



Historic Buildings & Landscapes Tour

11 - Pattern Language

Christopher Alexander, known for his work “A Pattern Language”, helped UO develop their planning process in the 1970s. This was a part of the larger “Oregon Experiment” that brought forth innovations to campus planning, landscape and design. A pattern is “any general planning principle, which states a clear problem that may occur repeatedly in the environment, states the range of contexts in which this problem will occur, and gives the general features required by all buildings or plans which will solve this problem”.

Examples of Patterns, such as “Positive Outdoor Space”, can be seen at **Education**, where the three buildings are connected by positive outdoor space in the center. Positive outdoor space is important for building design because it embraces the outdoor space that it creates. The space becomes a means of connecting multiple entrances and serves as a path to other outdoor space and is not merely leftover by building development.

12 - The University of Oregon's Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art was constructed in 1930 and is listed in the National Register. Designed by Ellis Lawrence, the art museum is classified as “Exotic” with its Romanesque, Gothic, Islamic, Eclectic, and Modernistic influences. The front façade is an outstanding example of the use of decorative brick and cast stone to achieve rich textural effects, a device Lawrence employed to compensate for the windowless design of the original building.

13 - Around the 1920s, the university experienced a tremendous increase in female student enrollment. Lawrence designed new women's dormitories, **Hendricks and Susan Campbell Halls**, and a physical education building, Gerlinger Hall, all listed in the National Register, to form the Women's Quad. In 1930, the “Pioneer Mother” statue (removed June 2020) was sited here by Alexander Phimster Proctor. The building, its surrounding trees and shrubs and the curvilinear walkways, are considered to be “a fine and rare example of a collegiate building group in the Georgian Style”.

14 - The Women's Memorial Hall, Gerlinger Hall was built in 1919 and, in addition to the women's gym, the location for the Department of Household Arts, the Infirmary, and where all women's organizations could meet. The hall was named after Irine H. Gerlinger, who was the first woman on the UO's Board of Regents. She initiated a fundraiser that led to the building's development in 1915.

The building is decorated with brick quoins and pilasters, soldier belt course, iron balconies with French doors and large multi-pane windows. The original Women's Gym is now the home of the Dance Department.

If possible, don't miss the Gerlinger Lounge on the second floor of the East side of the building, as it is a historically preserved interior.

15 - Straub Hall was another building designed by Ellis Lawrence in 1928. The building was designed in the Colonial Revival style along with Education to exemplify its secondary importance to campus. Straub was home to the Men's Dormitory that was self sustainable with dining rooms, a central kitchen and electrical and storage rooms in the basement. It now houses large lecture halls and the Psychology Department. If possible, enter the building to see the entry lobby with its lunette paintings and the adjacent original dining hall converted to a seating area.

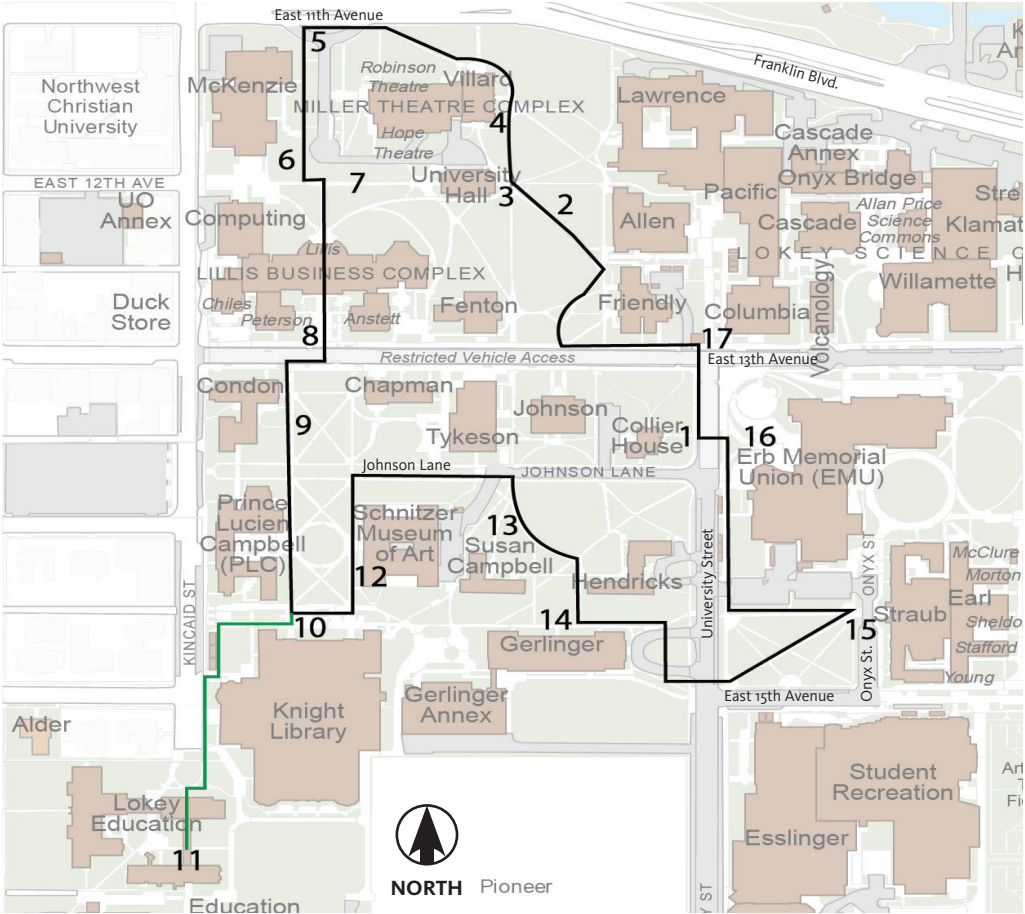
Mid-Century Era

Near the end of the Second World War the University of Oregon's enrollment almost tripled to 6,467 students between 1944-1946. The campus grew to 202 acres. Following Lawrence's death in 1946, an assortment of architects designed buildings in a range of expressions without a master plan to follow.

Throughout the 1950s new construction included dormitories and a number of academic buildings, many of which were influenced by the International Modernist movement. This prevalent style of the time took advantage of a variety of exterior materials readily available, including steel, glass, and concrete as seen at McKenzie Hall, the 6th stop on this tour.

16 - The Erb Memorial Union, located in the heart of campus is the physical, social, and political center of the University. From its opening date in the 1950s, the EMU has thrived in providing a place for students to grow, learn and spend quality time with their peers. By the end of the 1960s the use of the EMU was beyond its capacity as the student population had more than doubled since 1950. In 1972, the EMU went under a major renovation including the updating of the heart of the EMU, “The Fishbowl”. A fun fact about the EMU is that it is featured in the movie National Lampoon's Animal House (1978), where the characters get into a food fight in the dining center, known to students as the “Fishbowl.” In the later 1990s, the ASUO initiated the project to create a amphitheater and stage that is still there today.

17 - Today, **13th Avenue** is a pedestrian-only street because a student protest in 1971 closed the avenue to through traffic. Before the protest, a continual flow of city traffic and logging trucks bisected the campus, but today it serves as the main east-west pedestrian and bike axis on campus. Street trees are the primary historic feature associated with the 13th Avenue Axis from its days as a busy city arterial. Originally boardwalks lined the Avenue and an electric streetcar ran on tracks down the middle.



University of Oregon

Self-guided Tour, Updated April 2021

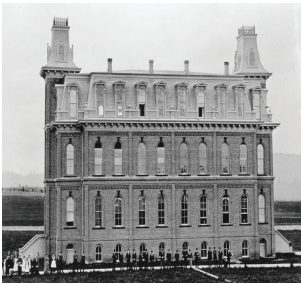
Extended tour is denoted by the green route which will add approximately 20 minutes to the hour long tour.

Visit the Campus Planning, Design and Construction website for more information on the university's sustainability initiatives and other campus tours: <https://cpfm.uoregon.edu/self-guided-campus-tours>

Tours available on the **UOregon App**



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON



Land Acknowledgment: *The University of Oregon is located within the traditional homelands of the Southern Kalapuya. Following the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855, Kalapuya people were forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon.*

Inception Era (1876-1913)

This first era marks the establishment and early development of the university with the construction of the first building in 1876 (University Hall).



1 - The Collier House was built in 1886 and served as the home to Dr. George Haskell Collier, a physics professor at the university from 1879-1895. Dr. Collier had purchased 9.5 acres on the edge of campus for his family’s residence. Soon after the house was completed, it played a central role for community gatherings, meetings, and parties. In 1900 the Board of Regents voted to have it permanently house the university president. In 1976 it was designated a Eugene City Historic Landmark and survives as a remnant of the late-Victorian era of Eugene’s development.



2 - The Old Campus Quadrangle was the center of the original 18-acre campus and is home to the oldest buildings on campus, such as the first dormitory, Friendly Hall (1893) to the east, the first library, Fenton Hall (1906) to the west, and the administration building, Johnson Hall (1915) across 13th Ave. The “Pioneer” statue (remove June 2020) was designed by Alexander Phimster Proctor (1919).



The Old Campus Quadrangle is illustrative of the Picturesque Era of campus planning. Once a barren knoll, it was planted with trees, the majority of which were coniferous, and lawns, providing the informal forest-like appearance seen today. The eastern sidewalk between Fenton and University Halls is known as “Hello Walk” because everyone was obligated to say “Hello” on this once central and active walkway. As you approach the third stop, notice the Big Leaf Maple tree in front of the University Hall east entrance. It is the only remaining “Dollar Tree” planted in 1884 by the university’s janitor under an agreement in which he was paid \$1 for every tree planted and another \$1 if it survived.



3 - The first building on the university campus, **University Hall**, was built in 1876. University Hall is a National Historic Landmark, the highest ranking for any historic building. It is one of only fifteen in Oregon. University Hall was designed with staircases at separate ends of the building—one for men and one for women.



The original wood floors were two feet thick and filled with earth to deaden sound and provide a source of radiant heat after the wood stoves cooled down. The building looks much like it did when it was originally constructed with the exception of missing wooden decorative elements and the sand paint finish applied in 1891 to match Villard Hall (to the north of University Hall).



4 - Another National Historic Landmark, **Villard Hall**, was the second building constructed on the campus in 1886. Villard was designed in the Second Empire style with a dual-pitched mansard roof and ornate decorative elements on the building’s facade. Notice the similarity in styles between Villard Hall and University Hall. Both buildings have benefited from meticulous restoration work assisted by Historic Preservation graduate students.



In addition, notice the Oregon Oak, known as the Condon Oak, the last of the three original Oregon Oaks at the north end of the Old Campus Quadrangle. When the university was established, these three were the only trees on this once barren knoll.



5 - The University Hall Walk Axis connects the Eugene community to the first university building, University Hall. Around 1896 the allée of Douglas fir trees was planted on either side of the concrete walk. Underfoot you will notice historic concrete sections with inscriptions from past annual University Days—a continuing tradition for students, faculty, and staff to join together and spruce up the campus.



Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

6 - McKenzie Hall was completed in 1970 to house the Law School, which had outgrown its previous home, Fenton Hall. With its exposed concrete construction, it was intended to be a modernist interpretation of Fenton. McKenzie Hall is a fine example of the Brutalist style with its over-scale geometric massing and use of roughcast concrete for a textural effect. Currently the building houses a mix of academic departments and classrooms.



Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)

The second era of development began when Ellis F. Lawrence was hired in 1914 to be the University of Oregon’s architect and dean of the new school of art and architecture (now College of Design). Lawrence developed the university’s first master plan in 1914 expanding the 100-acre campus south of 13th Avenue and integrating the Gothic quadrangular plan with the axial arrangement espoused by the Beaux-Arts style.



This era sparked the creation of formal arrangements on campus. Frederick A. Cuthbert, hired in 1933 to start the department of landscape architecture and to serve as the university’s landscape architect, collaborated with Lawrence on many projects.



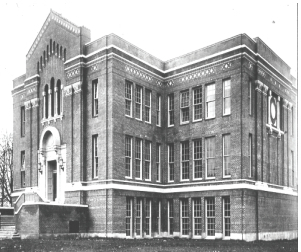
7 - The Dads’ Gates Axis was to be one of Ellis F. Lawrence’s formal entries to the campus, connecting 11th Avenue to 13th Avenue and the Memorial Quadrangle. It was planned to be an important entry point since the train was to stop where the current EmX transit station is located. Dads’ Gates to the north is a rare example of quality ironwork in Eugene and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



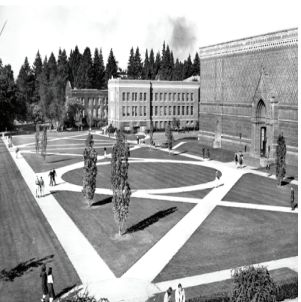
Subsequent development has done little to reinforce this axis; however, the Lillis Business Complex acknowledges the axis through Lillis Hall’s glazed atrium providing a connection to and view of the Memorial Quad beyond.



8 - Peterson and Anstett Halls were designed as twin “entry pylons” for the Memorial Quadrangle. Peterson Hall (1916) and Anstett Hall (1921) were designed in Exotic styles reserved for primary campus buildings, while secondary campus buildings were designed in the colonial style.



Peterson Hall, formerly the Education Building and then Oregon Hall, was the first of many campus buildings designed by Ellis Lawrence during his tenure as campus planner and architect from 1914-1946. Anstett Hall was formerly Commerce Hall, then Gilbert Hall.



9 - As early as 1914, the **Memorial Quadrangle** was part of Ellis Lawrence’s campus plan to be a more formally designed campus open space. It continues to function as an active and well-liked space within the academic core. The distinctive ‘X’ and ‘O’ paths of the quad, along with the Knight Library’s terrace and fountain, were designed by Frederick Cuthbert in 1932. The Memorial Quadrangle and Knight Library are both listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



10 - Knight Library, is located at the southern terminus of the Memorial Quad. The library, built in 1937, has been referred to as Oregon’s best example of integrated art and architecture. It is the most fully executed of Lawrence’s buildings, incorporating sculpture, painting, and metalwork, much done by students, graduates, and professors. Take a walk through the library’s front section to experience the interior metalwork and artwork.