University of Northern Colorado Campus Architectural Standards



Facility Planning and Construction

Campus Architectural Standards

Introduction

From its inception in 1889 as the State Normal School the campus, currently known as the University of Northern Colorado, developed in a random fashion over the past 112 years. This development pattern was due primarily to the lack of specific and consistent criteria for improvements to the physical environment. Despite this inconsistent philosophy, the early facilities and older section of campus are still greatly admired today. However, beginning in the late 1950's, the lack of a campus architectural framework and standards, combined with a different cultural attitude, resulted in the construction of some very poor examples of architecture and campus development.

Recent projects on the central part of campus such as Hansen–Willis Hall, Scott–Willcoxon Hall, Cassidy Hall and the Music Library are examples of the incorporation of a more traditional architectural design philosophy to create a more unified campus. These facilities, and the soon to be completed Ben Nighthorse Campbell Center, are the first to be constructed with common architectural elements incorporating the most desirable qualities of the Central Campus. The definition of these common elements is intended to be the standard for future development. The continued use of these standards over time will create a more unified and pleasing campus.

A few buildings on West Campus such as Nottingham Field and the Student Recreation Center attempted to bring some of the architectural features of Central Campus to the West Campus. However, it is imperative that all further development of the West Campus be consistent with the common elements defined in these architectural standards.

The new additions at Ross Hall are a prime example of how the architectural standards can be utilized to bring the desired features of Central Campus to the West Campus, but still have some relationship to larger scale of West Campus buildings. The proposed renovations of Bishop-Lehr Hall and Candelaria Hall along with the construction of a New Dining Hall will provide additional opportunities to utilize the architectural standards on West Campus and further the realization of the goal of a more consistent campus.

The Campus Architectural Standards were developed with the assistance of the Architectural Standards Committee. The committee was comprised of a number of distinguished community members selected by the president of the university, and several university administrators and staff.

The committee toured the University of Colorado, Denver University and the Auraria Campus to experience first hand, consistent architectural and campus

development. The committee also toured the University of Northern Colorado campus and through a series of meetings and presentations developed the Campus Architectural Standards.

The Campus Architectural Standards are not intended to be a static document; minor modifications need to be anticipated as the availability of some materials may change. One should also learn from each project as it is completed and the Campus Architectural Standards should be adjusted as necessary to make them continually better.

The current president of the university has been very active in the development of the Campus Architectural Standards. There currently is a Board Policy Statement, Section 1-1-105 Architectural Standards. By reference, the document titled Campus Architectural Standards shall be the document that guides the design of any and all current and future campus development. By action on June 13, 2003, the Campus Architectural Standards and the Campus Landscape Development Guidelines are also approved as part of the Campus Master Plan.

The following pages define the guiding principles and specific elements that establish the framework and standards for all forms of physical development on the campus of the University of Northern Colorado.

Guiding Principles

The following principles shall be adhered to by anyone and everyone who is in anyway responsible for the development and maintenance of the physical environment of the University of Northern Colorado campus.

- Provide the unification of campus character through the use of specifically defined common architectural and site amenity elements and through the proportional scale relationships between architecture and open space.
- Maintain the current campus character by limiting development of the open space that currently exists.
- Provide a predominantly pedestrian oriented campus that separates vehicles and pedestrians with an understandable hierarchy of circulation paths and with no parking areas on the interior areas of campus.
- Redefine the core area of campus through common elements and clearly defined circulation so that there is no longer a differentiation and physical separation of Central Campus and West Campus.
- Organize land uses to provide an organizationally logical, academically compact and perceptually comprehensible campus.
- Provide campus development that is respectful and responsive to the human scale, environmentally responsible, climatically responsive yet spatially varied, functional, enjoyable and beautiful day and night.
- Provide a campus that is designed with public safety and crime prevention in mind, taking into account accessibility for the physically disabled and emergency vehicles while limiting access for service and other vehicles as well as crime prevention through environmental design.
- The approved documents to help define the intent of the guiding principles are the Campus Master Plan UNC 2089, the Campus Architectural Standards and the Campus Landscape Development Plan.

Common Elements

Guiding Principle: Provide the unification of campus character through the use of specifically defined common architectural and site amenity elements and through the proportional scale relationships between architecture and open space.

The University of Northern Colorado campus currently does not have a consistent or common architectural style. It is also difficult, if not impossible, to create a specific style for future development that fits with the varied inventory of existing structures. Recognizing this fact, a number of common elements have been identified. Over time, when these elements are consistently applied to all projects, the campus will become more unified, even with a variety of architectural style. These common elements are defined in greater detail in following sections.

A. Architectural Features.

There are several special design features that should occur on all buildings. These include entries, masonry details, roofs and "gargoyles". While some variations on the application of these features can add variety, control of these and all other architectural elements needs to be strictly monitored and approved by the office Facility Planning and Construction.

B. Walls and Color.

The most visible part of a building is the exterior wall. It is here that the use of common materials and architectural features needs to occur in order to make the biggest impact of consistency. While materials and architectural features should remain constant, so should the color of the materials. Currently the campus has a variety of colors that should over time be revised to become more uniform. There are several areas on campus that require special review of materials, colors, architectural features and their application in order to maintain the current historical character.

C. Site Features.

With the inventory of inconsistent buildings that will remain for some time, one of the best ways to add consistency is through site development in the form of landscaping, benches, tables, site lighting and special paving areas. These should remain consistent throughout all areas of the campus.

D. Campus Environment.

There are a number of environmental and operational related issues that need to be established as standards. These include Governor's executive orders regarding energy conservation, light pollution and a campus commitment to environmentally responsible "green architecture".

Section A Architectural Features





A. Architectural Features

The use of classical architectural scale, proportions, details and special features disappeared in the 1950's as the last of Central Campus and the "new" West Campus developed, including some of the most recent construction. The use of the more classical elements helps reduce the scale of the building and improves the relationship to the human scale. The use of architectural elements that some consider to be more decorative than functional shall be reintroduced and be a part of all new construction and campus development.

The use of buildings often changes over time and the decorative elements may not apply to the current use. A prime example of this is Carter Hall. Carter was once the library for the campus. The decorative book feature identifies the original use. Even if the use of the building changes, the decorative element is there as a marker regarding the history of the building. These kinds of markers add significant interest to the structure and can be used to also help break up or highlight certain portions of the facades.

All new buildings and renovations will incorporate the following architectural features. These are defined further in the following sections.

- 1. Defined Entries
- 2. Light Fixtures
- 3. Masonry Details
- 4. Roofs
- 5. Doors
- 6. Windows
- 7. Decorative Features

A.1 Defined Entries

The existing building entrances of Central Campus shall be the basis for entries in new construction throughout the campus. Gunter Hall and Carter Hall shall serve as examples of entries for other campus buildings. Entries will be obvious, well defined, with clear connections to the campus circulation patterns

Architectural elements such as pilasters, arches and accent lighting shall be incorporated in all major building entrances and to a lesser extent on secondary entrances.

Main and secondary entries shall incorporate brick and other architectural elements similar to Gunter and Carter Halls. Upon special review and approval, main and secondary entries may be able to utilize other materials such as architectural pre-cast concrete similar to Ross Hall, the Music Library and several other buildings on Central Campus.

The use of accent lighting has been installed on several recent projects. The success of these projects proves that this is a desirable feature to require on all new construction and renovation projects.

The experience of entering a building should not be intimidating, rather it should be inviting. In order to achieve this desired result, the scale of the entry should be designed to make it relate more to the human scale. Reducing the mass surrounding the entry using various architectural elements can do this.

Some existing entries and recent entries show how this can be accomplished. Examples of entries on Central Campus include Gunter, Carter, Tobey-Kendel, Snyder and Hansen Willis. Examples of entries on West Campus include Ross Hall, Nottingham Field and the Recreation Center. All use a variety of techniques to have an obvious, well-defined entryway. These entries also use other details to further refine the entry to make it more inviting.





A.2 Light fixtures

Light fixtures have traditionally been used as a design element found predominantly on the buildings of Central Campus. In addition to adding interest to the structure, they can also serve a practical use as well.

Some recent construction has reintroduced this feature to the campus. It is desirable that all new construction and renovation continue the tradition of decorative lighting. At a minimum decorative wall lighting shall be utilized at both main and secondary entries. Not only is this a decorative element, the lighting also adds another layer of safety.

The use of exterior accent lighting at the main entries began with the renovation of Gunter Hall, construction of Cranford Park and the Music Library ans has also been added to Tobey Kendel and Snyder Halls. Entries and other special architectural features shall be highlighted at night through the use of lighting. Care needs to be used to avoid glare sources from the fixtures for pedestrians and surrounding neighborhoods as well as reducing light pollution of the night sky.







A.3 Masonry Details

There is a wide variety of building styles on campus from which these standards are derived. The most desirable of the Central Campus structures, while different in style, utilize the same basic characteristics.

Through the use of stone, brick or terra cotta, the buildings express their lower floor as a base for the structure, there is a distinct middle zone of upper floors and then the top portion of the buildings are capped by a strong cornice that casts a shadow line to end the building against the sky. They can be characterized as having continuous walls with delicate, subtle relief with carefully proportioned punched window openings.

The exterior of buildings will incorporate stone, brick, or architectural pre-cast concrete to incorporate these design features.





Some of the other elements present in these buildings are: they are a maximum of 4 stories in height, they have projected entry towers or pilaster of masonry to define the entry, the buildings use stone and masonry the full height of the exterior walls and individual punched openings in groupings of 2 or 3 are used with masonry details to complement the opening.

The exteriors of all buildings will be predominantly brick, with stone used as the base and as accents at windows, doors or other locations as decoration. The use of high quality architectural pre-cast concrete is acceptable in some locations but needs to be specifically approved.

A.4 Roofs

The Central Campus buildings are perceived to have roofs that are sloped. While there are a number of sloping roofs, all buildings on Central Campus do not have sloped roofs. In contrast, the predominant roof shape on West Campus is flat.

The use of sloping roofs was first introduced to West Campus, on a small scale, with the development of Nottingham Field. Ross Hall was the first major structure on West Campus to utilize the Campus Architectural Standards and incorporate a sloping roof as one of the most prominent design features.

All new construction shall incorporate sloping roofs covered with concrete tiles to the extent practical, depending on the scale of the structure. Ross Hall for example utilizes a combination of sloping and flat in order to reduce the apparent scale of the building, but to also relate to the other sloping and flat roofs throughout campus.

Roof dormers and chimney like elements shall be included to conceal mechanical vents and equipment similar to what can be seen on the Ross Hall addition.

As buildings undergo major renovation, sloping roofs shall be incorporated to reduce the amount of flat roofs to the extent practical in proportion to the rest of the mass of the building. The use of sloping roofs must be carefully developed so that the roof masses are harmonious with the scale of the building.

- When building dimensions allow, the entire roof shall be sloped.
- If building dimensions are not practical for a full sloping roof, then combinations of flat and sloping may be used. However, the sloping roof portion will be a predominant and visible element.
- Roof slope will be a minimum of 8/12, which can be observed at Ross Hall. Other roof slopes may be more appropriate depending on the location of the project. Exceptions may be necessary and require approval.

Campus Standard

The roof tiles are concrete and are a blend of several colors. The roof tiles shall match the tiles in quality, color and texture of the Ben Nighthorse Campbell Center.





A.5 Doors

As with other architectural elements, entrance doors to buildings on the Central Campus are more obvious and better defined than those on the West Campus. The use of masonry architectural elements to define the doorways, both primary and secondary, shall be included in all new construction.

Doors should be set back from the face of the building and be an integral part of the composition of an entryway that is defined with other architectural elements. The color of the doors and frame shall be compatible with the style of the building and the surrounding adjacent structures. However, the use of bright or deep colors is not considered appropriate. All door and frame colors will need to be approved. As buildings are renovated, the blue and red colored aluminum shall be replaced.

The use of stained or painted exterior wood doors is prohibited primarily due to maintenance concerns. Some exceptions may need to occur for special conditions such as historical renovation, but these will require approval. Gunter Hall is a prime example of where the wood doors were retained to maintain the historical character.

The use of automatic sliding doors, such as the existing east entry to Carter and the main entrance to Michener shall be prohibited. Exceptions may be necessary, but require approval. In the case of Michener, this was the only way to provide handicapped access because of the building air pressure.

Campus Standard

Entrance Doors shall be compatible with the building style and adjacent structures. The most recent projects have incorporated clear aluminum. However, all colors require approval.



A.6 Windows

There are a number of differences between windows on the West and Central Campus. Typically, the West Campus is known for larger masses of window walls along with some individual windows. The opposite is true on Central Campus where individual windows, also known as punched openings, are predominant.

The Ross Hall Addition and Music Library are examples of providing larger, but yet punched openings, to relate to the individual windows of Central Campus and the larger window masses of other West Campus structures.

Materials for windows shall be limited to factory finished aluminum in colors that are compatible with the building and adjacent structures. The use of wood windows may be acceptable if the exterior is aluminum clad, however, approval must be obtained to utilize wood windows in any application. The use of frame colors such as red or blue shall not be used and should be replaced over time

The use of non-factory finished materials for windows is prohibited. An exception would be the historical restoration and preservation of significant windows such as the ones recently restored in Gunter. Approval for this application is required.

The window openings will reflect the classical punched openings proportions of being more vertical than horizontal. Large, continuous walls of glass are not desired. The use of aluminum sections or other materials to simulate a punched opening is prohibited. Masonry shall be used to create the punched opening.

Campus Standard

Factory finished aluminum in a color that is compatible with the building being worked on and the surrounding adjacent structures. The office of Facility Planning and Construction will approve all colors.







A.7 Decorative Features.

The use of decorative elements such as cartouches, gargoyles and quotations is encouraged. All proposed decorative elements and quotations require approval.

Stone has also been used for special building features such as coursing bands and decorative elements such as the book on Carter Hall. These types of architectural features are important character giving elements and add charm to the buildings.

Stone has also been used for quotations above doorways on a few buildings. Again these types of elements add to the collegiate feeling that is missing from most, if not all, of the West Campus buildings.

A tradition that has been somewhat lost is that of the cornerstone. A number of the buildings on campus have cornerstones, but the newer ones do not. The cornerstone helps mark the buildings' place in history. The newer buildings sometimes use a plaque on the interior of the building. The cornerstone should be reintroduced and utilized in both new and renovated structures.

The use of engraved names and quotations has also been a feature of the Central Campus. The new construction has limited this concept to engraved buildings names. As a minimum the name of the building engraving should continue. The practice of providing at least one quotation per building should occur.











Section B Walls and Color



B. Walls and Colors

The acceptable materials for walls are;



1. Brick



2. Stone



3. Pre-cast concrete



4. Stucco



5. Paint

B.1 Brick

The majority of new wall material should be brick. The desired color is the Scheffield Grain brick at Ross Hall. This brick shall be utilized in all new construction and major additions and renovations as well as for miscellaneous site features.

There are some cases where using the Scheffield brick may be inappropriate. A prime example of this might be a small addition to a structure that is a different color brick or even a different wall material. If the Scheffield brick is not compatible, a substitute brick that is more compatible must receive approval.

In addition to the color of the brick, details and architectural features of the brick to break up the mass of the structure shall be employed. It is the intent that each building will establish a water table, an obvious base through the use of stone. Prime examples of this are Ross Hall, the New Dining Hall and portions of Carter Hall. Crabbe, Guggenheim and the Music Library also provide other examples of a water table. It is the campus standard to use stone; however, there will be cases where stone may not be appropriate. Other materials as the water table will require approval.

Campus Standard

The brick selected for Ross Hall that is the campus standard is: For the main body, Lakewood Brick and Tile Company; Scheffield Grain For the accent, Lakewood Brick and Tile Company, Dark Buff Grain. Mortar color is Natural Grey; untinted.

B.2 Stone

Stone can be used for a variety of wall elements. The primary use of stone should be to establish a water table base for the building similar to the south wall of Carter. Ross Hall has also utilized stone as the material for the base as well.

The color of stone of these two buildings on the different parts of campus is similar, a light buff colored stone. Even though the size and texture of the stone on these two building is different, the common material and color of the stone used as a base will give the desired continuity. The Ross Hall size, texture and pattern of the stone is the established standard for all new work.

Stone has also been used to define help entries as well as accents and decorative elements and should continue to be used for this application in the future.





B.3 Pre-Cast Concrete

The use of pre-cast exposed aggregate concrete, poured in place and exposed concrete was running rampant during a majority of the construction period of West Campus. While a few of the buildings are good examples of the architecture of the day, the longer term analysis leaves the university with buildings that have a character that is not desired. The further use of pre-cast panels and poured in place exposed concrete, as a major wall material shall not be allowed. Furthermore, the existing pre-cast panels currently in place should be removed and replaced with the approved list of building materials as major renovation occurs at each building.

The recent construction has utilized a high quality architectural pre-cast concrete in some locations as an alternative to stone. Pre-cast has also been used in applications over doorways to identify the building.

The color of the architectural pre-cast at Ross Additions should be considered the standard for other applications. The use of pre-cast concrete is subject to approval and shall not be used in large masses.

Campus Standard

Match the Ross Hall pre-cast; Fort Collins Pre-cast Sample Number 92-95



B.4 Stucco

The primary wall material for all campus buildings shall be stone and brick. Stucco shall not be used as a less costly alternative to the masonry standard.

However, there are some areas on campus where the use of stucco may be more appropriate to be compatible with other adjacent structures. A majority of existing stucco is traditional cement stucco. The newer buildings have utilized synthetic stucco applied directly to a hard substrate.

Central Campus residence halls offer some interesting lessons about stucco. The color of the new buildings and the older buildings are exactly the same color, even though they appear to be different. The reason for this is the texture of the old material vs. the new material. The old material has more of a surface texture and is more irregular than the newer material that has an almost constant texture. When adding onto an existing structure the same kind of stucco texture should be used on the addition that is on the original building in order to maintain consistency.

The use of stucco on the West Campus is limited, but its limited use would start to establish another connection to Central Campus. Again, Ross Hall introduced this material to West Campus.

The use of stucco should be considered a supporting material rather than having large masses of stucco material. The stucco is also typically used above a brick base to the building. For consistency and maintenance concerns, stucco should not be used at ground level.

Campus Standard

El Rey Acrylic Stucco Finish; Deauville, color code 47B-1P



B.5 Paint

The amount of painted surfaces throughout campus has been a problem in the past, and continues to be a problem today because of the maintenance effort required to keep it looking good. The use of painted materials on the exterior of a new construction should be non-existent if possible.

In some cases this may not be practical. The use of painted materials is then limited to factory-finished products that offer a minimum 10-year guarantee. Approval of the material is required before proceeding in this direction.

Only in extreme cases such as historical preservation and restoration will non-factory applied paint surfaces be accepted. During major renovations, painted surfaces should be replaced as much as practical with material not requiring paint or factory painted surfaces.

The colors of paint shall be limited to the following.

• Roof soffit and facsia; white/ tan or other approved color compatible with the building.

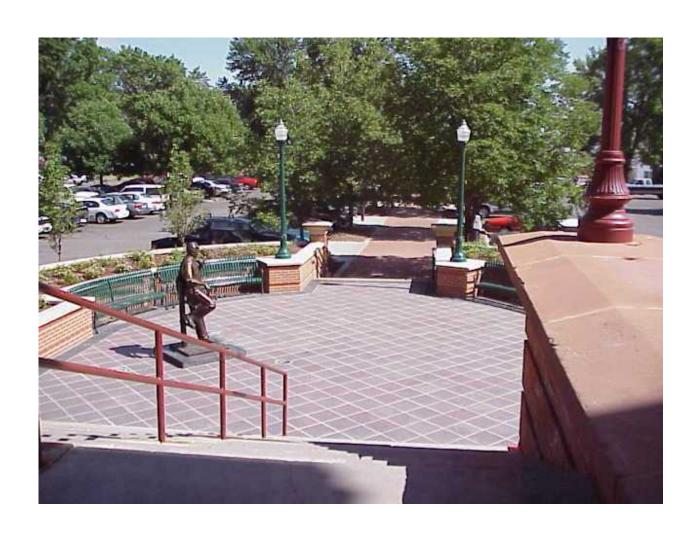


• Metal Railings; White/tan or other approved color compatible with the building.



• Signage will follow the most current signage standards

Section C Site Features



C. Site Features

In addition to establishing guidelines for buildings, it is necessary to make the site features consistent as well. Site features of the campus are as varied as the buildings. Currently, the site features at UNC are minimal at best. There are very few areas that offer an invitation to sit, rest and enjoy the campus. One natural area for these to occur is at building entries, but there are other locations that make sense as well.

The Architectural Standards Committee was also involved in establishing the desired character for the campus. The Campus Landscape Development Plan establishes standards for specific types of landscaping and furnishings that will be incorporated throughout the campus.

The Architectural Standards Committee also looked at various proposed colors for site lighting and furnishings. The choice of the committee was to utilize a dark blue similar to the dark blue found on the current campus signs. A major effort is underway to repaint light poles and as new poles and site furnishings are acquired, they will also be dark blue.

If one believes in the concept of overlaying the current inconsistency with consistency, the site features are one of the most obvious and more easily achieved elements in making an impact on the goal of consistency. The major components of site features include the following.

- 1. Site furnishings
- 2. Special paving
- 3. Entrance gates
- 4. Lighting
- 5. Landscaping
- 6. Parking

Discussion of these elements follows.

C.1 Site Furnishings

The site furnishings on the existing campus are sparsely located and what is there is an eclectic collection of stuff. Some of the more recent construction has introduced some furnishings that may offer some direction for the establishment of the standards. There are also some recent furnishing additions that look quite tacky because of the blue and yellow color that should be repainted.

Site furnishings include a number of items that should be distributed evenly throughout campus. The color for all these elements has been established as a Dark Blue.

Please refer to the Campus Landscape Development Plan for specific products.

C.2 Site Features: Special Paving

The use of special paving began with the development of Cranford Park and has expanded in several areas on both Central and West Campus. The use of special paving has been used primarily to help define the entry to a building, but has also been used in other applications.

Three materials have been used as special paving. The first material is an exposed aggregate concrete found at Cranford Park and at several other locations throughout campus. The second material is a brick paver that closely matches the color of the Ross Hall brick. The third material is a granite paver used in a commemorative plaza area. There may be additional areas that warrant this high level of finish in other areas as the campus continues to grow.





C.3 Site Features: Entrance Gates

There are several areas on the Central Campus that feature entrance gates or other identifying markers. Two of them were given as class gifts to the university. Perhaps an opportunity exists through this means to establish other markers.

There are a few other logical locations for additional gates or markers that identify the campus and provide another consistent design element throughout the campus. The Architectural Standards Committee developed a standard for additional campus markers that should be followed consistently. The corner of 8th Avenue and 17th Street was the first opportunity to apply the new standard.

Campus Standard: Scheffield brick and pre-cast concrete cap to match the Ross Hall materials.









C.4 Site Features: Lighting

The collection of lighting fixtures is also as varied as the building inventory. Various kinds of lights are needed to accomplish various tasks. As renovations occur, the site lighting needs to be upgraded.

Specific lights have been established as standards for various areas on campus. Please refer to the Campus Landscape Development Plan for specifics.



As the site lighting is replaced, consideration should be give to energy conservation and to the principles of the dark sky society to avoid light pollution.

C.5 Site Features: Landscaping

As with nearly everything else on campus, the landscaping has occurred somewhat haphazardly. Early in the campus development, a number of species of trees, not typically found in this region, were planted on Central Campus. This has resulted in having a few of the state record holder trees. Unfortunately, these trees are now mature and serious consideration needs to be given to supplementing the tree inventory so there will be mature size trees available as others reach their life span and have to be removed.

Please refer to the Campus Landscape Development Plan for an in depth discussion of the concepts to utilized throughout the campus.



C.6 Parking

All parking areas shall be subject to the following guidelines and over time existing lots will be redeveloped to incorporate these desired features.

The location of parking throughout the campus needs to be carefully planned to preserve the open green spaces that currently exist. The campus master plan has studied the location of current lots to determine if their current locations are compatible with the future development of the campus. The location of future lots should be compatible with the framework established in the Master plan.

Parking, current and future, on the perimeter of campus areas will be screened from major vehicular and pedestrian routes. All parking lots will be screened through the use of berms and landscaping or low brick walls to minimize the visual impact of the parking area. While not a requirement, it is the goal to meet the City of Greeley standards for parking lot screening.

Lighting will utilize the standard fixtures.

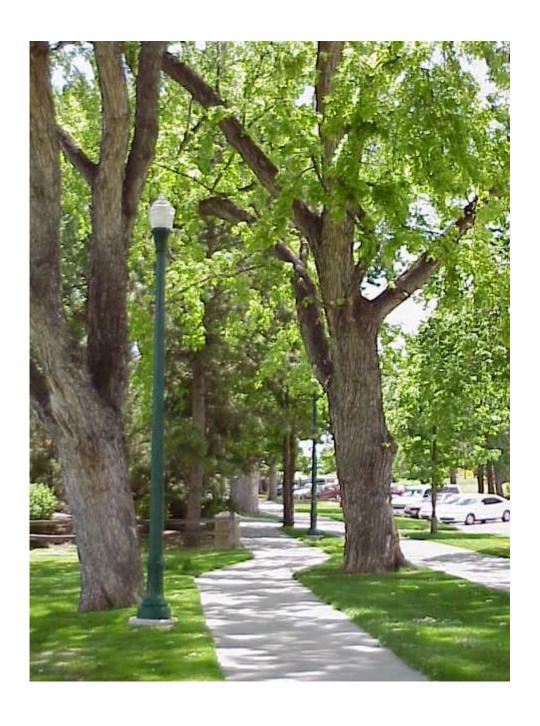
Interior islands at the end of rows and spaced periodically within long rows will be landscaped and include trees to break up the 'shopping center' look. Islands separating rows will also be utilized for landscaping. The City of Greeley parking standards for landscaping and screening of lots can be utilized as a guide.

Sidewalks/walkways will be established to provide a clear path to major adjacent buildings.

Parking structures or additional land acquisition will need to be considered, as the campus develops in order to maintain the open green spaces.



Section D Campus Environment



D. Campus Environment

Provide an environment that is human in scale, environmentally responsible, climatically responsive yet spatially varied, functional, enjoyable and beautiful day and night.

This portion of the document is still being developed. The intent of the section is to address a number of the less tangible concepts that are becoming increasingly more important in the development and daily operation of the campus.

A fairly new concept is "Green Architecture" relating to the design of buildings. "Green Architecture' incorporates various ideas from the amount of energy it takes to manufacture and deliver a product to the building, to the type of packaging of that material, to the use of recycled products and the incorporation of energy saving features.

Lighting; dark skies. This concept deal with the proper selection and installation of lighting fixtures that reduces the amount of light that is directed skyward. Colorado Revised Statutes also calls for control of light pollution.

Energy conservation. While a part of 'Green Architecture' for new or renovated buildings, there are additional opportunities to save energy through the replacement of lighting fixtures and other inefficient mechanical equipment. Roof replacements offer a good opportunity to evaluate the insulation level.

Additional subjects may be added to this section relating to the role of the university as it applies to the good stewardship of the natural and built environment.