architect and Facilities staff explained that this remains a concern that will be addressed in building energy modeling and day-lighting analysis but is not yet resolved.
- There was also great concern regarding the grand staircase (and stadium seating) feature at the front of the building and how such a feature: may not be used too often as it would sit in an awkward spot and would present a somewhat untidy appearance for a building that needs to present a more formal image.
- There was also similar serious concern regarding how the building would perhaps provide too stark a contrast to the rather opaque nature of the existing Podium and University Hall. As rendered, this third scheme appears too transparent for too great an expanse of the façade.
- There was discussion of how perhaps the corner, which is more subtly activated and featured in the first scheme may be an element that is better incorporated into this design.
- The APAAC group, too, did not think that the notion of having an outside subterranean staircase (leading to classrooms and the tunnel) would be a viable idea in the Albany climate and given maintenance and snow clearing concerns.
- The way the building sits on the site, relative to the Podium and rearranged parking, did not raise any objections by APAAC members.
- The general conclusion of the group was to formalize scheme 3 and incorporate the comments above.

## 2. Campus Center Expansion: Concept Discussion

*APAAC is being asked to comment regarding early concept plans to expand and renovate the Campus Center. The work envisioned, over a 15 year period, would not only construct an addition to the building, but would phase renovations to the balance of the Campus Center facility. APAAC input is necessary as certain E.D. Stone features would be altered.*

- Errol Millington presented a summary of early concepts for expansion and improvements of the Campus Center.

- In brief, the project is viewed as multi-phased, with the first phase involving approximately \$1 million in renovations to the lobby area; the second phase involving the \$30+ million expansion project; and later phases involving renovations to the remaining portions of the building.
- Specific features of the Campus Center that may be amended include: (1) taking down some panels in the lobby area (by the CC fountain) to make it grander and provide for alternate uses such as a coffee shop; (2) altering the “stairs to nowhere”, the staircase leading down to the ground floor Commons area; and (3) the notion of “roofing over” the CC/Science Library garden to enclose the space for 4 season use and to use it as a central feature in the construction of an addition.
- Regarding the expansion of the lobby area, the APAAC group expressed some concerns. They included the issue of noise and the need to provide proper design to abate such noise; the need to ensure that the opened area include reaching to the Fireside Lounge, as this lounge is underutilized; and general frustration that the lobby space can’t be more than the corridor used primarily for table functions. Mr. Millington said that concepts would be better developed to incorporate these comments and brought to APAAC at a later date.
- The second topic, regarding the “stairs to nowhere”, did not get discussed.
- On the third topic -- the expansion project and the notion of “roofing over” the fountain area --- there was considerable discussion. The group generally liked the idea of enclosing this space, especially given the Albany climate.
- There was concern among some in the committee, however, that the Campus Center be viewed more as an extension of the educational mission of the University and not solely designed to be a “student center” dedicated to recreation.
- Most notable is that a fitness center is being conceptually added to the expansion. Some in the committee expressed concern that this function would not be a proper fit with the potential use of the expanded Campus Center (perhaps for conferences?) or perhaps it would be oddly located so close to the Podium and other nearby academic functions.
- Some in the group countered that student-oriented spaces on the Uptown campus are in short supply and that the original E.D. Stone design did indeed locate such student-oriented spaces, such as a bowling alley, in the original Campus Center. Student recreational spaces, too, have been reduced by the move to Division 1 athletics.
- There was a general acknowledgement that trade-offs and hard decisions must be made in programming and design of the Campus Center.
- John Giarrusso concluded the meeting (which was running over) by indicating that more developed concepts would be presented to APAAC based on committee comments at a later date.