UO Week of Welcome



Building On A Hill 1876

1. The UO campus began on eighteen acres formerly known as Shaw Hill, a bluff near the Willamette River. Deady Hall was the first building occupying the high point in a broad empty field. The only trees on campus were three oaks to the north of Villard Hall; one still stands today. Instead of a carefully kept lawn, the whole campus was native grasses where wild strawberries bloomed in season. During the early years all travel to and from the university was up 12th Avenue and up the broad walk, the first formal entrance leading straight to the college steps. Villard was constructed in 1885, and Collier House was completed in 1886. Five buildings from this era remain today (Deady, Villard, Friendly, Fenton, and Collier) and form what is known as the "Old Campus Quad."

Buildings Around Quadrangles

2. Dads' Gates were originally conceived by Ellis Lawrence to be a formal entry into campus, connecting a proposed train station at the north on 11th Avenue to Lawrence's proposed auditorium, which eventually became the library. Fred Cuthbert, through his plans of 1939 and 1940, emphasized the axis between 11th and 13th, adding trees and a path. Commonwealth bridge, built in 1952, was in the same location as Lillis Hall, which, in effect, closed off the axis. The grand entrance and atrium of Lillis is meant to be a reinterpretation of Lawrence's and Cuthbert's vision, allowing for the same visual connection.

McKenzie Hall, built in 1970, is of the "Buildings as Objects" era and was the original home of the Law School. It is an example of the Brutalist style with its overscale geometric play of shapes and the "brutal" use of building materials in their unfinished state.

3. Ellis Lawrence developed the first master plan of the campus in 1914 and aggressively expanded the 100-acre campus south of 13th Avenue, integrating a combination of the Gothic quadrangular plan with the axial arrangement espoused by the Beaux-Arts style. This period marks a substantial period of development for the university. During this time a large section of the campus was planned, constructed, and populated with a great number of buildings. It is one of the university's most definitive periods.

When Lawrence arrived on campus, 13th Avenue was a public street. The only campus buildings located along 13th were the Boy's Gym, Friendly Hall, Collier House, and Fenton Hall. A baseball field was located on the site of the Memorial Quad, Chapman Hall, and Condon Hall. Tennis courts occupied the site of Johnson Hall, and residences were located on 13th east of University Street. Boardwalks lined the avenue, and an electric streetcar ran on tracks down the middle.

Peterson Hall was constructed in 1916 and was Lawrence's first building to be built on campus. Gilbert Hall was completed in 1921, and together they formed the "front pillars" that mark Lawrence's vision of a grand axial view that initiated at Dads' Gates and eventually terminated at the head of the Memorial Quad.

Condon Hall and Chapman Hall mark the northern corners of the quad. Condon was built in 1925; its counterpart, Chapman, was built in 1939, funded by the Public Works Administration. Both were designed by Lawrence and play a pivotal role as the anchors of the Memorial Quad. The lower level of Chapman Hall used to house the UO Bookstore and is now occupied by the Graduate School. It was also Lawrence's last work on the quadrangle, one of six (Condon Hall, Knight Library, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Chapman Hall, Peterson Hall, and Gilbert Hall).

4. The Library and Art Museum sat in a great open lawn that stretched all the way to Kincaid. The Art Museum was built first, in 1930, and is an outstanding example of the use of decorative brick. The English Oaks that front the building were planted in 1940 and are a defining landscape feature for both the museum and the Memorial Quadrangle. The original portion of the Knight Library also was funded by the PWA and is representative of the last surge of building before WWII. The library has been referred to as Oregon's best example of integrated art and architecture, and is perhaps the most fully executed of Lawrence's buildings incorporating sculpture, painting, and metal work, much of it done by students and professors. Both are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

1964

1992

Buildings As Objects

1914

Following WWII, enrollment grew at an expansive rate, almost tripling. New construction during the 1950s was limited mostly to residence halls (Carson, Hamilton, Bean). Prince Lucien Campbell Hall and the EMU also were completed during this time. Influenced by the International Modernist movement, an assortment of architects began to work on campus designing in a range of expressions. This plethora of expressions replaced the architectural harmony that was the hallmark of the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era. Twenty-one buildings that were constructed during this era still exist. PLC, lacking a sense of scale, detail, and richness, is an example of the buildings developed during this period.

Neo-Traditional buildings forming the campus

As a result of Buildings As Objects, the campus community wanted more control over their environment. The adoption of planning principles known as the "Oregon Experiment" created a community-based process for campus planning and design that has heightened the community's awareness of issues of design quality. New construction and proposed projects are required to consider broader campus design issues including the character of open space, the traditions of building materials, and the scale and detail of building facades.

5. The College of Education complex illustrates this process by using buildings organized with clear relationships to form exterior spaces. The Scholar's Walk linking the east and west wings of the Lokey Education Building (both Lawrence designs from 1921) is part of the original Lawrence plan, while the construction of the 1980 south-wing addition and subsequent covered walks follows the principles of the Oregon Experiment. These additions developed and enhanced the courtyard, which is one of the most successful spaces on campus.

6. Most new campus buildings at the University of Oregon reflect the influence of participation by user groups. For example, during the programming and design process for the HEDCO Education Building (2009), particular attention was paid to universal access and to supporting the diverse population that comprises the College of Education and the university as a whole.

Campus Planning & Real Estate, http://uplan.uoregon.edu 9.29.09





student recreation center

Enrollment: 16,719 Male: 8,432 Female: 8,287 In-State: 11,447 Out-of-State: 5,272

Enrollment: 21,507 Male: 10,490 Female: 11,017 In-State: 13,881 Out-of-State: 7,626

TODAY

AT THE UO