

DENORVAL UNTHANK JR.

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

1960s

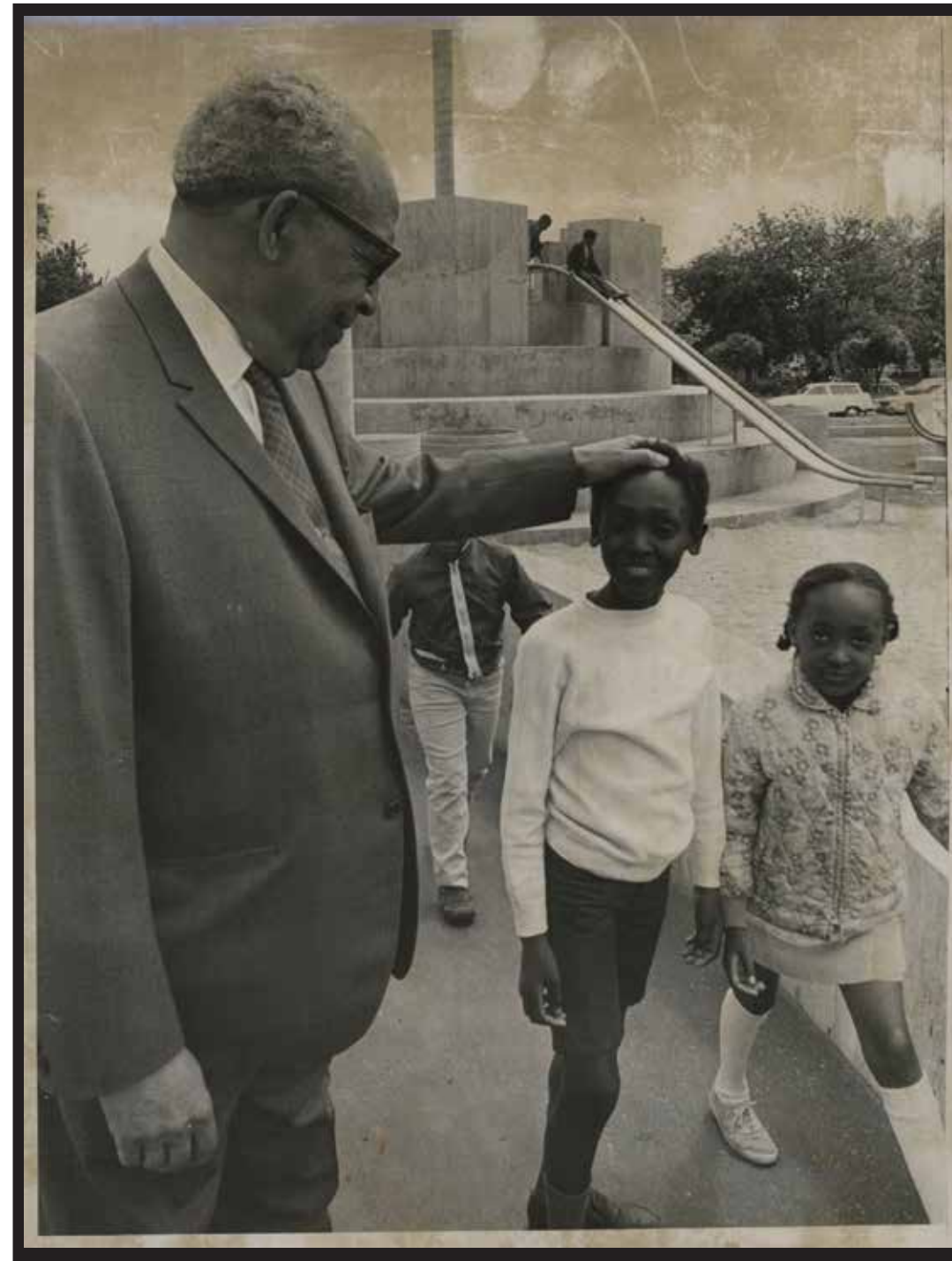
1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

1929: Denorval Unthank Jr. is born in Kansas City, MO on October 27th



DeNorval Unthank Sr. and children (date unknown)



The then all-white Portland neighborhood of Ladd's Addition was one of the first places Unthank and his family called home in Oregon (date unknown)

1946: Graduates high school and attends his father's alma matter, Howard University in Washington, D.C.



Lawrence Hall, home of University of Oregon's architecture program (1984)

1948: Transfers to the University of Oregon to study architecture

1951: Marries his first wife Doris Burgess

1952: Graduates from UO architecture program, and begins partnership with Dick Chambers as Chambers Unthank Design Build Firm

1955: Begins working with Wilmsen Endicott Architects

1960: Unthank becomes principal at Wilmsen Endicott

1963-64: Acting Vice President of Oregon Council of Architects AIA

1965: Begins lecturing at the University of Oregon

1968: Begins his partnership with Otto Poticha and Grant Seder, founding Unthank Seder Poticha Architects

1972: Becomes an associate professor at University of Oregon

1986: Firm becomes Unthank Poticha Waterbury Architects

1993: Unthank Seder Poticha Architects transitions into Unthank Waterbury

2000: Passes away due to cancer

2015: Name is added to plaque located in Lawrence Hall, and a Faculty Excellence Award is made in his name

2021: The University of Oregon new dormitory building and welcome center named "Unthank Hall" in DeNorval's honor

Chambers Unthank Design Build

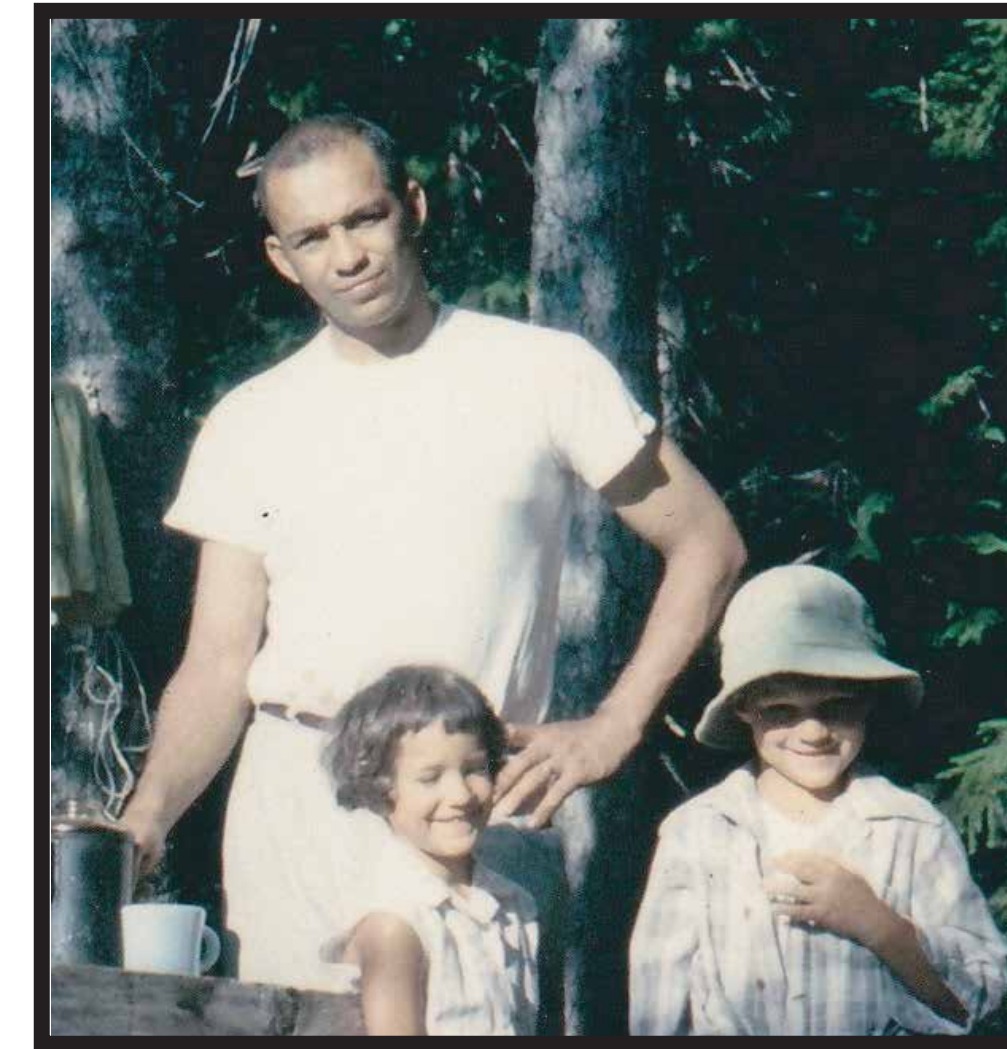
Wilmsen & Endicott Architects

Wilmsen Endicott Unthank Architects

Unthank Seder Poticha Architects

Unthank Poticha Waterbury Architects

Unthank Waterbury Architects



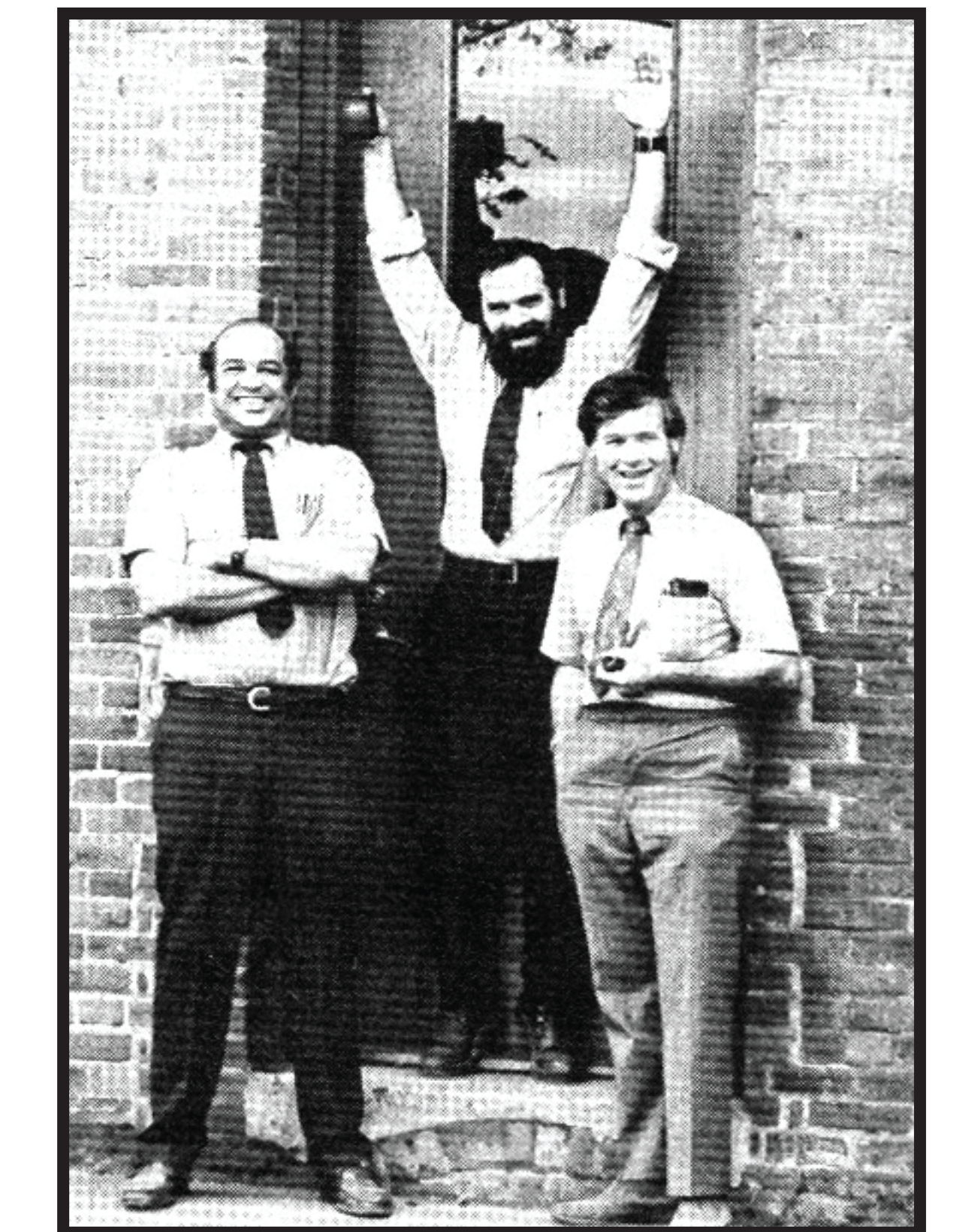
DeNorval Unthank Jr. and his children at Spirit Lake, Washington (date unknown)



Unthank at the Crasemann House (date unknown)



Unthank contributes to the Albina Housing Project; here he works with the Portland Urban League to develop affordable housing (date unknown)



DeNorval Unthank Jr., Otto Poticha, and Grant Seder (date unknown)



The university unveils a new dormitory and student welcome center honoring DeNorval Unthank Jr.'s legacy (2021)

MCKENZIE HALL HISTORY

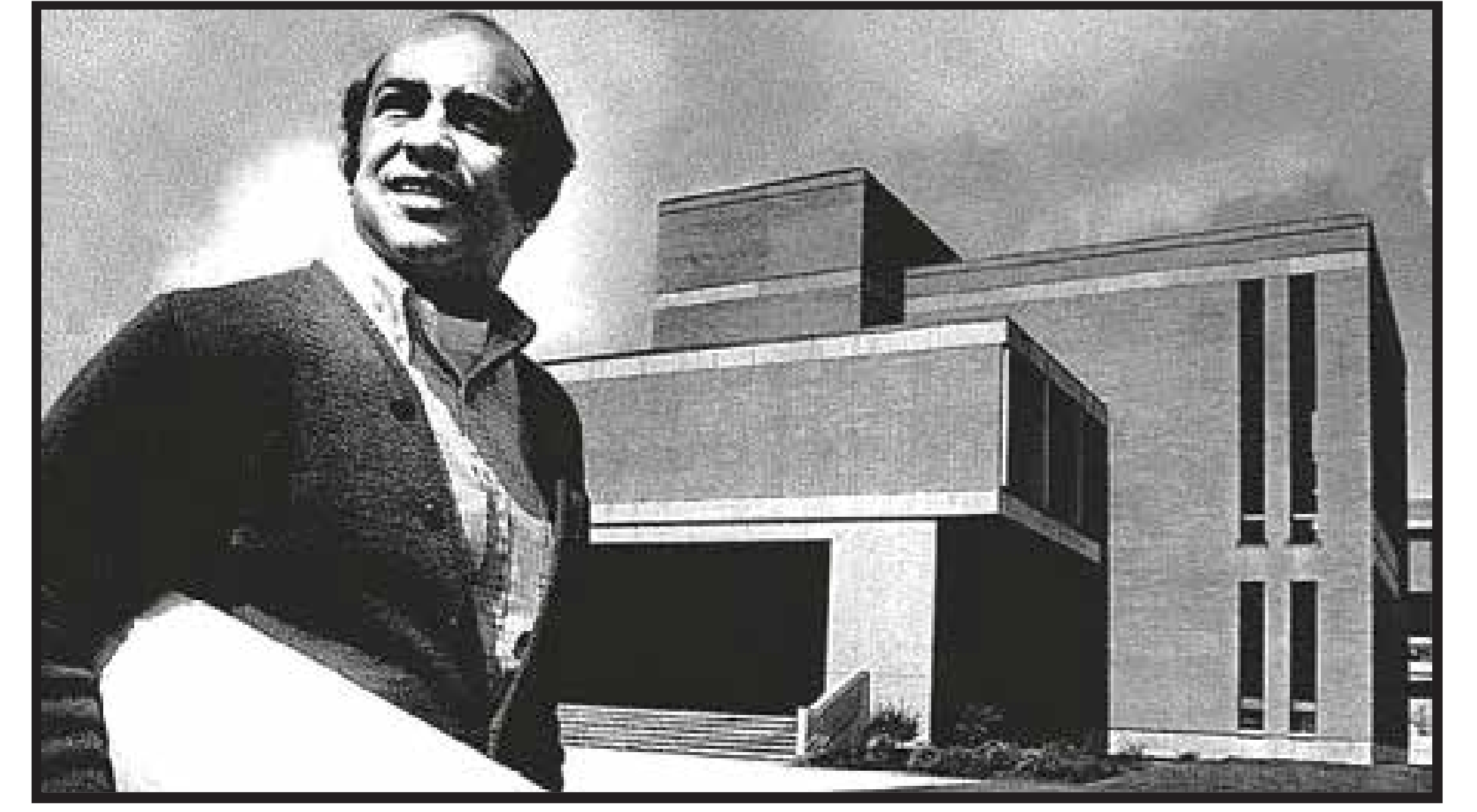
1960s

1968: Wilmsen Endicott and Unthank hired as design team

1968: Groundbreaking



McKenzie Hall groundbreaking ceremony (1968)



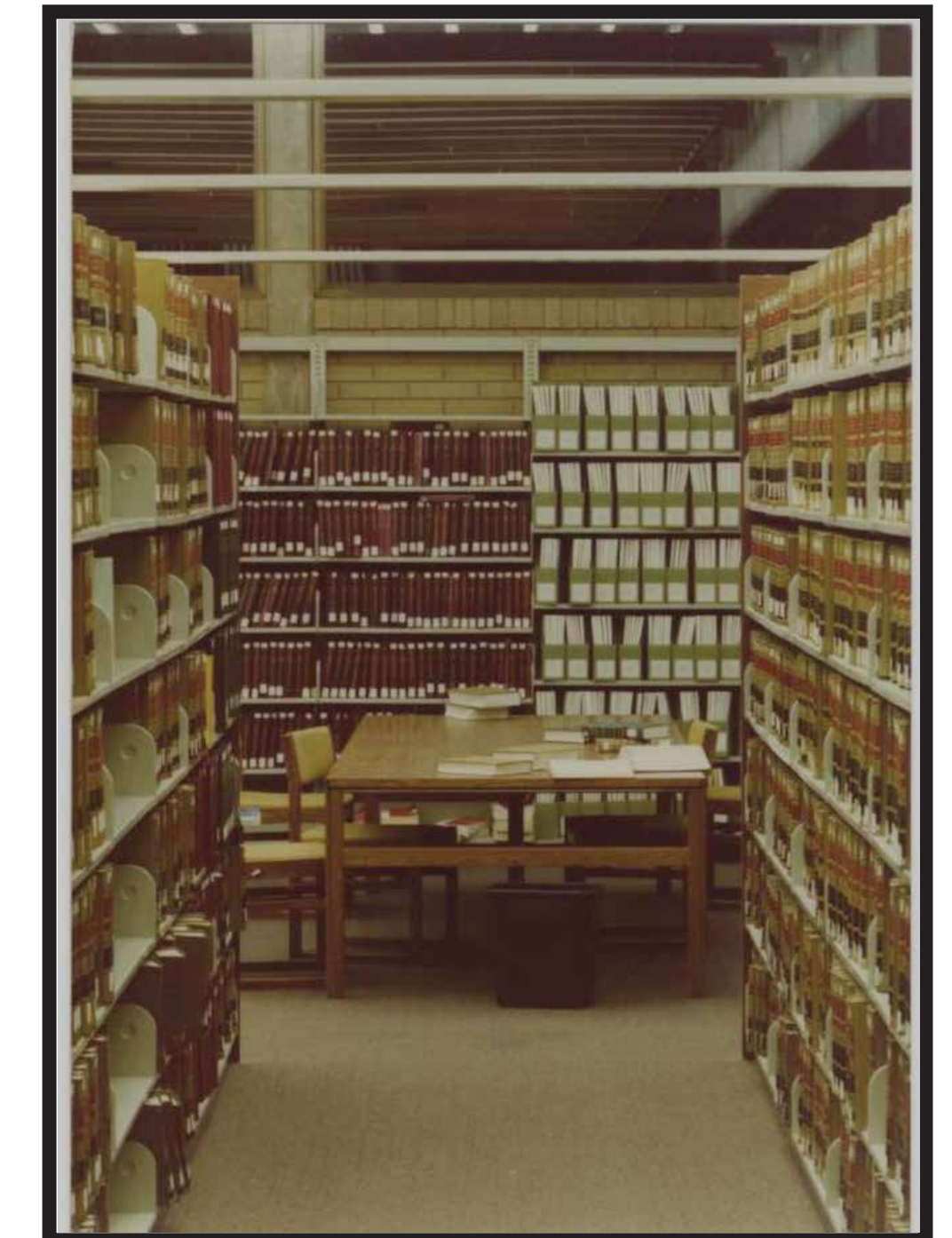
Unthank in front of McKenzie Hall (Date Unknown)

1970s

1971: The Law Center officially opens



McKenzie Hall's Mock Courtrooms (1971)

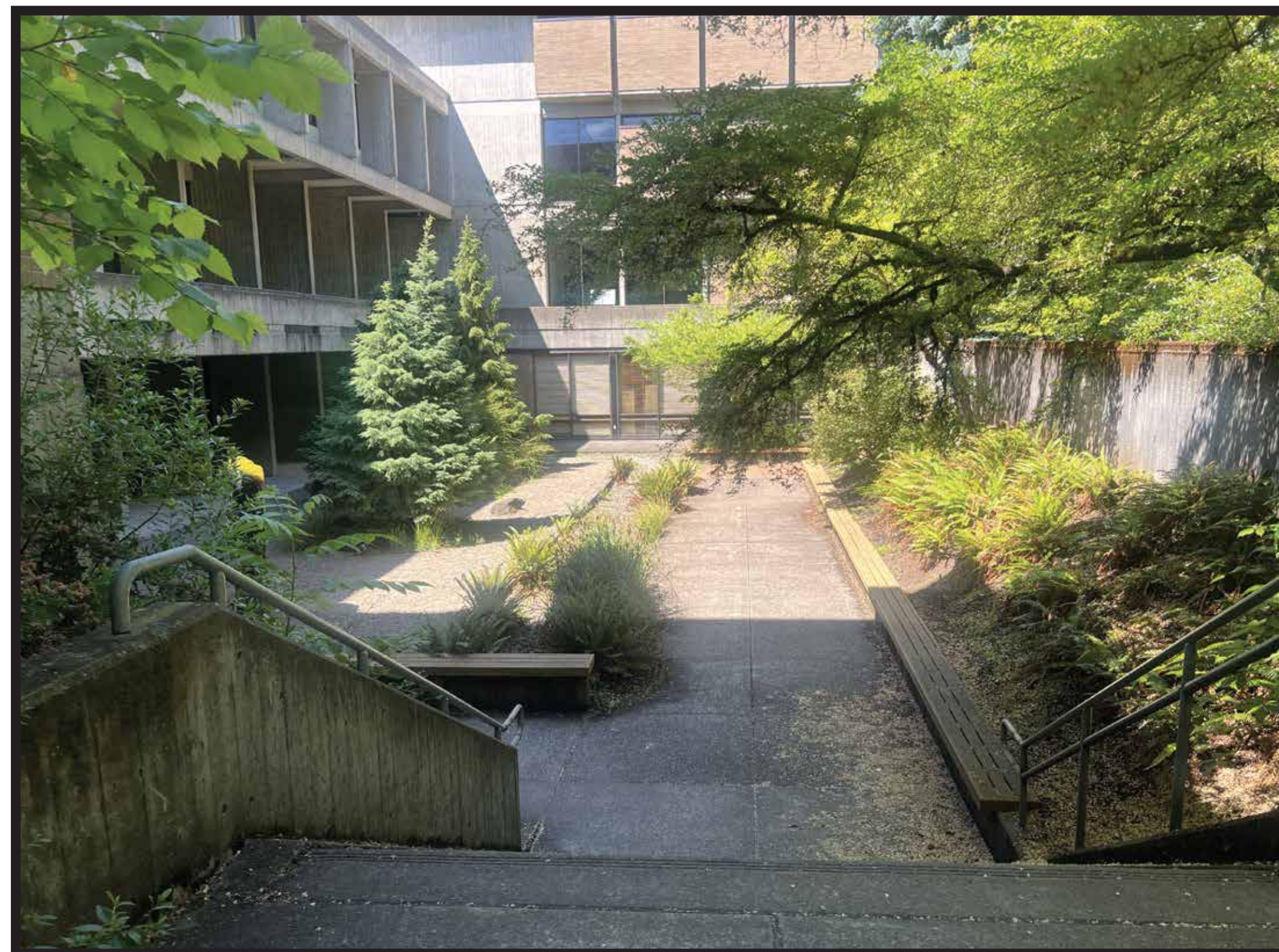


McKenzie/Grayson Hall Law Library (1971)

1980s

1990s

1992: 600 sq.ft. office addition & remodel on first floor of Law Center



McKenzie Hall Sunken Courtyard (2024)



McKenzie Hall Sunken Courtyard (1971)

2000s

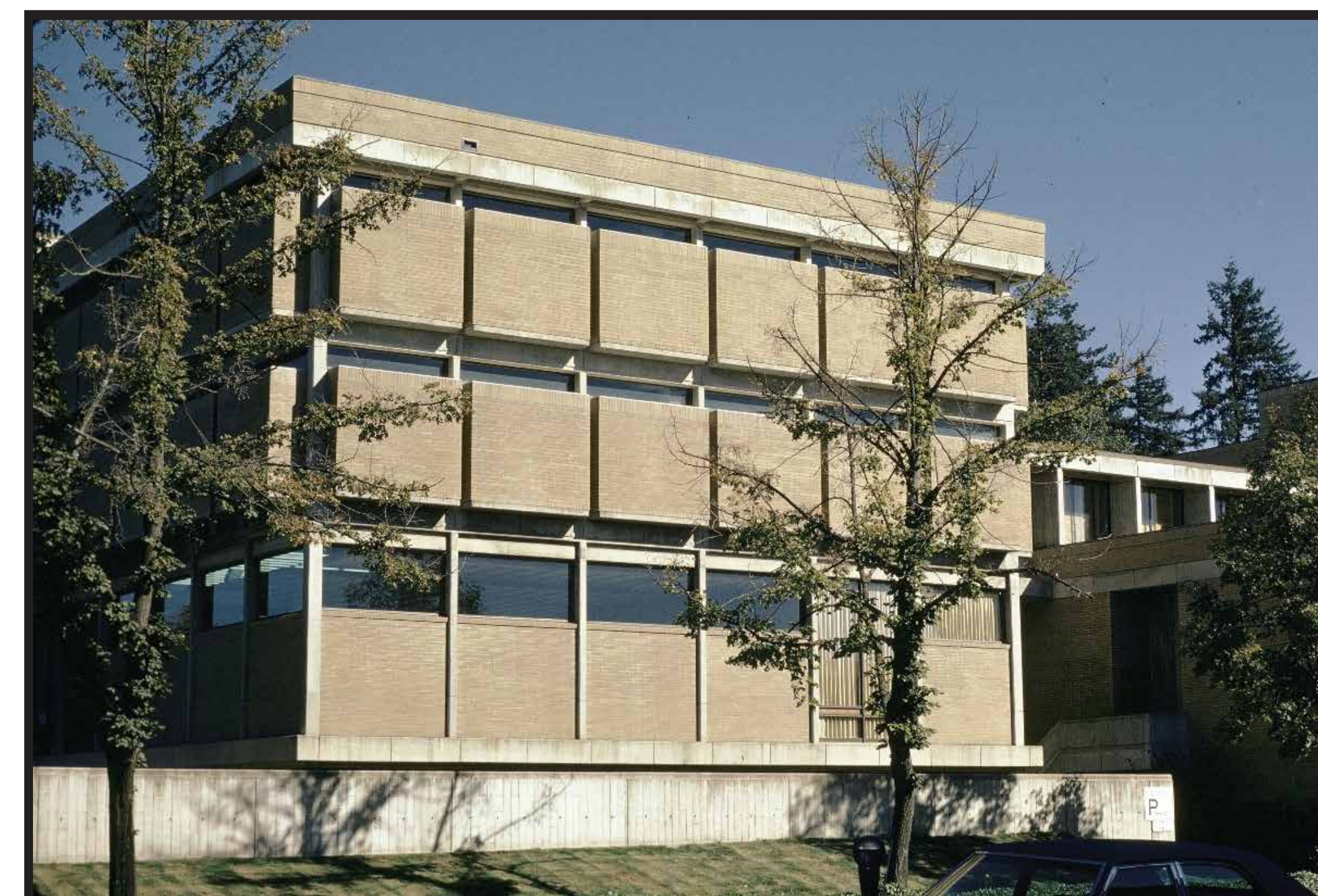
1997: Building renamed to Grayson Hall

1999: Law Center relocates to East Campus - site renovations follow suit later that year

2001: Building becomes home to the Department of History

2001: McKenzie Hall's Computing Center occupies the building; name changes to Information Services in 2008

2002: Building renamed to McKenzie Hall



McKenzie Hall West Facade (1970)



Event held in the Sunken Courtyard (1971)

2010s

2017: Yamada Language Center relocates to McKenzie Hall



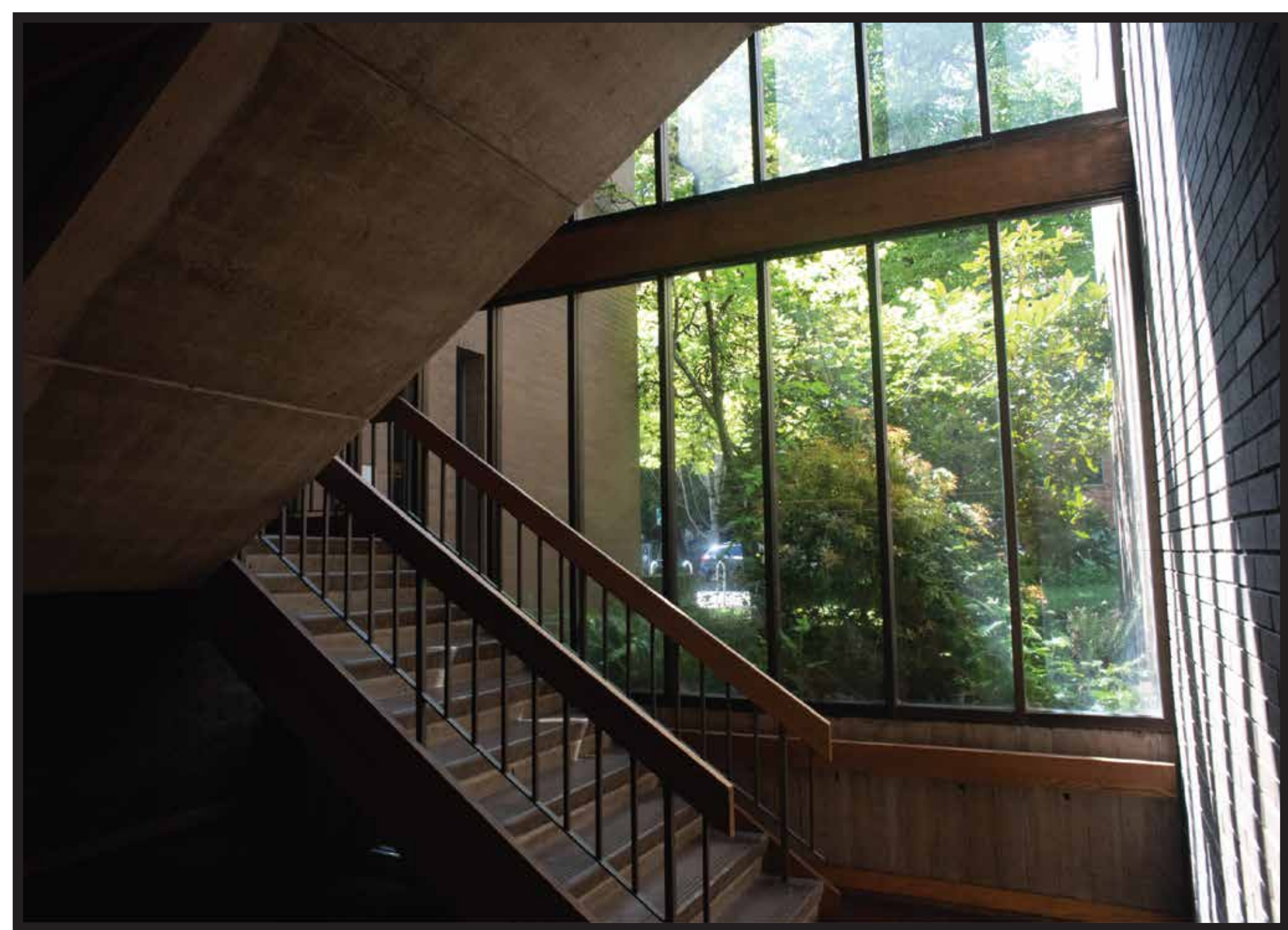
Yamada Language Center as seen from the Sunken Courtyard (2025)



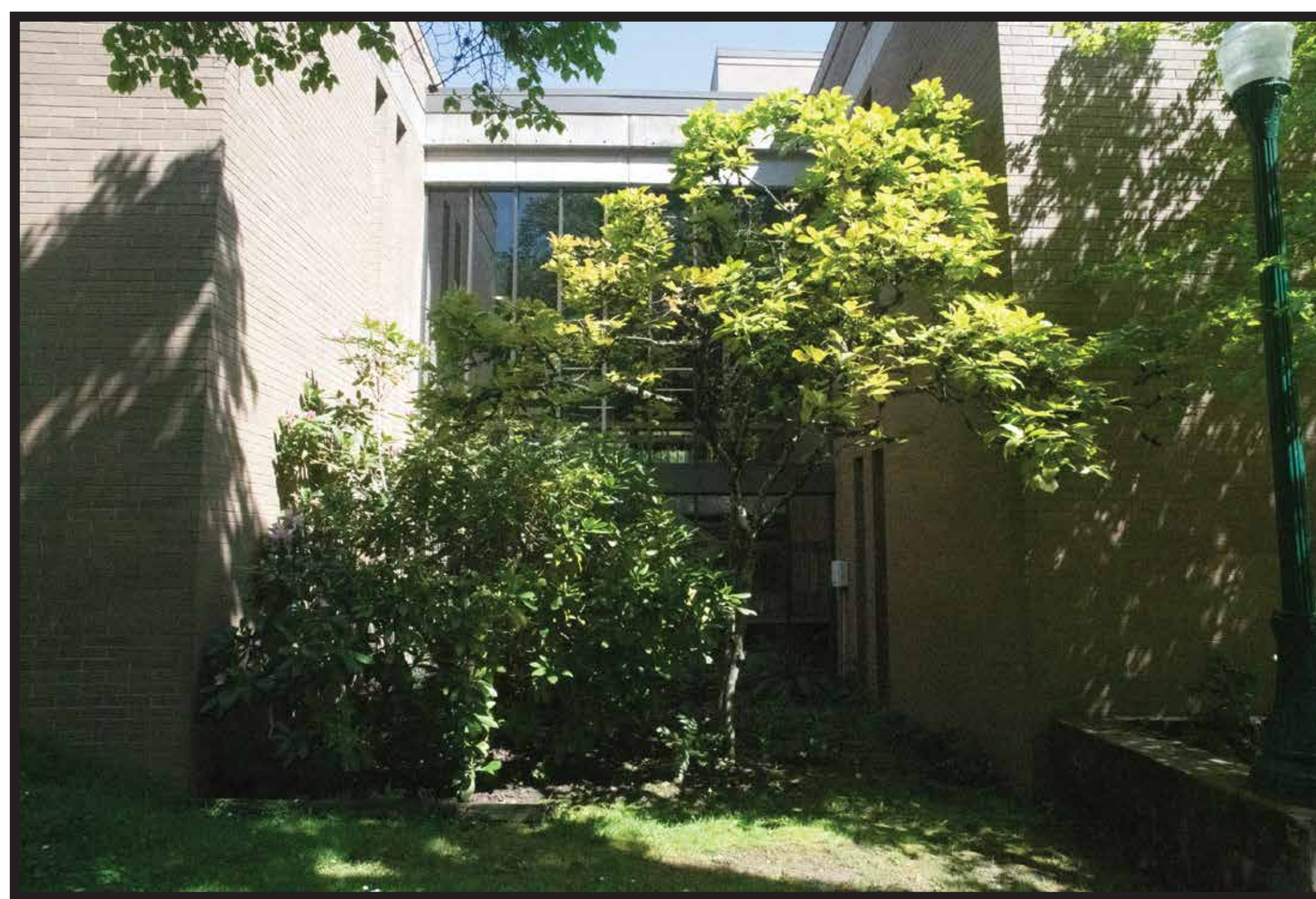
Students around McKenzie South Facade/Entrance (2005)

2020s

MCKENZIE HALL DISTINGUISHING FEATURES



Wood features such as handrails and window panels compliment the buildings predominant concrete and brick



The emphasis on directing natural light into key points of focus or usage exemplifies the regional Pacific Northwest approach to architectural design

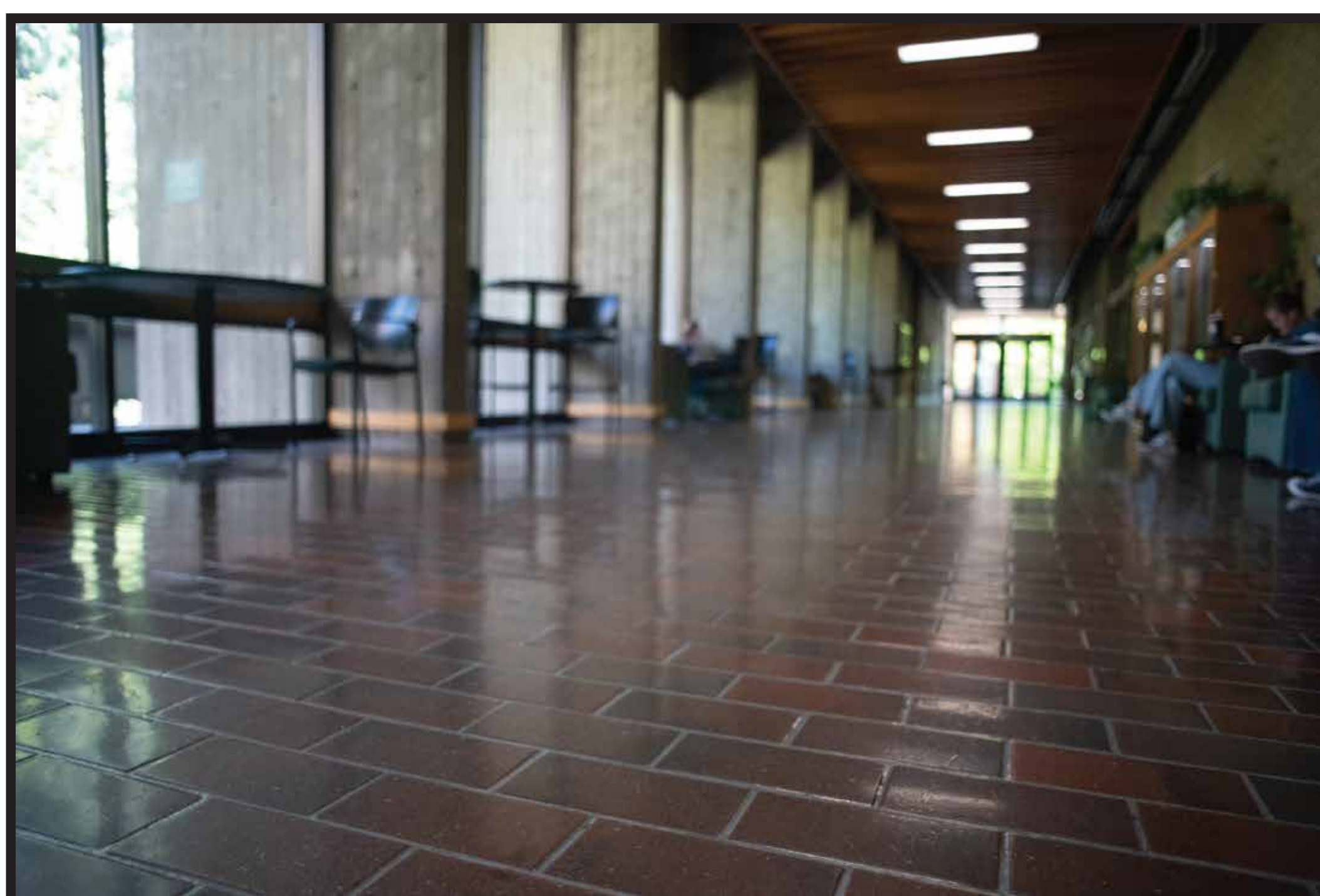


The sunken courtyard/zen garden was reconfigured from a student research survey. The landscape features vegetation native to the Pacific Northwest and blends with Japanese style design choices

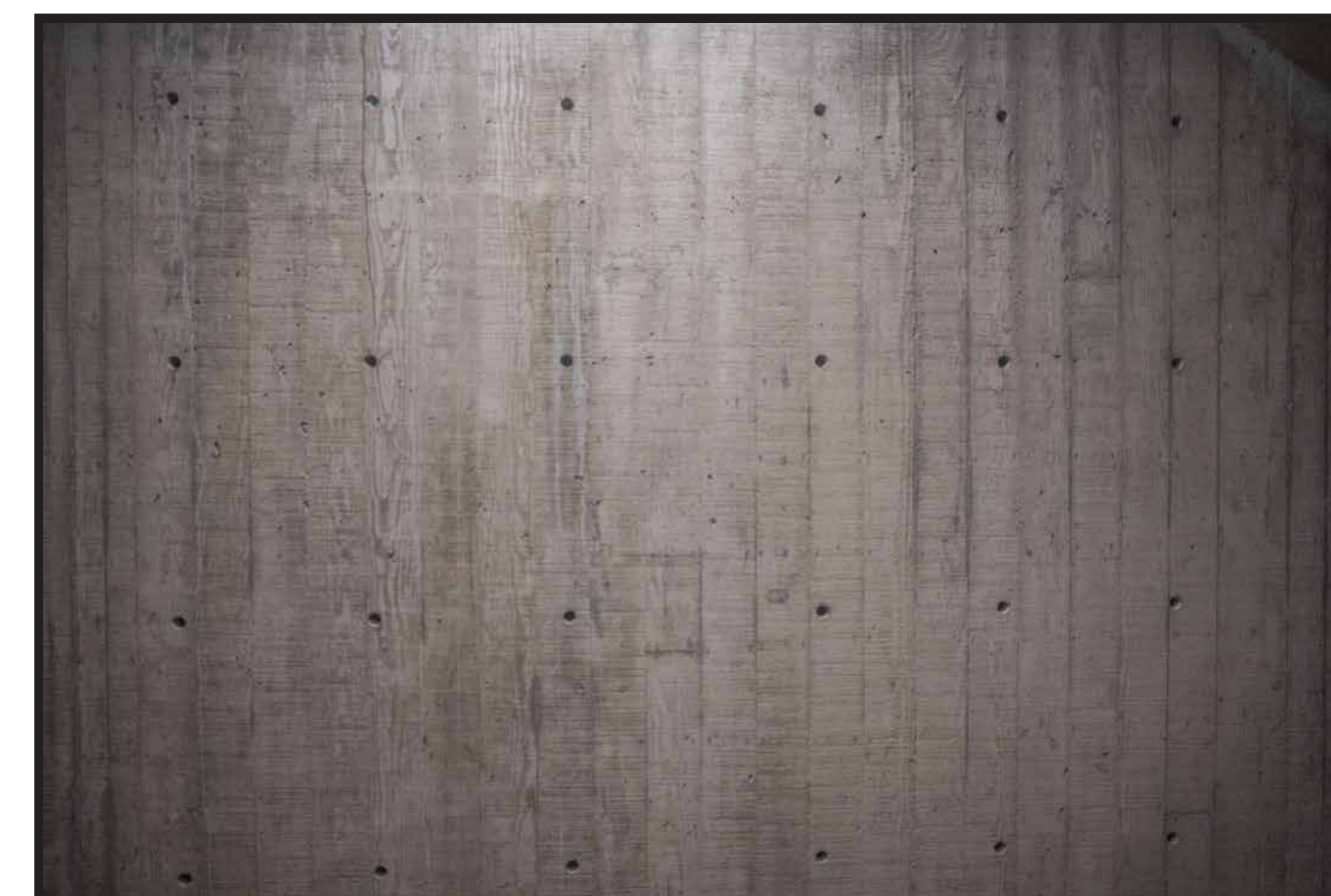
Relationship to Nature



This choice of brick reflects back to the original home of the Law Department and Law Library previously housed at Fenton Hall. The yellow brick mimics the Italian Renaissance design influences of Fenton Hall. Changes in brick orientation denote floor divisions



McKenzie's unique red glazed tile flooring contrast with the color of the exterior brick, and reflects the natural light the building's form welcomes in, creating a sense of balance between the materials and the outdoors



Vertical board-form concrete, a popular construction technique of the brutalist architectural style, is employed extensively. The technique speaks to the value placed on the truth of materials used

Materials and Texture



Upon entering McKenzie, occupants are greeted with symmetry that mirrors the geometry of the West facade, and draws attention outside towards the Sunken Courtyard



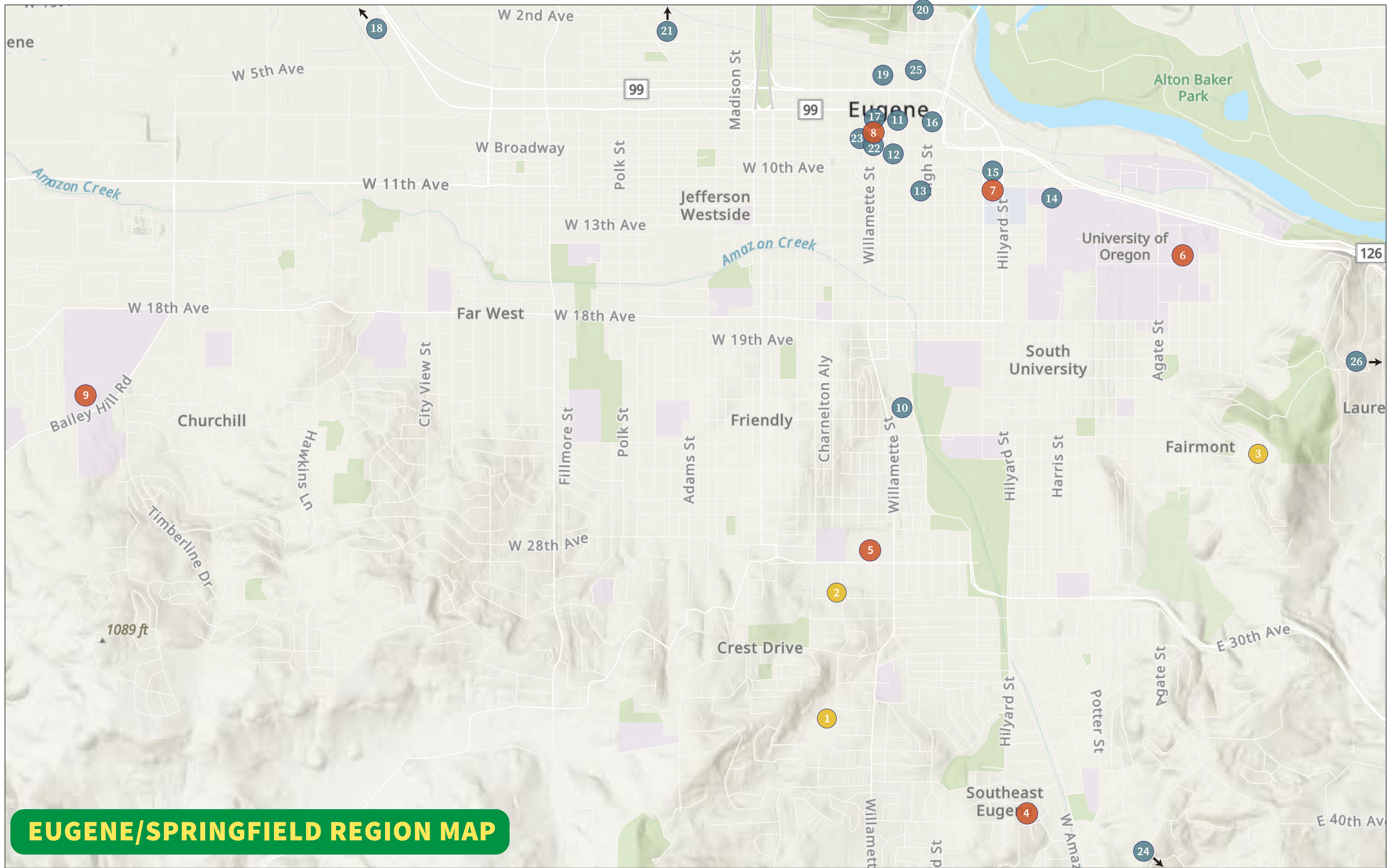
Geometric massings direct light from the West facade into the second floor hallways and third floor office spaces



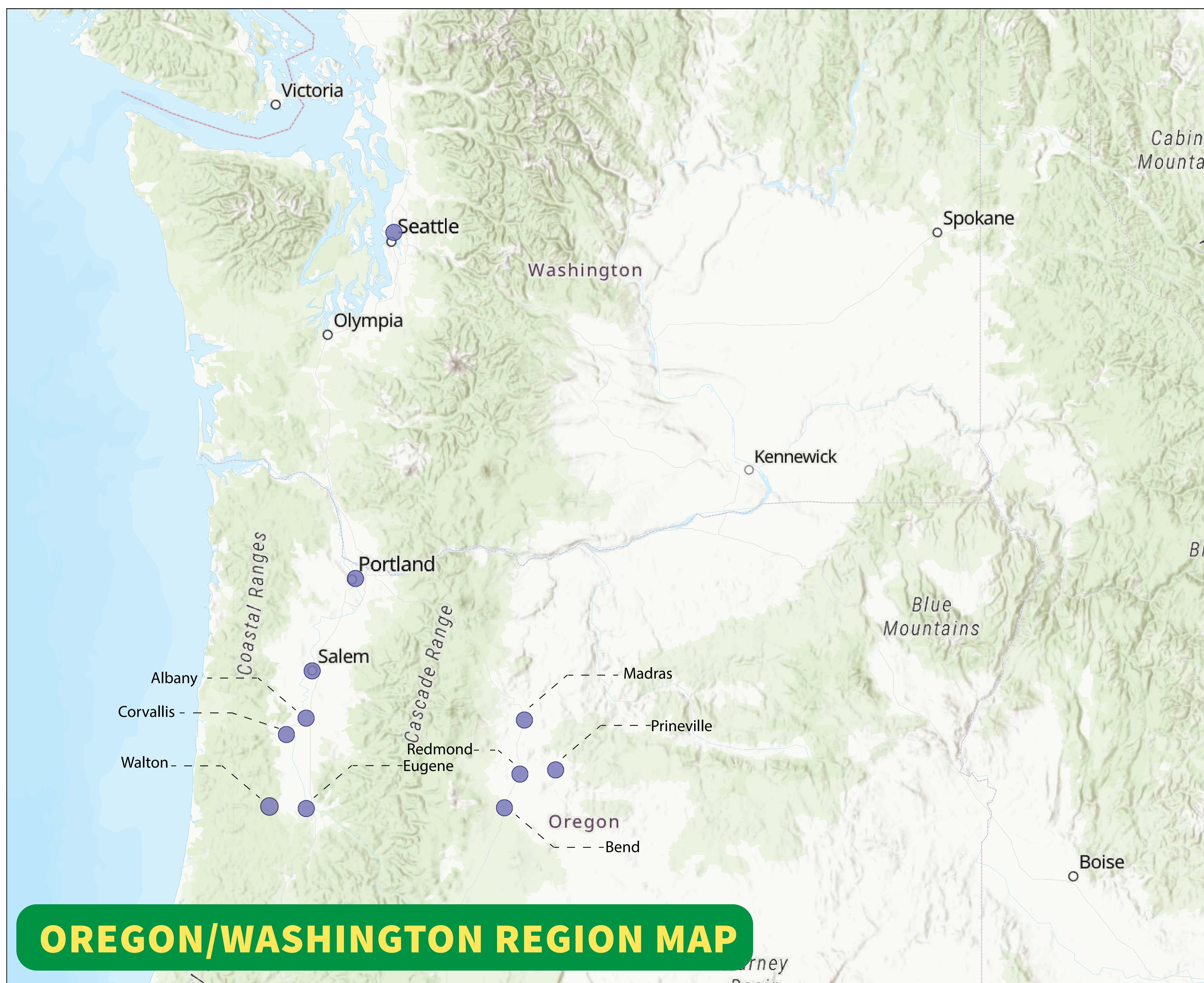
Originally used as study alcoves, some of the buildings isolated bump outs have been adapted for graduate employee offices

Form and Visual Patterns

MAP OF ARCHITECTURAL WORKS



EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD REGION MAP



OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION MAP

KEY *Partial list of architectural works

- 1952-1955 Chambers Construction
 - 1. Residence
 - 2. Residence
 - 3. Residence
- 1955-1968 Wilmsen Endicott & Unthank
 - 4. Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
 - 5. US Bank 29th and Willamette
 - 6. Justice Bean Hall
 - 7. Riley Hall
 - 8. US Bank Downtown
 - 9. JFK Jr. Middle School
- 1968-1993 Unthank Seder Poticha Architects
 - 10. Parkway-Willamette Prof Bldg.
 - 11. Lane County Public Service Building
 - 12. Sahlstrom Office Building
 - 13. High Street Office Bldg.
 - 14. McKenzie Hall (Former UO Law Center)
 - 15. Slocum Medical Office Bldg.
 - 16. The Forum Building
 - 17. The Smeede
 - 18. Lane Education District Bldg
 - 19. The Bus Barn
 - 20. High Street Row Houses
 - 21. Whiteaker Community Council
 - 22. Danish Imports
 - 23. Rubenstein's Eugene
 - 24. LCC Performing Arts Bldg.
 - 25. The Granary Building
 - 26. Lane Transit District

INTERACTIVE PROMPTS

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS DOWN ON A STICKY NOTE AND PLACE IT ON THE BOARD!

What space(s) in McKenzie Hall are you most drawn to?

What features of McKenzie Hall are most interesting to you?

Do you have any interesting stories or experiences related to McKenzie Hall?