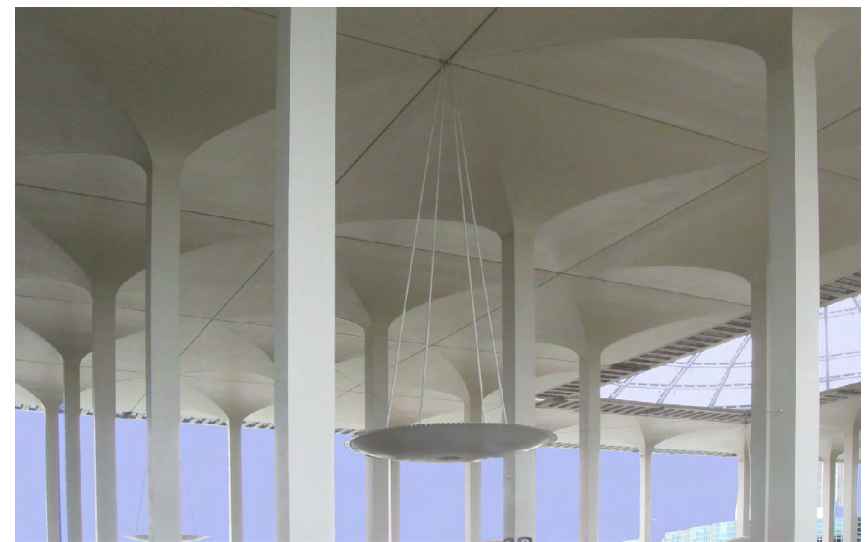
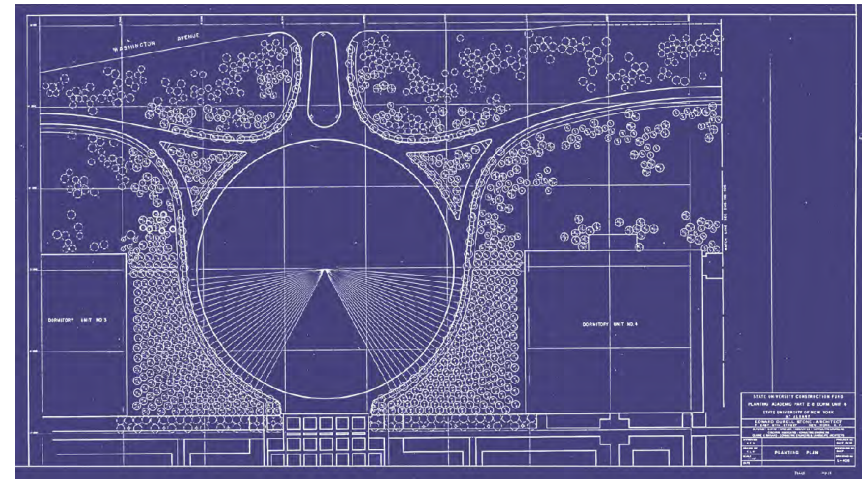




UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
State University of New York



# PRESERVATION STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

FOR THE UPTOWN CAMPUS

February 12, 2013

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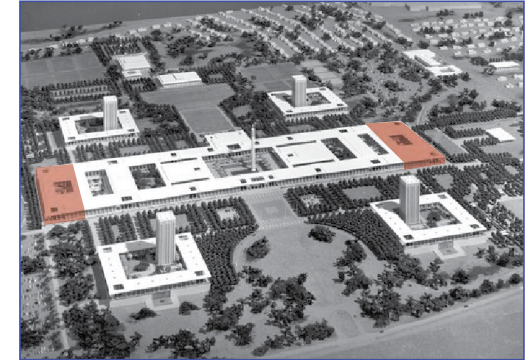
## SECTION 1.0

### INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

There are a number of both profound and practical reasons to consider the University at Albany's Uptown campus through a preservation lens. As one of the few modern campuses in the country built in a single campaign under one master architect, the campus warrants preservation. As the embodiment of the effort, energy, and collective memory of past generations, the campus deserves preservation. As a major financial investment by scores of New York State taxpayers, fiscal responsibility dictates preservation. And, under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation Law, preservation is required.

Preservation, especially on an academic campus, need not be—nor should it be—static. Campus preservation and planning must balance preservation goals with the need for adaptation and expansion—helping to manage and guide changes so they are compatible and respectful to the existing natural and built environment. Preservation must consider not only individual elements such as columns, light fixtures or even a single building, but the entire campus and original design intent. Edward Durell Stone's intent is apparent in the way he linked individual buildings through the use of the podium and colonnaded canopies, arranged buildings to create special places, extended the architecture into the landscape and landscape into the architecture, and used both to knit together the fabric of the campus—creating a unified and cohesive composition.

In the future, any modifications should be carefully considered and crafted to ensure that existing architectural and landscape continuity are not adversely affected. Any change should not detract from but instead add value to Stone's overall composition and serve to further unify the campus and reinforce its identity.



**Figure 1.01**

Edward Durell Stone's vision for the University at Albany's Uptown campus, including a planned future expansion at the east and west end of the Academic Podium (shown in red).



### Purpose

These Preservation Standards and Guidelines are meant as a supplement to the Campus Heritage Preservation Plan, the University at Albany's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with SHPO, as well as other various reports and master plans. They have been developed to accomplish the following:

- Provide guidance in the stewardship of the University at Albany's Uptown Campus;
- Provide a framework for decision making for proposed physical changes to the overall composition, as well as the individual structures, areas, objects and sites within the Uptown Campus;
- Provide guidance for consultants, architects, engineers, or others involved in planning or project implementation that have the potential to visually alter the physical characteristics and overall intent of Stone's comprehensive campus design;
- Educate those that are entrusted with the care of this historic asset so that day-to-day maintenance does not have adverse long-term effects;



**Figure 1.02**

Nighttime view of the main entrance viewed from Collins Circle, with new landscaping and fountains in the foreground. Towers as focal points are an integral component of many of Edward Durell Stone's designs, and part of the overall vocabulary of New Formalism.



- Support the goals and objectives of relevant planning and preservation documents;
- Facilitate the design, construction, and decision-making process;
- Promote ease of operation and maintenance of campus facilities and grounds;
- Ensure that work on campus results in a function, integrated whole, compatible with its surroundings and furthering the missions of the institution; and
- Ensure that the University's overall preservation philosophy for the Uptown Campus continues to be embedded in the decision-making process.

The following, which is partially adapted from the Campus Heritage Preservation Plan, outlines the University at Albany's preservation philosophy:

*The preservation philosophy for the University at Albany's Uptown campus, designed by Edward Durell Stone, begins with the understanding that those who have been entrusted with the stewardship of this historic resource have a responsibility to maintain and protect it in such a manner that future generation may experience Stone's work as intended. The University's philosophy is rooted in the idea that any intervention must start with the most gentle, least invasive, and most reversible treatment, before proceeding to the next level. The University understands that while change is inevitable and necessary, any change should be done within the existing architectural and site context, should never damage or detract from it, and should, in the end, add value to Stone's overall composition.*



**Figure 1.03**

The capitals of the slender columns produce a graceful arch when paired with other capitals, creating a long barrel vault that together with the colonnade, frames the distant view.

## SECTION 2.0

### GENERAL PRESERVATION STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

These Standards are meant to provide a basic overview for decision making involving physical change to the historic Uptown campus. It is understood that any major physical, visual, or material changes will be reviewed by either the University's Advisory Planning, Architecture, and Aesthetic Committee (APAAC) or SHPO as appropriate. Following these standards are Preservation Guidelines based on the character defining elements of the Site and Landscape, Exterior, and Interior spaces of the campus.

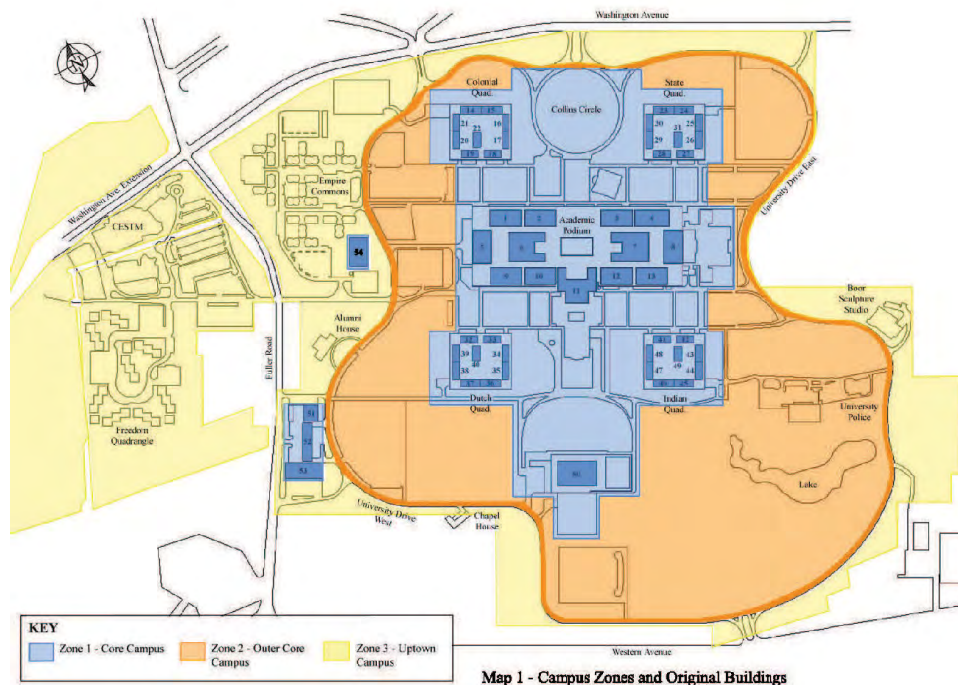
- Preventative maintenance and routine cleaning schedules with accepted and standardized techniques shall be developed and employed in manner that will limit or decrease the need for major repairs, restoration, or replacement to the historic fabric of the Uptown Campus.
- The University will develop specific Technical Preservation Briefs and Specifications and adhere to them to ensure that restoration, cleaning, and maintenance techniques extend the life and do not harm the historic fabric of the Uptown Campus.
- Cleaning and other interventions shall always follow a continuum starting from the most gentle and least invasive before proceeding to the next level.
- The University shall look to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* for guidance and shall apply the appropriate treatment(s) under the classifications of preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction based on the existing conditions.
- Before making the decision to build or add on to historic properties within Zones 1 & 2 (see Figure 2.01), the University will look at re-purposing and maximizing space within existing structures in a manner that does not damage or obscure character defining features.



**Figure 2.01**

New domes, covering a number of the canopy openings have recently been installed. They are consistent with Stone's design intent, help shelter the spaces below, and provide an interesting geometric interplay with the original saucer lights, arches, and canopy edge perforations.

- Where modification are required for energy efficiency, code, or ADA compliance, the University will look at the repetitive design nature and craft solutions which are consistent across campus, rather than on a building-by-building or ad-hoc manner.
- The University will strive to educate both its users and workers on the historic importance of its buildings, sites and objects.
- The University will consider and respect the design intent, composition, and continuity of the original campus design and ensure that all new alterations are either neutral or add value to the overall composition, architectural continuity, and identity of the campus.



**Figure 2.02**

Map from the Campus Heritage Plan, indicating the three (3) zones, starting from the core, each with different preservation priorities. The inner-core is considered the most significant and the one with the highest preservation priority.

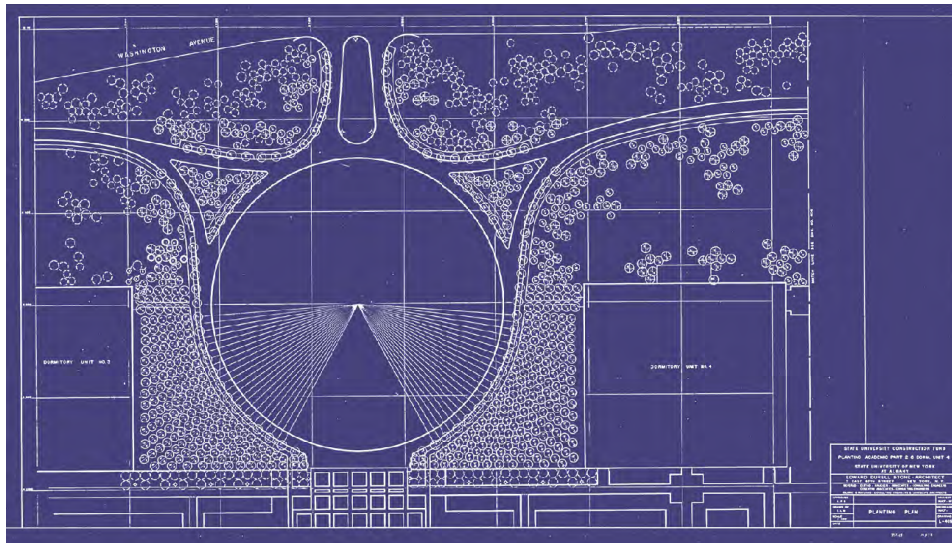


## SECTION 3.0

### LANDSCAPE AND SITE PRESERVATION GUIDELINES

Both the architectural and landscaping design of the University at Albany's Uptown campus exhibit a rigid axial symmetry and order with a strong north-south axis. The landscape design was seen by Stone as an extension of the architectural design—more formal near the core of the campus, and becoming more relaxed at the periphery. As noted in the Campus Heritage Plan, Edward Durell Stone had envisioned “that the formal and symmetrical arrangement of the buildings would be accentuated by an equally formal and ordered landscape plan.” In Stone’s 1974 Master Plan, he writes the following:

*In the central campus area, the landscaping is an extension of the architectural forms and lines, enhancing and reinforcing the strong linear statement of the colonnaded podiums. Trees are used architecturally in direct relationship to building elements, expressing lines of movement and emphasizing spatial forms created by and within the buildings. The result is a unified architectural and landscape composition, presenting a wide variety of experiences in a highly ordered manner.*



**Figure 3.01**

The formality of Stone's original landscaping design, and its function as an extension of the architecture is still evident today.

**Figure 3.02**

The formality of Stone's landscape design is evident in his drawing for Collins Circle and the main entrance of the Academic Podium.

In addition to Stone's vision as expressed on the previous page, the following characteristic site and landscape features should be retained, recreated, or enhanced:

- Formal landscapes and plantings, near the academic podium, becoming more informal towards the periphery;
- Trees used in groupings to create great spaces and provide a variation in light and shade;
- Planters designed for consistency with the surrounding and adjacent architecture, with a combination of formal and informal plantings;
- Colonnaded rows of trees lining pedestrian and vehicular circulation paths;
- Overall axial relationships, symmetry and strong north-south and east-west directional paths, both vehicular and pedestrian; and
- Parking limited near the Academic Podium.



**Figure 3.03**

One of the many courtyards on the podium, shown here with mature trees, piercing the canopy. Stone tried to bring nature into the architecture of the podium, and architecture into the landscape near the podium, seeing landscape as an extension of the formality of the architecture.

**Figure 3.04**

The formality of both the architecture, and by extension, the landscape, is evident in this aerial image, taken soon after the completion of the last of the residential quads.

**SECTION 4.0****EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION GUIDELINES**

Perhaps nowhere is the significance and importance of Edward Durell Stone's design for the University at Albany's Uptown campus more apparent than on the exterior of his original buildings. This is true not only in the design and treatment of these buildings, but their siting and integration with the surrounding landscape.

In addition to the many character defining features that must be protected and reinforced, there are overriding design elements that need to be considered when making alterations or adding to any existing building, as well as in the design and siting of any new building. Within the primary preservation zone, stand alone designs or additions that ignore the architectural continuity of the campus will ultimately weaken rather than enrich the overall campus identity.

The following are indicative of New Formalism as well as inherent in Stone's design for the Uptown campus. These design ideals, motifs, and character defining features must be protected, preserved, and enhanced when considering interventions or alterations in Zone 1, the primary preservation zone:

**Overall Design Characteristics**

- Designed to achieve a modern monumentality;
- Horizontal emphasis when viewed from a distance, reflective of the surrounding topography;
- Vertical emphasis when viewed from up close;
- Rigid and purposeful bilateral symmetry;
- The use of classical precedents such as arches and colonnades interpreted in a modern way;
- Projecting roof slab or canopy, creating a floating plane;

**Figure 4.01**

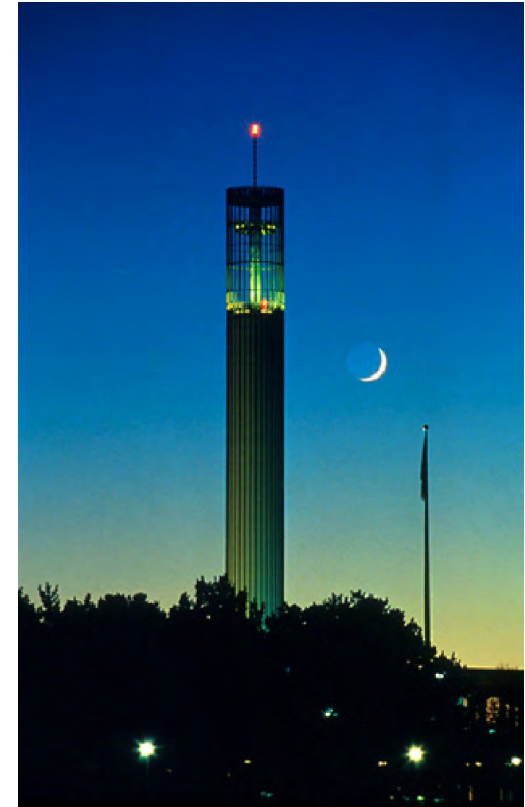
The interplay of the column capitals, the structural grid, the oculus-like roof openings, and the original saucer lighting combine to make interesting and unique architectural images.



- Separation of the natural landscape through the use of a podium;
- Use of podium and roof canopy to connect and group disparate buildings;
- Axial and framed views through the use of colonnades, arches, and an implied barrel vault;
- Repeating and purposeful use of the structural grid, hierarchical spatial relationships, and strong relationship of the parts to the whole;
- Refinement of details, richness and simplicity of materials, and an equality or balance of materials, with none seeming to dominate;
- Use of pools, fountains, or sculpture within a central plaza;
- Towers as focal points;
- Stylized full-height columns;
- Geometric interplay, strong mix of solids to voids;
- Interesting massing, materials, rhythm, and articulation

#### Character Defining Elements

- Slender Columns and graceful capitals;
- Arches created by the intersection of column capitals;
- Pre-cast vertical infill panels with dark aggregate;
- Bronze Building Signage;
- Saucer Lights;
- Facade Box Lights;
- Pre-cast Concrete Planters



**Figure 4.02**

The water tower, which also holds the carillon, is one of four towers which punctuate the otherwise horizontal, low-lying campus architecture.

## SECTION 5.0

### INTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION GUIDELINES

Despite nearly fifty (50) years of continued use, the interiors of many of Stone's buildings on the University at Albany's Uptown campus retain many of their original features, layouts, and to a great extent, their original fabric. Much of the modular structural grid is apparent on the interior spaces. The grace full slender columns that are so prominent on the exterior of the buildings, are also a focal point in many of the interior spaces—with the column capitals meeting to create graceful arches, carried along long axial views to create a barrel vault that stretch through many of the spaces. Special care and consideration should be exercised in the care, preservation of all interior spaces, features and historic and materials. Proposed alterations should be carefully considered and crafted to minimize any adverse effects to these buildings. In addition to the spaces and materials, consideration should also be given to any character defining features. Some of the notable interior character-defining features are as follows:

- Slender, multi-storied columns, with curved capitals creating graceful arches; and barrel vaults;
- Pre-cast vertical infill panels both aggregate and glass;
- Lighting fixtures: saucers, barrel vault linear lights, column capital palm lights;
- Terrazzo flooring;
- Minimalist door casing and molding details
- Freestanding staircases;
- Pre-cast, Coffered ceilings; and
- Multi-storied and significant spaces such as: Ballroom, Fudderer Lounge, Main Theater, two story entrance halls – flag rooms, PAC, etc.



**Figure 5.01**

View looking out onto fountain area from one of the significant interior spaces.



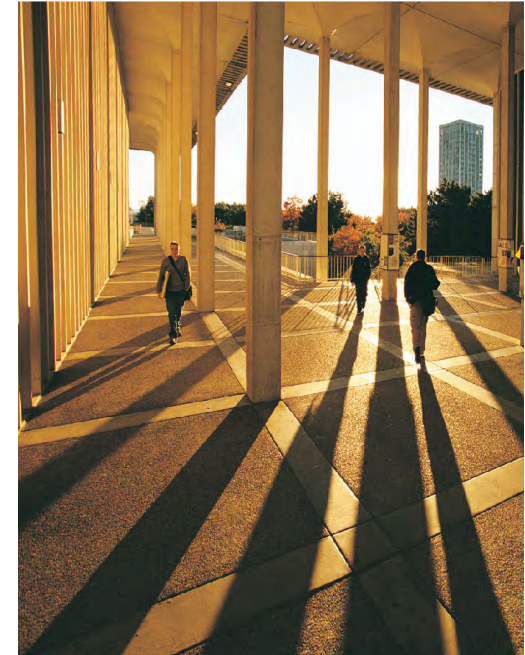
**Figure 5.02**

Corridor in lecture center, showing repeating arches, and saucer lights. Wall to the right, with views onto the fountain is temporarily covered up.

**SECTION 6.0****OVERALL PRESERVATION CONSIDERATIONS**

When reviewing any proposal that has potential visual, material, or aesthetic impacts, the University shall consider the following:

- The proposals impact on the overall composition – Does it detract, have no effect or add value to it?
- Are any of the interior or exterior character defining features, characteristic New Formalism elements, or the qualities of Stone’s work visually obscured, altered, improved, degraded or destroyed?
- Are any of the prominent focal points, landmarks, view sheds or view corridors impacted?
- Do the proposed changes correct or solve any issues with Stone’s original design?
- Do the proposed changes repair any “damage” done by previous modifications?
- Do the proposed changes alter repeating design elements?
- Are the proposed modifications applicable in other areas where the repeating design elements exist?
- Does the project appear as a stand-alone statement or a reinforcement of the overall composition?
- Does the proposed project follow the overall design ideals, or provide only token nods to specific historical elements?
- Does the proposal make it difficult to carry out Stone’s vision for expansion?



**Figure 6.01**

The low sun angle creating interesting shadows, both from the columns and people walking along the podium.



- Does the project appear as a thoughtful extension of Stone's work, or does it impair or ignore it?
- Is it done as a thoughtful, reinterpretation of Stone's work?
- Are new materials being introduced that will visually change over time differently than the original materials?
- Does the project enhance, have no impact, or diminish the overall campus identity?



**Figure 6.02**

One of the many special spaces created by the architecture and landscape of the campus.

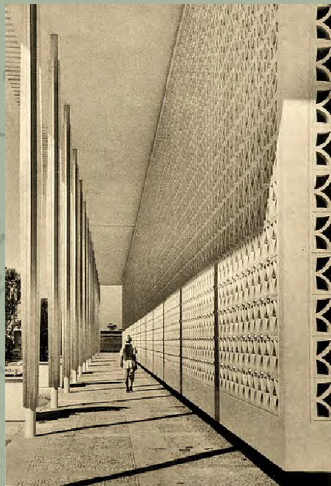
**Figure 6.03**

Soaring columns and splayed capitals, turn the focus upward, towards the open sky. Many of these roof openings have been covered over with a clear, structure dome.



## SECTION 7.0:

# CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW FORMALISM AND EDWARD DURELL STONE'S DESIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY'S UPTOWN CAMPUS



MASTER PLAN POST 1974  
STATE UNIVERSITY • ALBANY CAMPUS  
EDWARD DURELL STONE ARCHITECT

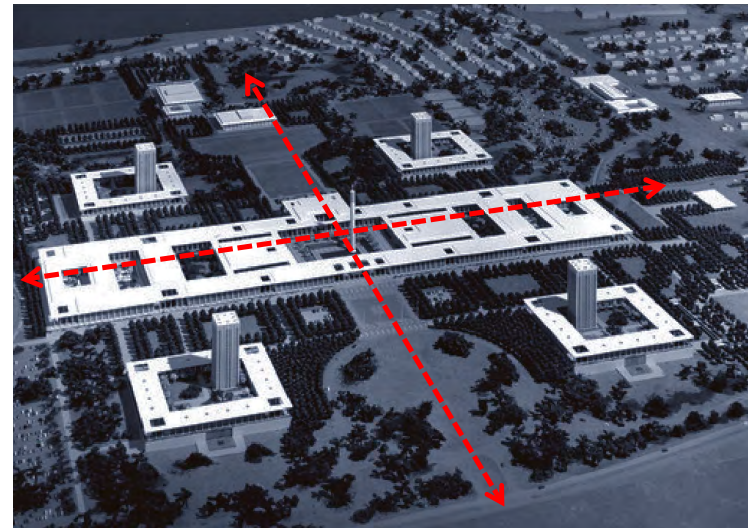
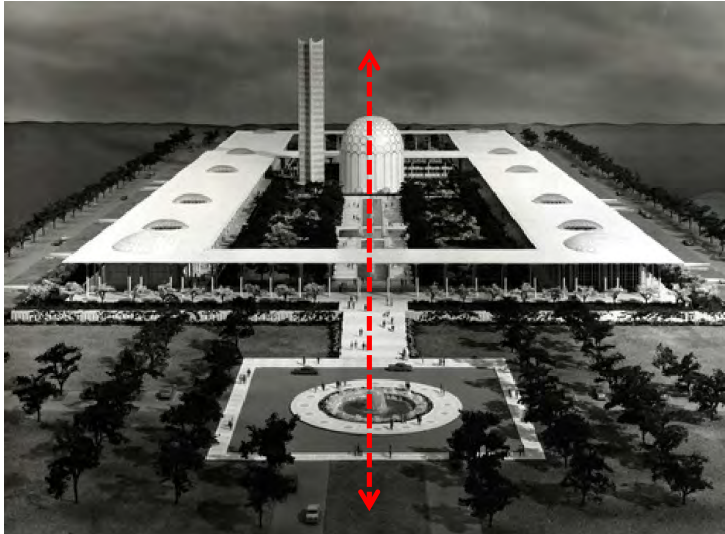


*Designed to achieve a modern monumentality*





*...rigid and purposeful symmetry*



*...use of classical precedents interpreted in a modern way* →





*...projecting roof slab or canopy* →



*...use of pools, fountains, or sculpture within a central plaza* →





*...horizontal emphasis when viewed from a distance* →



*...vertical emphasis when viewed from up close* →



*...framed axial views through the use of collonades and arches* →

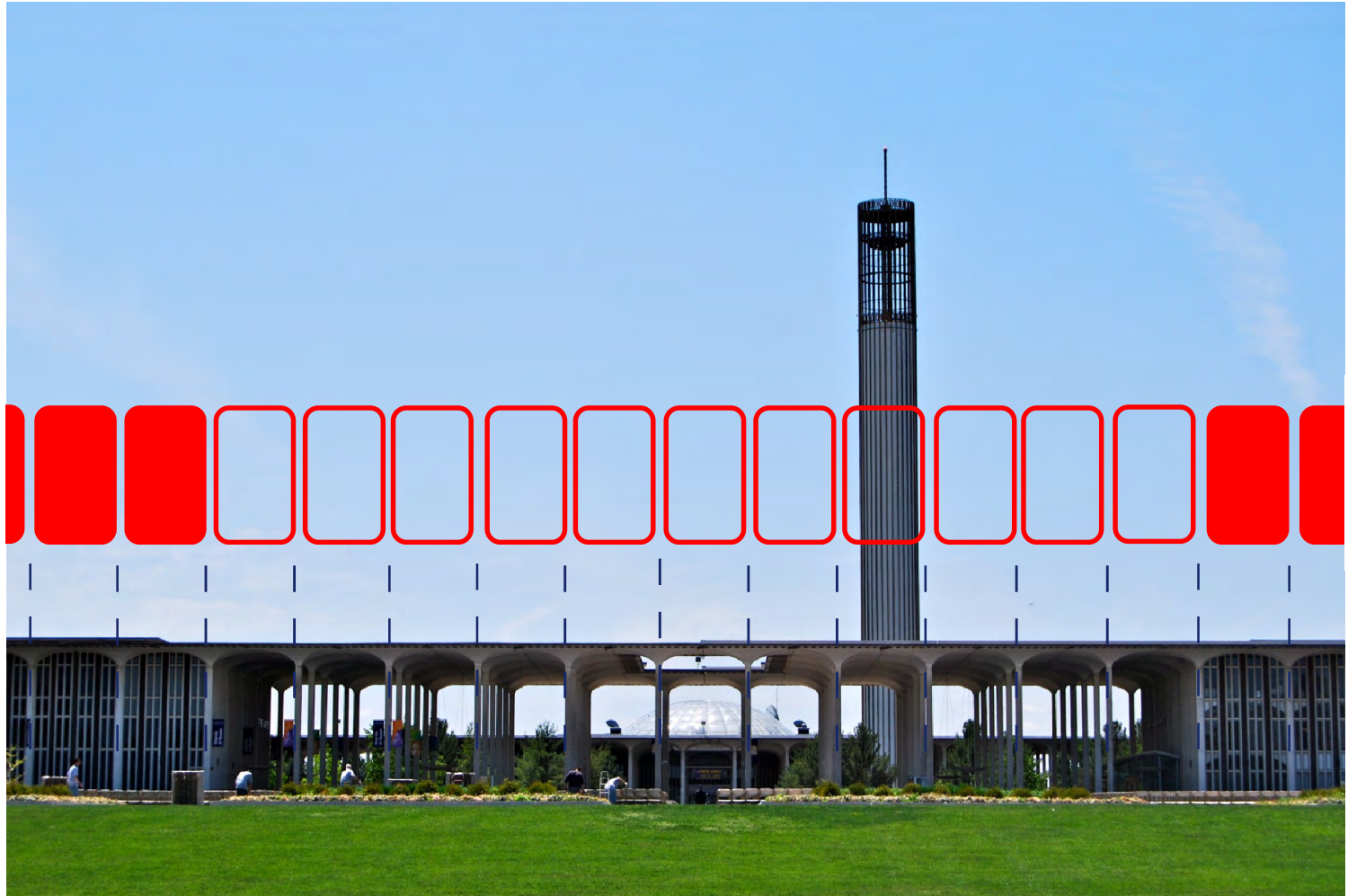




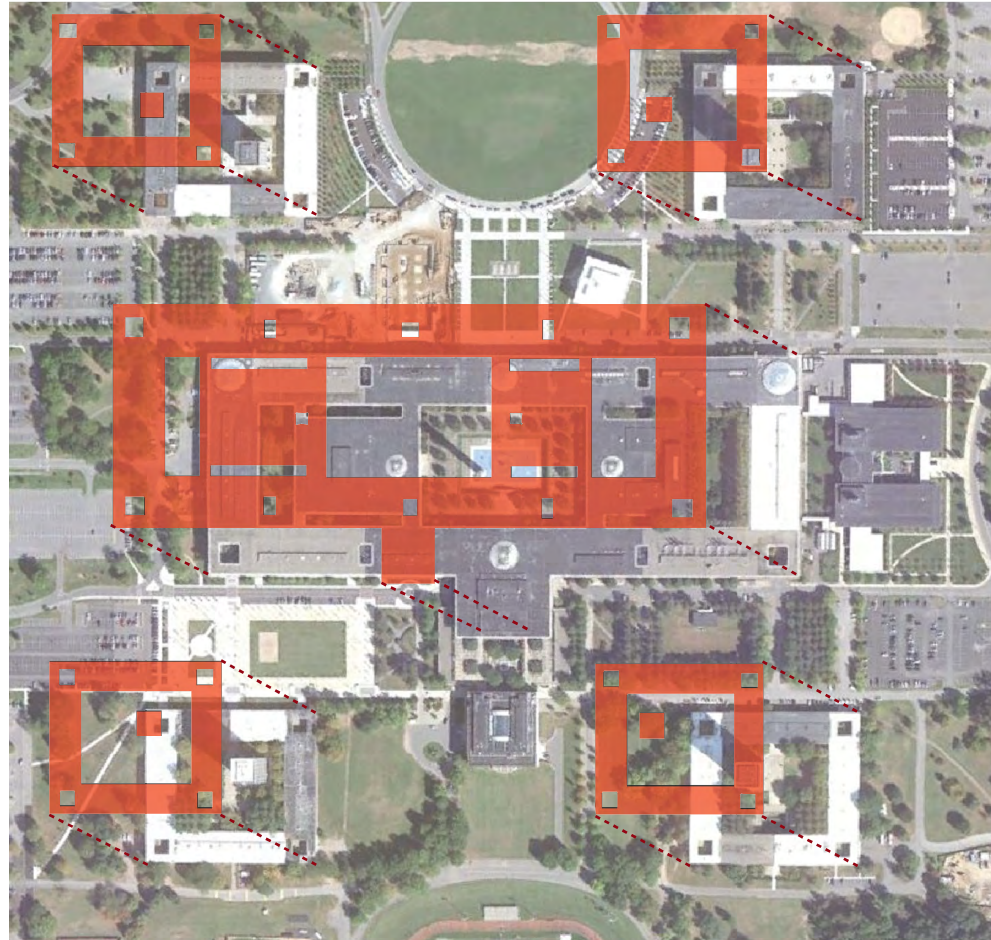




*...strong mix of solids to voids, both in elevation*



*...and in plan*



*...separation of the landscape through the use of a podium* →





*...towers as focal points*





*...balance of composition and materials*

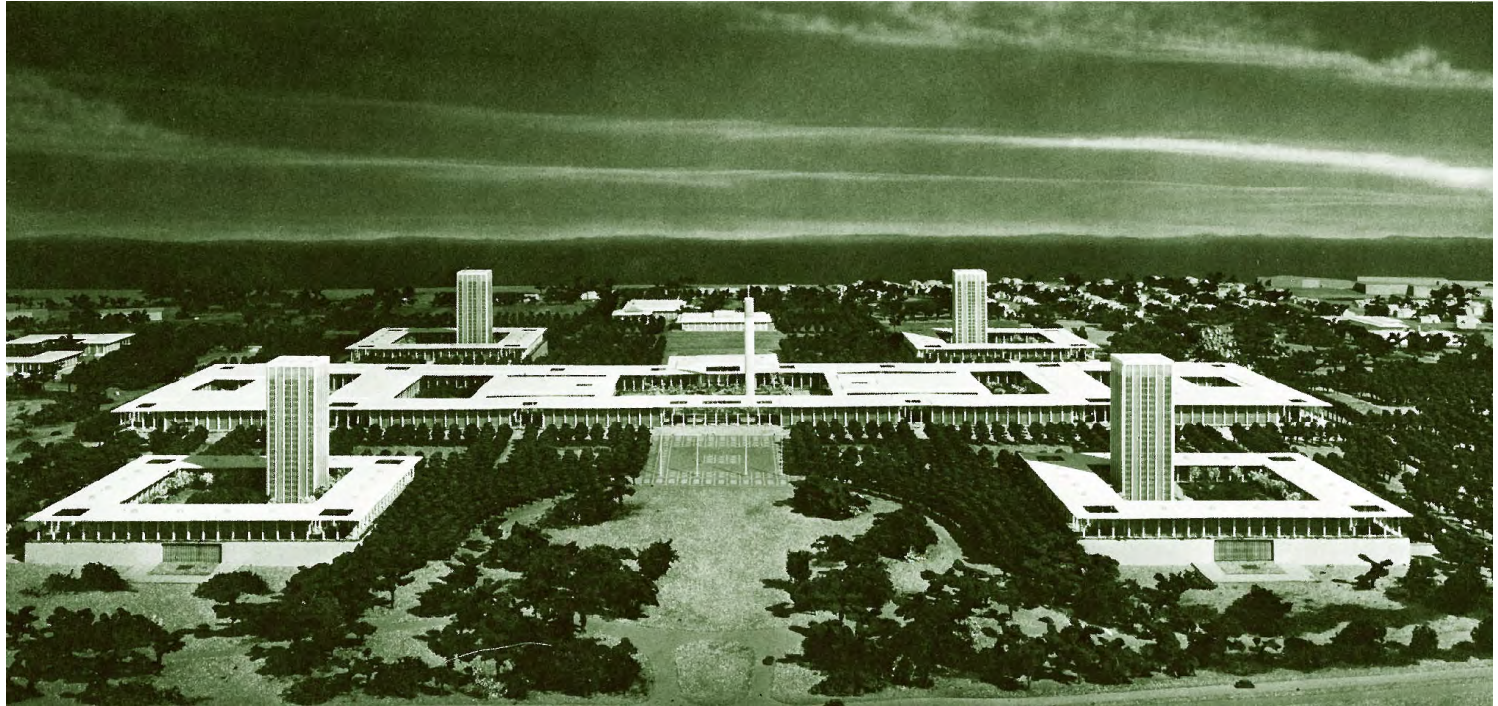


*...elegant simplicity and refinement of details*





*...and an innate understanding that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.*



*“The result is a unified architectural and landscape composition, presenting a wide variety of experiences in a highly ordered manner.”*

Edward Durell Stone & Associates — 1974 Comprehensive Site Plan  
Updating State University of New York at Albany