

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a dense forest canopy. Sunlight filters through the green and yellowing leaves, creating a dappled light effect. Dark, thick tree branches crisscross the frame. In the bottom right corner, there is a semi-transparent white rectangular area containing the title text.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

ARTS COMMONS

LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

SUMMER 2010

OLIN WITH THE
OFFICE OF
THE ARCHITECT
FOR THE
UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
UVA LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN	4
APPENDIX	20

ARTS COMMONS
LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN



EXISTING SITE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

There have been a number of planning initiatives for Carr’s Hill since the early 1960’s at the time of the design of Campbell Hall and the Fiske Kimball Library. Each successive exercise has been associated with proposed building and has envisioned a variety of different spaces from the sequence of modernist rectilinear spaces articulated in Pietro Bellushisi’s plan through Michael Dennis’s later plan, which envisioned an ‘Acropolis of the Arts’ on Carr’s Hill. Some 10 years ago, OLIN was commissioned to develop a landscape master plan associated with the design of the now constructed parking garage and Ruffin Hall, the new studio arts building. That landscape master plan proposed forming a series of sinuous paths set within the existing hill that could be used by the arts community to make and display work in an informal and shaded landscape.

In 2008, two further building initiatives were explored, first the construction of a rehearsal hall for the UVA Band and, second, an expansion of facilities for the drama department including a thrust theater and new dance studio. Plans were developed for each of these programs by William Rawn Architects (WRA) of Boston. After numerous studies, a site for the Rehearsal Hall was selected at the northeast corner of the Arts Commons that reinforced the area as a center for the arts at UVA and framed historic views to the Lambeth Colonnade to the north. After studying a number of alternative locations for the new thrust theater and dance studio, locations to the south and east of the existing building were selected as both the most effective from an operational standpoint (connecting to the existing lobby and back of house facilities) and that would further reinforce the evolving Arts Commons and create the basis of a thriving center for the arts community.

The primary goal of this current exercise was, therefore, to build upon these strategic siting decisions and, to quote the Academic Stakeholders Committee, create a “shared and safe place for making and showing art”. The focus of the Arts Commons renovation being to not only physically link together the Arts Buildings which form its perimeter, but conceptually unite its inhabitants — students, staff, faculty and visitors — into one Arts community around a shared outdoor space. The plan also proposes physical strategies by which the community can reach out to the adjacent Rugby Road and University Avenue to establish a “Gateways to The Arts” at UVA from the larger community.

This design for the outdoor space is required to incorporate flexible event spaces of various sizes, provide clear access to the new thrust theater, preserve views to historic Lambeth Colonnade, and protect the rich horticultural tradition of the University with thoughtful hillside planting. Improved circulation and way-finding, along with the ability to host a variety of lively Arts events that position the Arts Commons as a new cultural center at the University of Virginia is also a major goal.

PROCESS

To prepare for the master planning exercise the Vice Provost for the Arts and the Architect for the University organized an Academic Stakeholders Committee in late 2009. The committee includes representatives for each academic unit in the Arts and is made up as follows:

Convening: Office of the EVP and Provost

Beth Turner, Vice Provost for the Arts
Richard Minturn, Senior Academic Facilities Planner

Arts and Sciences, including Art Department, Drama Department, Music Department:

Richard Myers, Senior Associate Dean for
Administration and Finance
Bruce Holsinger, Associate Dean for the Arts
and Humanities
Larry Goedde, Chair, McIntire Department of Art

School of Architecture:

Kim Tanzer, Dean

Library:

Diane Walker, Associate University Librarian

University Art Museum:

Bruce Boucher, Director

Office of the Architect:

Mary Hughes, Landscape Architect for the University
David Neuman, Architect for the University

The document that resulted from their deliberations, ‘UVA Arts Commons: Guidelines for Master Plan’, is attached as an appendix to this report. This forms the basis the master plan proposals. A significant result of this preparatory process was the realization that the departments had a joint desire to work together as a community and were particularly receptive to the idea that the Arts Commons should be programmed throughout the year. There was a desire for shared community spaces rather than department ownership of specific outdoor areas adjacent to their buildings. Additionally, for a space such as the Arts Commons to be successful, it should be able to host a diverse range of events that invite the wider campus community and demonstrate the vitality of the arts on campus. After this planning process there was agreement by stakeholders that a group should be formed to program and coordinate events within the space. The results of this exercise will inform the detailed development of the proposal for the Arts Commons.

OLIN was commissioned in the Spring of 2010 and began with a kick-off meeting and briefing session with the committee on February 24. The planning process continued through the spring. The process comprised the development of a series of approaches that were reviewed with the Committee by conference call. From these approaches two were selected to be developed and presented to the whole arts community on May 19. As a result of the response to those presentations, adjustments were made to the location of the theater and the associated master plan to retain the heritage white oak adjacent to the Campbell Hall Terrace. These revisions were presented to the committee on July 7 via conference call.

LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

The landscape master plan lays out a framework for the design of landscape and buildings in the vicinity of the Arts Commons. It addresses two broad areas. First the Arts Commons itself and, second, a series of proposals that connect the Arts Commons to the surrounding campus fabric, particularly Rugby Road. Included in this proposal is the realignment of Culbreth Road to form a site for a new Arts Building.

THE ARTS COMMONS

The Arts Commons as a whole comprises a sequence of terraces adjacent to each school and surrounding a broad communal swath of flat and sloping grass. Sweeping down from the Campbell Hall terrace across Culbreth Road it terminates in a lawn between the garage and the new Rehearsal Hall. The open flat areas of lawn on either side of Culbreth Road allow a variety of large events to occur while the higher slopes are envisioned for smaller scale and individual use.

Large and medium sized canopy trees are proposed on the east and south sides of the Commons to moderate the micro-climate and provide shaded afternoon and evening sitting spaces. Trees are to be planted as large caliper specimens and have high relatively open canopies giving a mottled shade on the terraces. The form and layout of trees, reflecting that of woodland, should promote views across the space and between the Campbell Hall Terrace and Culbreth Road.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Ruffin elevator provides the means of moving accessibly from the lower levels of the Commons to the Campbell Hall Terrace level. It is accessed at grade from Culbreth Road via the lower Ruffin Terrace and from the proposed theater terrace via a gently sloping walk. The theater terrace is directly accessible from the garage elevator across Culbreth Road.

THE COMMONS TERRACES

The terraces provide visibility and a front door for each school on the Commons. Importantly, each terrace should be designed as a shared programmable space capable of being used by the school or by other members of the campus community. These spaces should be developed as inviting places that allow the schools to show their work in a more public forum. Each department should therefore give thought as to how they want to use their terrace to fulfill their goals as well as the larger arts community’s mission. The results of these considerations, together with experience of use, should form the basis of the development of the detail design of each individual terrace going forward into the next phase of design.

Moving clockwise around the Commons, the Rehearsal Hall, presently under construction, is an example where two terraces are formed at each entry to the building to provide a shaded small event space. The lower Ruffin Terrace, on the other side of Culbreth, is an attractive shaded and programmable space capable of exhibiting small scale installations. A low seat wall is proposed along its western perimeter at the top of the grass slope and facing out across the lawn. The upper Ruffin Terrace is a relatively small space with dramatic views over the lower Commons areas. It has potential for more intimate gatherings using loose tables and chairs. A stair is proposed along the brick wall of the terrace to connect it to the lower terrace. The stair is designed in three flights to reduce the height of each landing and make this major circulation route within the quad less intimidating. Each landing provides access to grassed terraces on the hill that connect to the proposed curved theater stair.

The paved area between Ruffin and the library is presently dominated by electric equipment. The space, which provides access to Bayly Drive, has the long term potential to provide access to a future extension to the library if the electric equipment can be moved. The café terrace is seen as serving the whole arts quad as the major destination for food. To facilitate its visibility and provide a larger area for dining, the existing planter, which effectively obscures the whole area from the Commons, is to be removed and replaced with a low seat wall. This wall is integral with a second wall that provides an accessible route from the café terrace (which is approximately a foot lower) up to the Campbell Hall terrace. The expanded café terrace together with new tables and chairs and umbrellas will provide enhanced visibility and potential for hosting larger events.

The Campbell Hall terrace is north facing and not well used in its current configuration. Specific proposals are not made for altering the terrace, however, commentary during the master plan process revealed a desire to make it more attractive and usable. The preservation of the large white oak strongly suggests the retention of the existing concrete retaining walls; however, there may be some flexibility in this resulting from consultation with an experienced arborist. The terrace’s use for graduation is logical and appropriate given the proximity to the School of Architecture. It might be considered more desirable, however, to hold graduation at the lower level of the Commons where there are larger more flexible areas available.

The master plan envisions a new terrace to the south west that will connect the roof of the new thrust theater at the same level with the Campbell Hall Terrace and provide a space on the Commons for dance (see page 19). A series of steps lead down to the lawn areas around the white oak. In concert with the implementation of the Dance Studio a new run of steps needs to be formed between drama and the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity to connect to Culbreth Road.

In the interim (illustrated on the master plan drawing) access is maintained to the drama department administration via a curving path from the Campbell Hall terrace.

Forming appropriate conditions to maintain the health and vitality of the existing white oak is critical. An arborist is to work with the design team to develop detail proposals and will be engaged to monitor construction activities. Illustrated in following pages (see page 18) is a grading proposal that seeks to form a stronger physical and visual connection between the theater roof and the Campbell Hall Terrace by adding fill in the area in-between. These proposals will be reviewed with the arborist to establish their viability.

NORTH QUAD LAWN

The lawn north of Culbreth Road and west of Rehearsal Hall provides opportunities for a variety of different events. Performers can also occupy the central lawn surrounded by spectators. Larger events can bridge Culbreth Road, connecting the two lawn areas on either side.

THEATER ROOF

The new thrust theater and its lobby are designed with a finished roof elevation of 553.5' at the higher level such that it provides 24" clear depth between structure and the top of planting soil. With insulation and drainage, including slopes for drainage, this will give some 18" of planting depth; a depth that can accommodate shrubs, perennials and grasses, but not trees. The architects (WRA) are presently working with structural engineers to identify locations for raised planters for trees and areas where installations of sculpture might be located. A walkway, protected by a curved glass guardrail, runs around the perimeter of the theater roof providing a viewing area and access for maintenance. The lower area of roof over the theater lobby has less soil depth that will be planted with sedum and similar material surrounding the lobby skylight.

THEATER TERRACE

The theater terrace is designed to provide a generous space for theater patrons to spill out from the new combined lobby and provide space for small scale performance. Its curved form reflects that of the theater façade and frames view of the event lawn between it and Ruffin. Wide steps transition gracefully to the lawn some 2' below. Adjacent low curved seat walls mark the accessible routes to the theater drop-off and the Ruffin Terrace.

THEATER DROP-OFF

The drop off itself is configured to facilitate vehicular access and ticket pick-up without causing an obstruction on Culbreth Road. The turning radius of 25' will accommodate cars and small passenger vans. Trees are proposed in the central island to provide shade to the paved area, assist in mitigating the heat island effect and continue the canopy that frames the northwest corner of the Commons that connects to the garage. A bus drop-off that can accomodate school buses and standard charter buses is located to the west of the adjacent cross walk and sized for a single bus. Located in this position it is preferable to the existing drop-off that places unloading buses in the central view shed of the quad.

CONNECTIONS

The Arts Quad on Carr's Hill is somewhat isolated by Rugby Road and University Avenue. The presence of the University Art Museum, the fraternities and to some extent Fayeweather Hall combined with the steep grade change present a seemingly impenetrable edge along Rugby Road. To provide greater visibility and improved access, the master plan proposes a series of discreet initiatives around the perimeter.

There are two paths between the Chi Phi, Kappa Sigma, and Sigma Phi fraternities. These paths should be laid out in simple materials to university standards according to the layout shown. A new path is proposed between the Chi Phi Fraternity and the University Art Museum.

Marquees are located at the intersection of Culbreth Road with Rugby Road and University Avenue and at the intersection of Rugby Road with University Avenue. The marquees should be designed to both announce the presence of the arts community as "The Betsy and John Casteen Arts Grounds" and orientate visitors to its facilities. The extent of information that they should convey including programmed events should be determined in dialogue with the selected designer as should the development of an identity for the community as a whole.

CULBRETH ROAD AND A SITE FOR A NEW ARTS FACILITY

The master plan proposes the realignment of Culbreth Road from east of Ruffin. The alignment proposed is orthogonal to the long axis of the new Rehearsal Hall and laid out such that the southern edge of the sidewalk is against the Zeta Psi Fraternity boundary. The realigned road is 22' between curbs with a 6' planting band and 8' wide sidewalks. The road is to be planted with an allée of canopy trees at a spacing of between 25'-30'. The site created between the realigned Culbreth and the railroad easement is proposed for a new Arts Building, possibly a music building. William Rawn Architects is developing a "massing model" for site capacity. The setback on Rugby Road is that defined by the east façade of the Zeta Psi fraternity.

Planning for Culbreth Road should emphasize the need for traffic calming. The road should be used for access to the facilities along the road rather than as a through route. The landscape masterplan proposes a raised area of road between the north and south lawn of the Arts Commons to connect the two spaces and encourage drivers to reduce their speed.

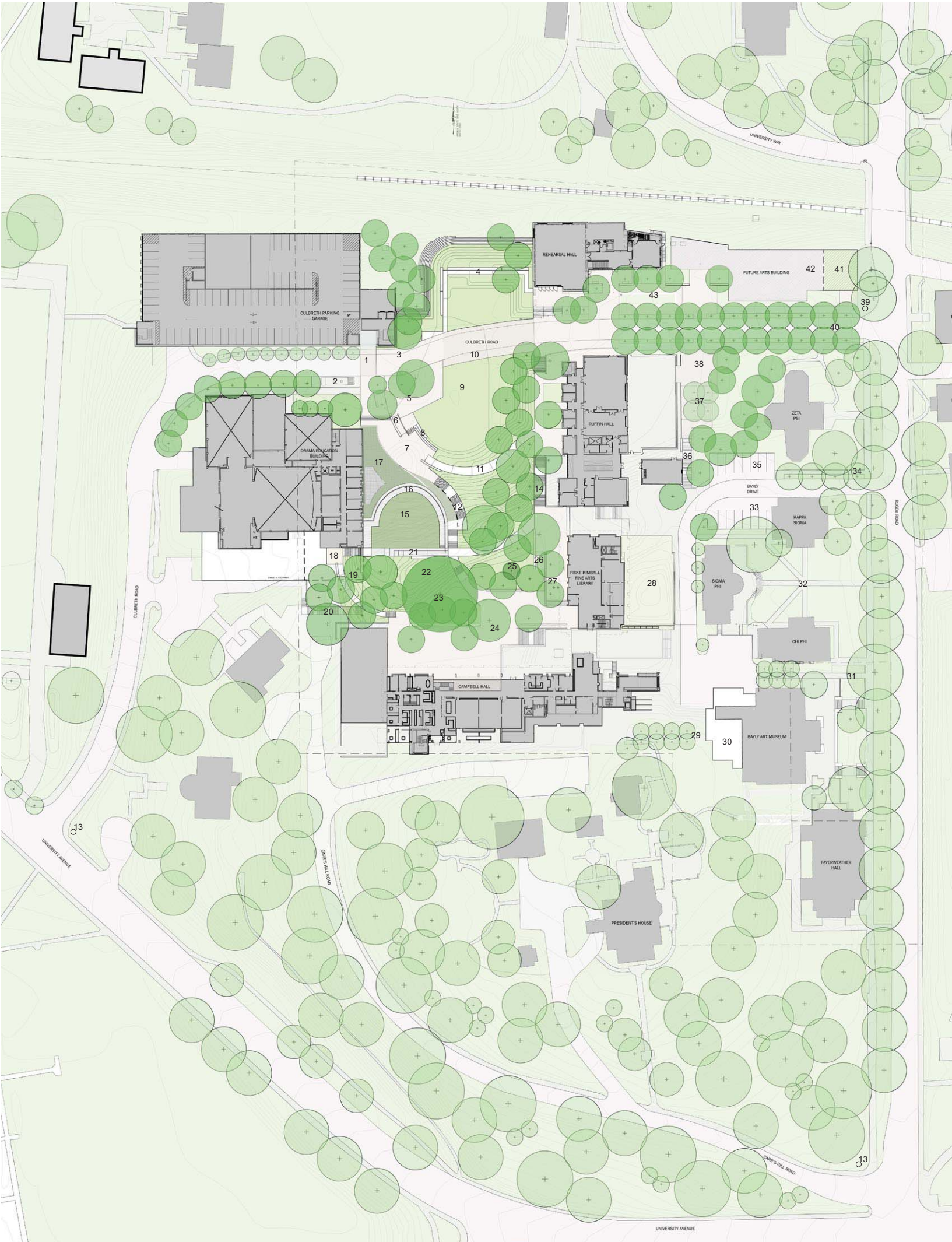
UVA LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN FOR THE ARTS COMMONS

UVA PLAN ANNOTATIONS

(Numbered Counterclockwise)

- Existing raised crosswalk from garage to theater entrance
- New theater bus drop-off
- Road realigned to provide sidewalk around corner of garage stair tower completed with Rehearsal Hall Project
- Walls, accessible path from Rehearsal Hall Terrace and grading completed with Rehearsal Hall project
- New theater drop-off for cars and small vans
- Ramp from drop-off to theater entrance
- New performance terrace for combined theater lobby
- Steps to Arts Quad Lawn
- Arts Quad Lawn
- Sidewalk widened and lighting revised for marching band access and graduation programming
- Accessible path from Ruffin Lower Terrace to new theater terrace
- Curved stair around side of new thrust theater
- Location of proposed Arts Grounds sign
- New stair beside Ruffin Terrace
- New non-accessible intensive green roof over thrust theater (approx 18" soil depth)
- Path with glass guardrail around perimeter of thrust theater roof
- New extensive green roof over thrust theater lobby (approx 12" soil depth)
- Phase One access to existing Drama admin offices
- Line of proposed Phase Two addition comprising dance studio and other facilities (WRA to expand on this)
- Proposed stair from Campbell Terrace to Culbreth Road (alignment to be developed in coordination with development of Phase 2 design)
- Path over lowered area of thrust theater roof
- Extent of grading allowable beside south wall of thrust theater over roots of existing white oak (to be determined in consultation with University appointed arborist)

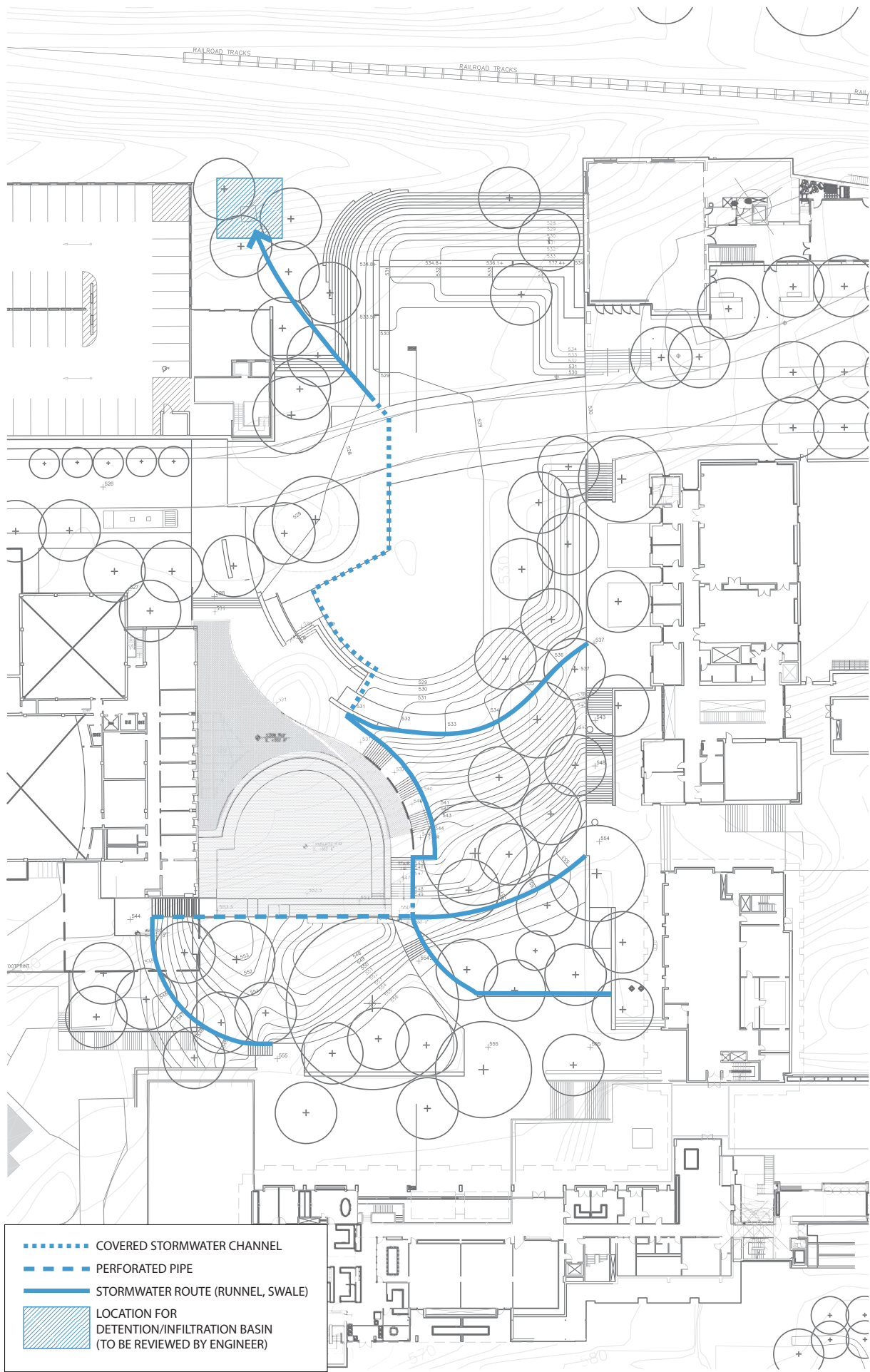
- Existing heritage white oak protected and retained
- New trees on Campbell Hall terrace
- Existing Memorial Tree protected and retained
- Accessible path between upper Ruffin Terrace and Campbell Hall Terrace
- Café terrace expanded
- Future location of underground extension to Fiske Kimball Fine Arts Library
- Extend landscape to form new rear entry court to Bayly addition
- Future addition to University Art Museum
- New accessible pedestrian path beside Chi Phi Fraternity from Rugby Road to Bayly and Campbell Hall
- New paths on University-owned land around Sigma Phi Fraternity
- Existing fraternity parking reconfigured to improve character
- New sidewalk – existing unofficial Zeta Psi Fraternity parking removed
- Existing fraternity parking reconfigured to provide unobstructed pedestrian sidewalk
- New stair from Bayly access drive beside east side of Ruffin
- Seating area with shade trees
- Access for vehicles to Ruffin yard treated as pedestrian space
- Location of proposed Arts Grounds sign
- Culbreth realigned to provide site for new Arts Academic building
- Garden court to new Arts Academic building
- Footprint of new Arts Academic Building (Location will require realignment of Culbreth Road and existing utilities)
- Combined Rehearsal Hall and new Arts Academic Building Plaza



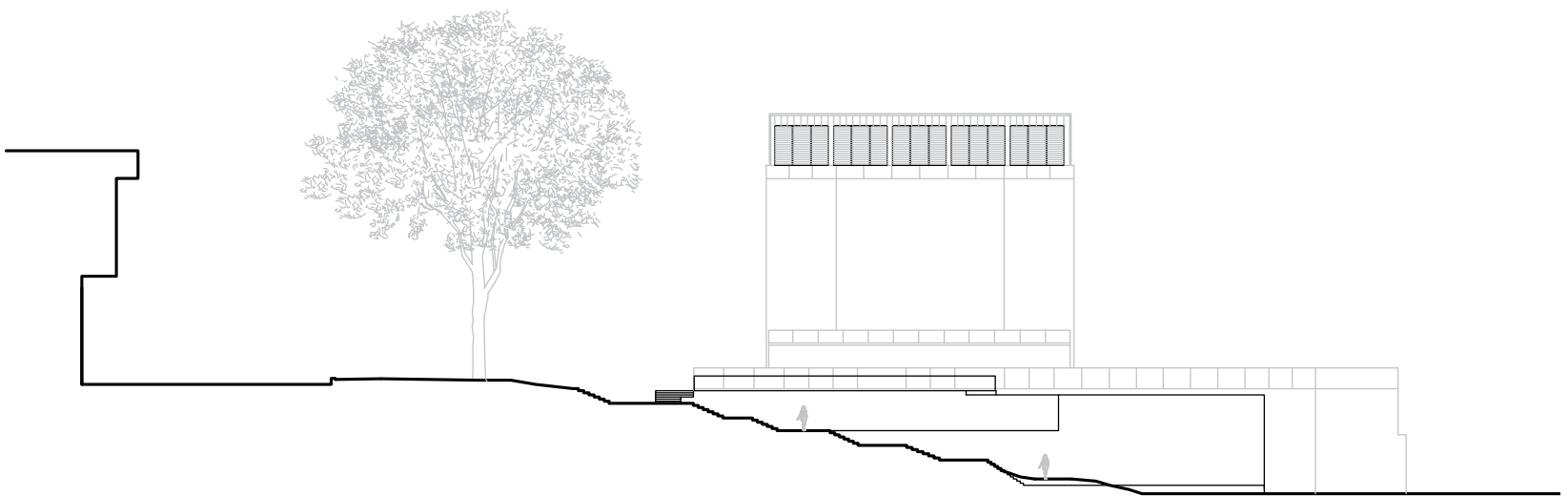
ANNOTATED MASTER PLAN



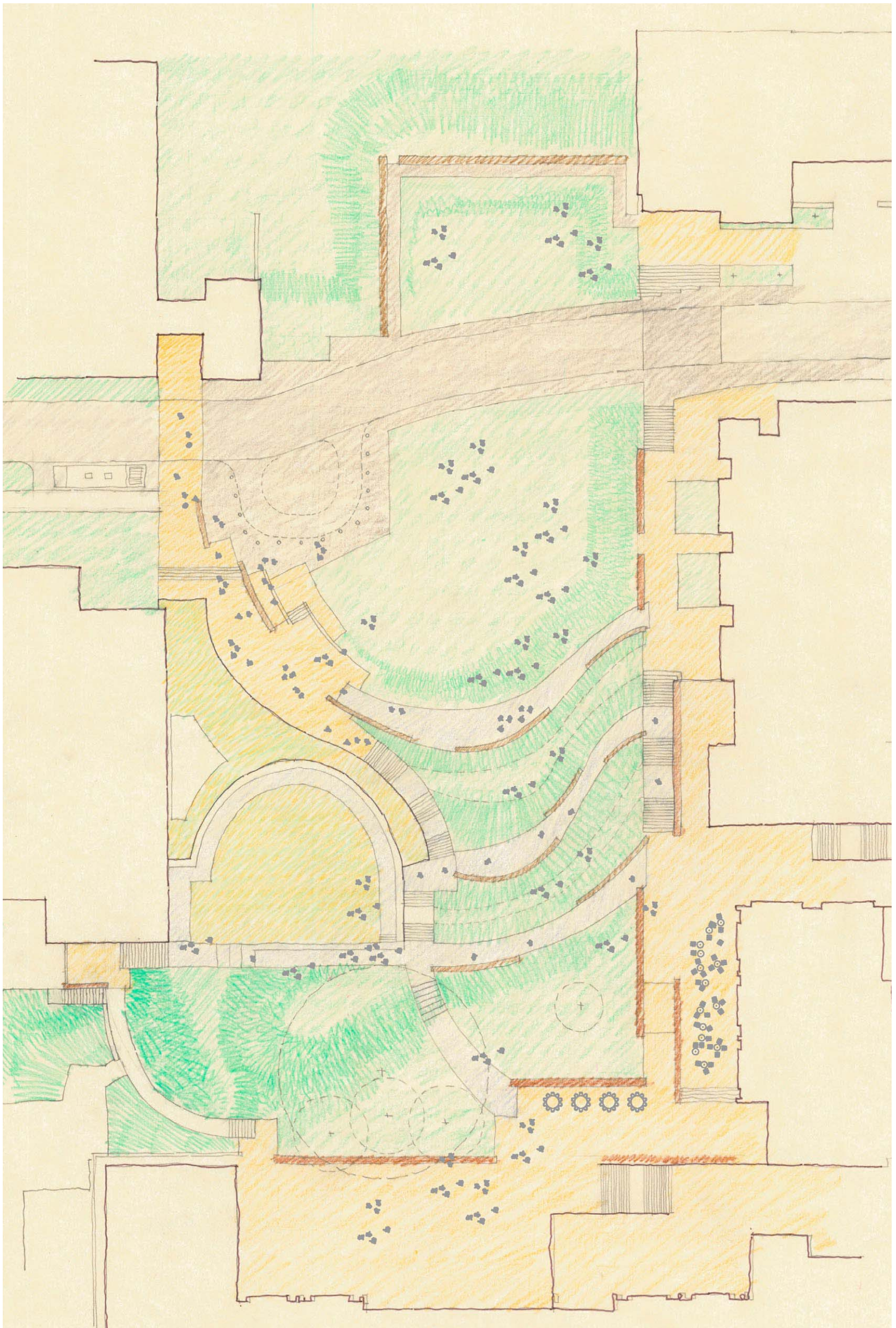
GRADING PLAN / ACCESSIBLE ROUTES



GRADING PLAN / CONCEPTUAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

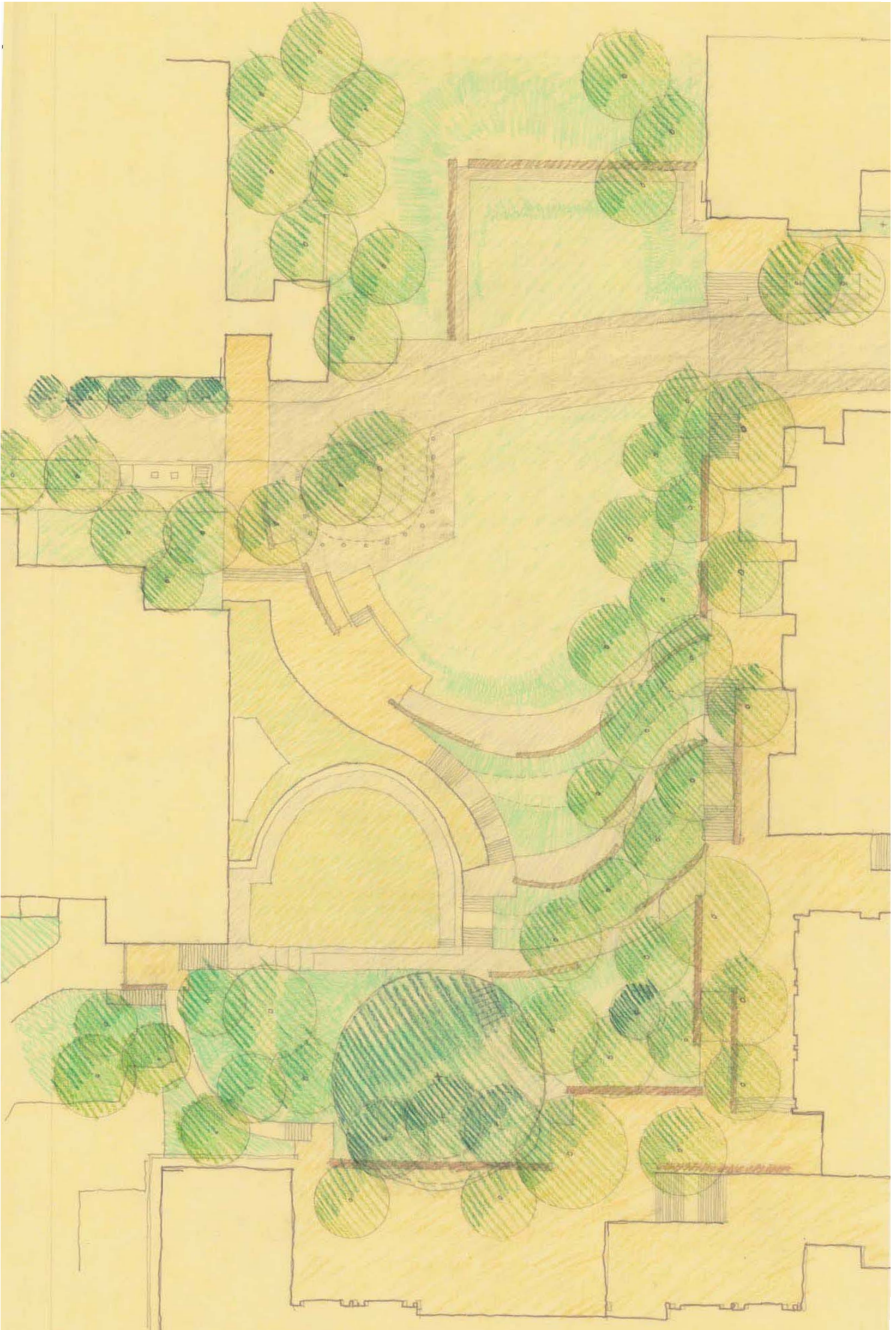


NORTH / SOUTH SECTION ALONG STAIR



ALTERNATE PLAN / PROGRAM

The paths in this scheme allow the hill to be occupied and programmed to accommodate small gatherings, ensemble performances, or art exhibits.



ALTERNATE PLAN / CANOPY

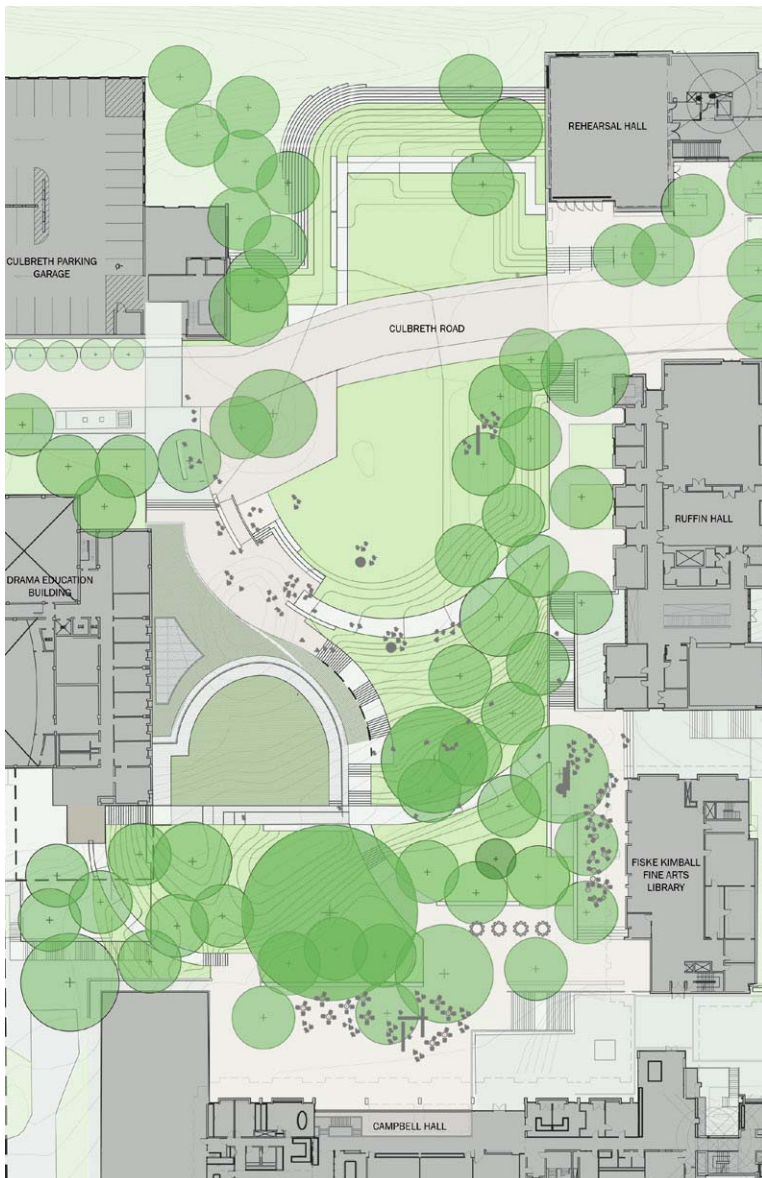
This drawing illustrates a potential alternative to the Landscape Master Plan in which the hill between the lower and upper Arts Commons is graded to allow opportunities for paths and seat walls, connecting the Ruffin Terrace stair and the thrust theater stair.

PROGRAM

The flexibility of the Arts Commons Master Plan creates opportunities for a variety of programs and activities to take place in spaces ranging from intimate outdoor settings to large event sized areas. In the next stage of planning, detailed configurations for potential uses in each area would be developed.

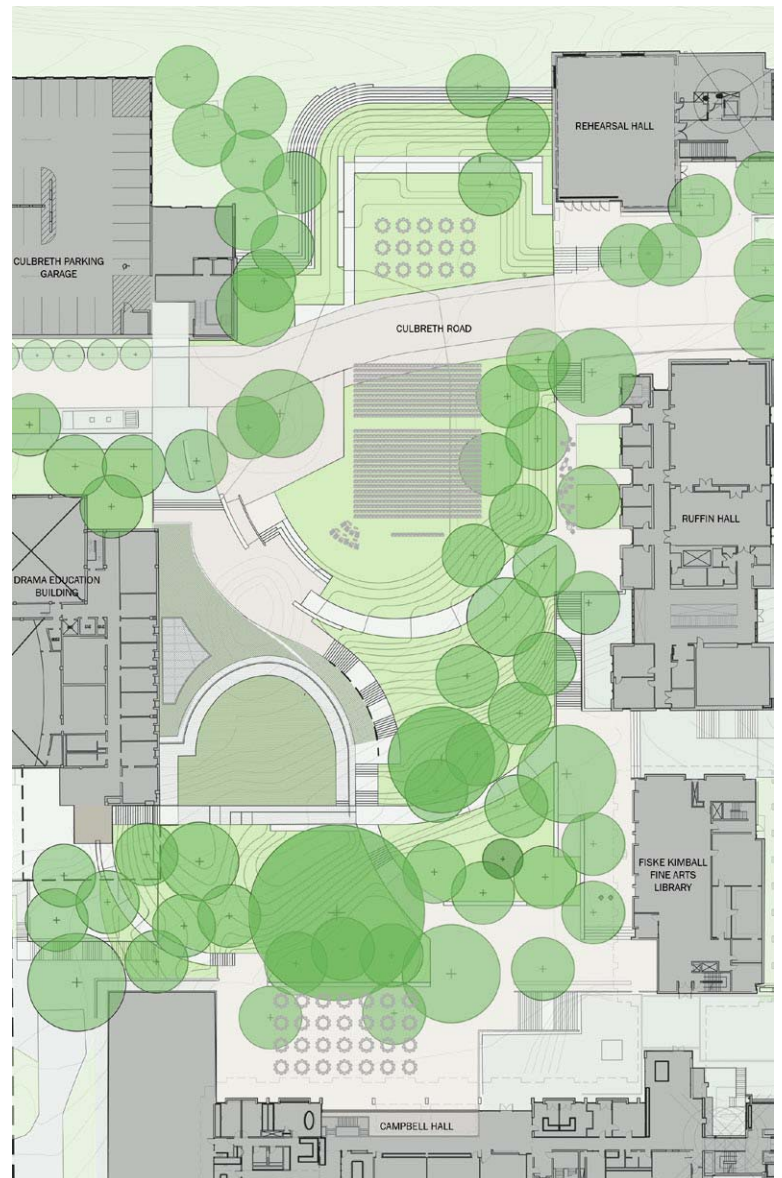
Of particular value will be the installation of utility infrastructure (power, water, drainage) to facilitate flexible uses. A significant outcome of the steering committee was the expressed desire to institute and manage a program of events within the Commons. To give prominence to the work of the arts community to the campus and the wider public.

10



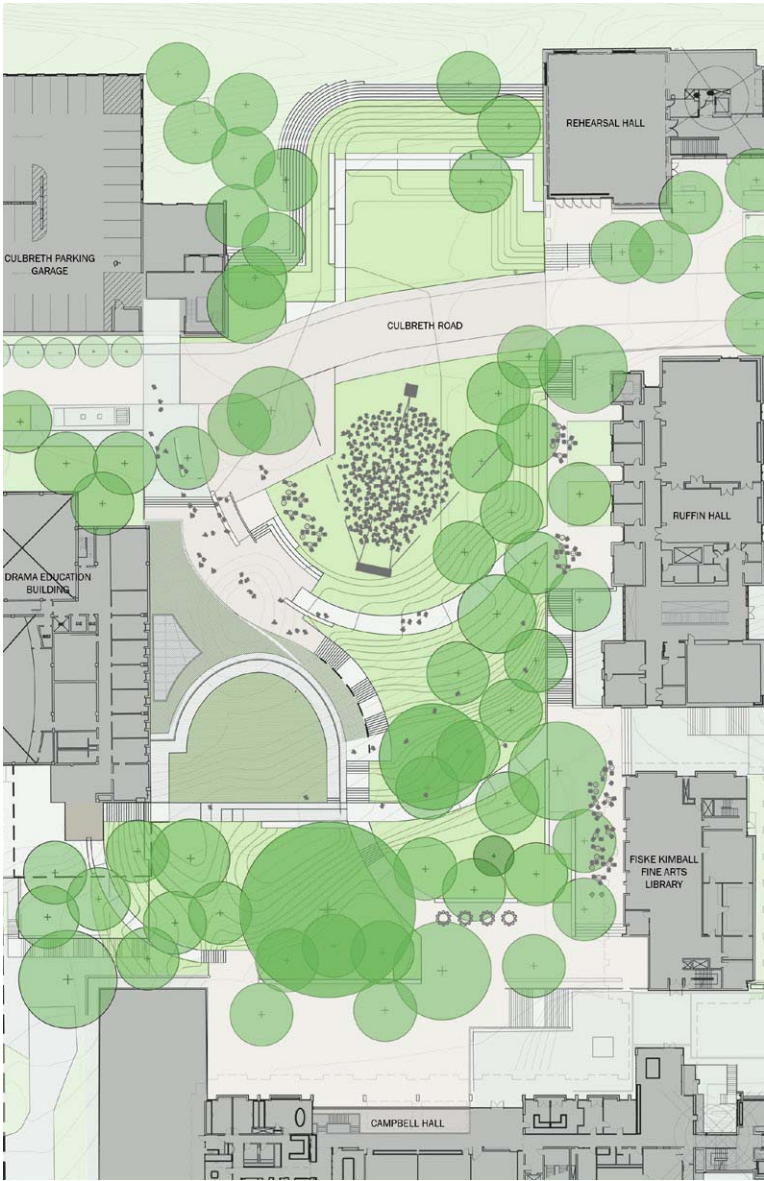
EXHIBITS / SMALL PERFORMANCES

Within the plan, there are numerous spaces for art exhibitions, small ensemble performances, and lunch gatherings.



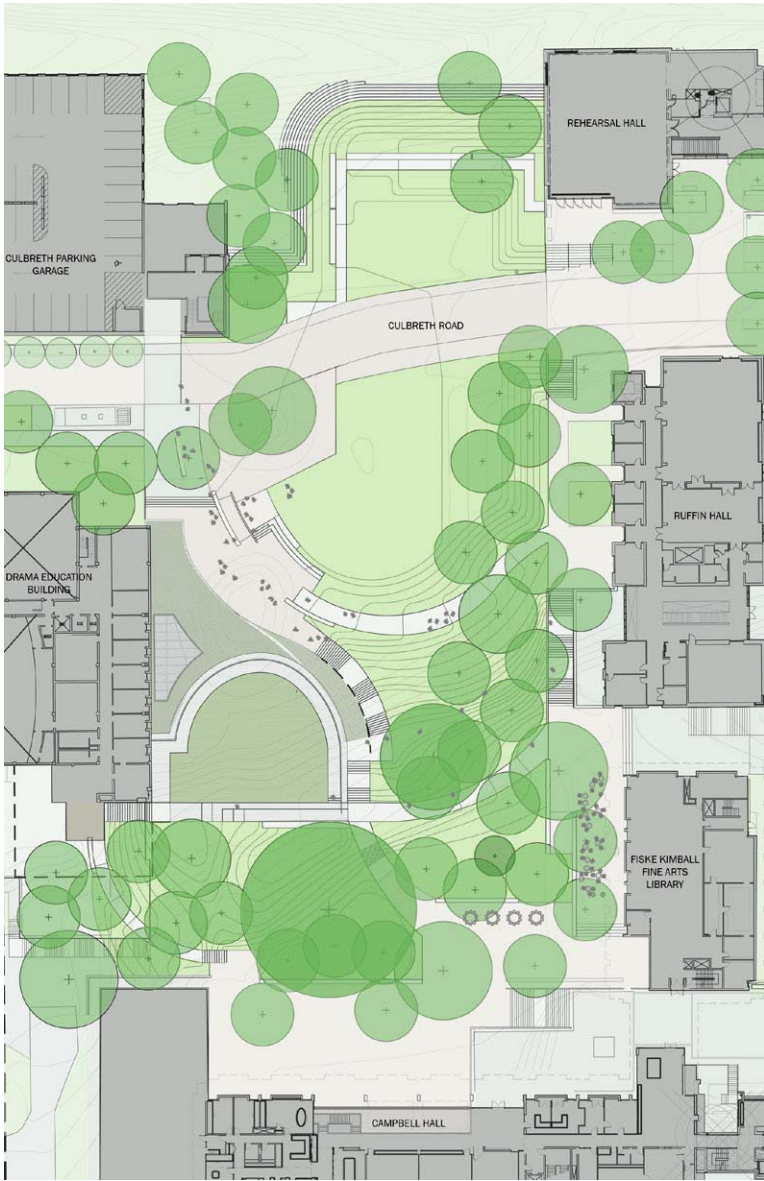
GRADUATION / LARGER EVENTS

For large events such as graduation, the Lower Arts Commons is large enough to accommodate 1,000 guests. For events of this size, it is assumed Culbreth Road would be closed either at the garage or further to the west and at the Ruffin service access in the east. For guests at round tables, the area north of Culbreth Road can seat 150 guests and the Campbell Hall Terrace can seat 280 guests.



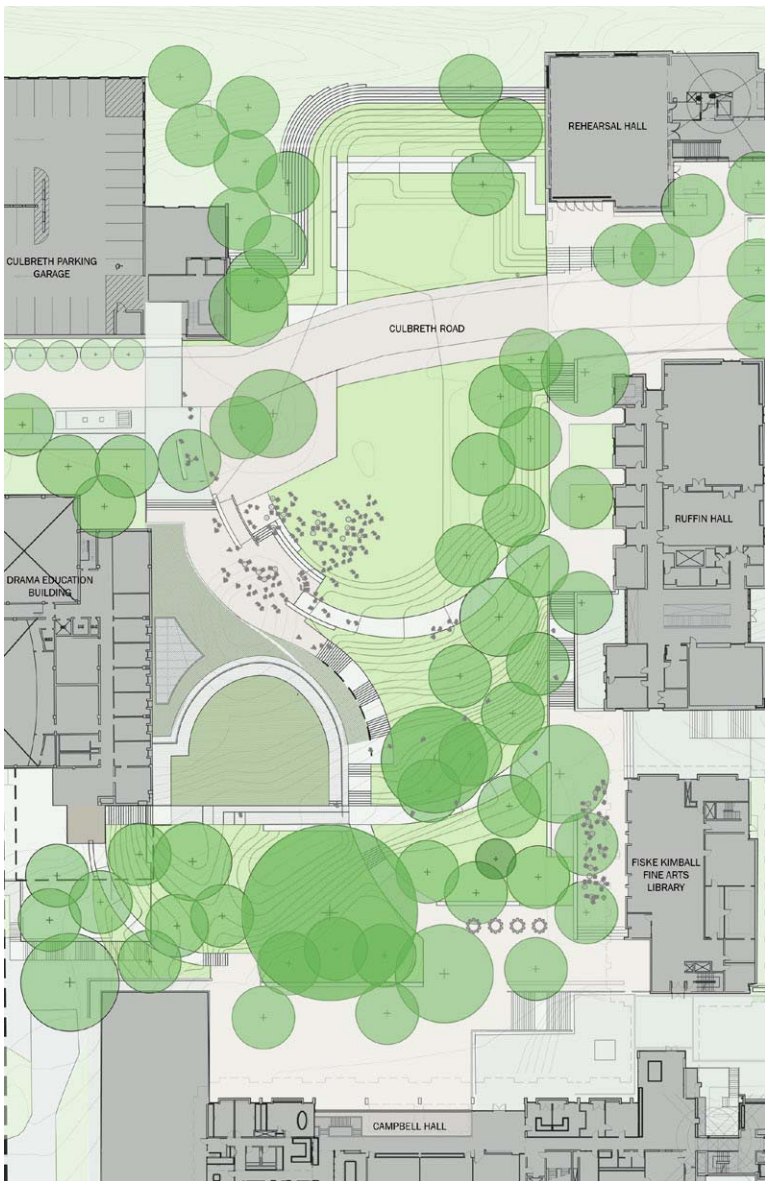
MOVIE / MEDIUM SIZED EVENTS

The Lower Arts Commons Lawn is generous enough to hold movie events for over 300 seated guests. Extra tables and chairs can be set up on the Ruffin Terrace or the thrust theater terrace for concessions or student groups. A movie of performance for a slightly smaller audience can also be accommodated north of Culbreth Road between the garage and Rehearsal Hall.



'TYPICAL' DAY

In addition to the expanded café terrace, which allows for a larger café program, the new paths, open lawn spaces, shaded groves, and paved terraces would be developed with walls, seating, shade, and lighting to encourage students, faculty, and guests to enjoy the Arts Quad and study outdoors.



THEATER

The thrust theater terrace connects to the Lower Arts Quad Lawn with an elegant amphitheater seat wall and stair, allowing ample space for socializing during intermission, watching a small ensemble, and entering and exiting the theater lobby.



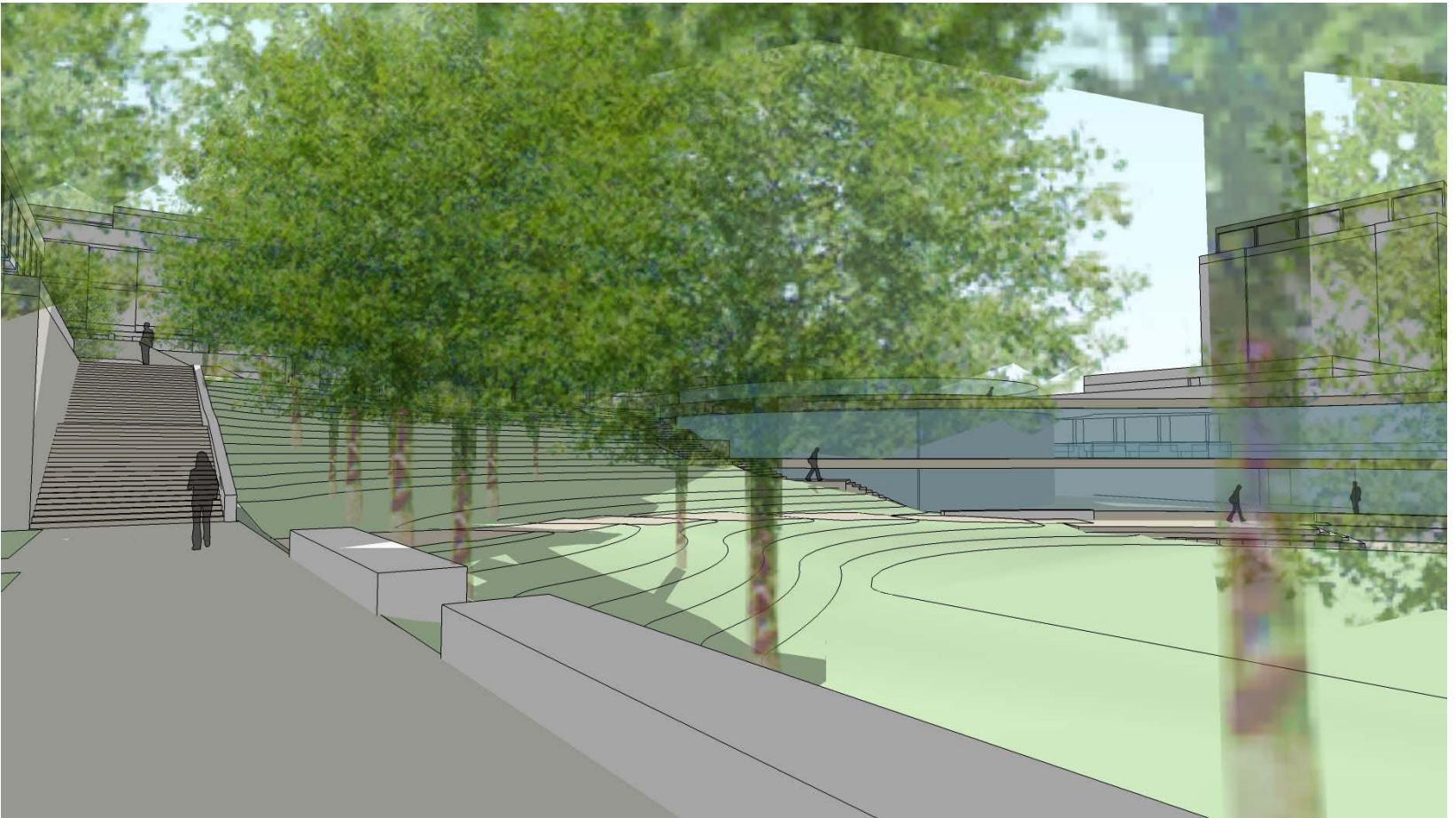
VIEW FROM GARAGE EXIT

From the Culbreth Garage, theater patrons proceed directly across Culbreth Road via a raised crosswalk to the new thrust theater terrace. In addition to accommodating drop-off for events, the vehicular turn-around allows for ticket pick-up during non-performance times.



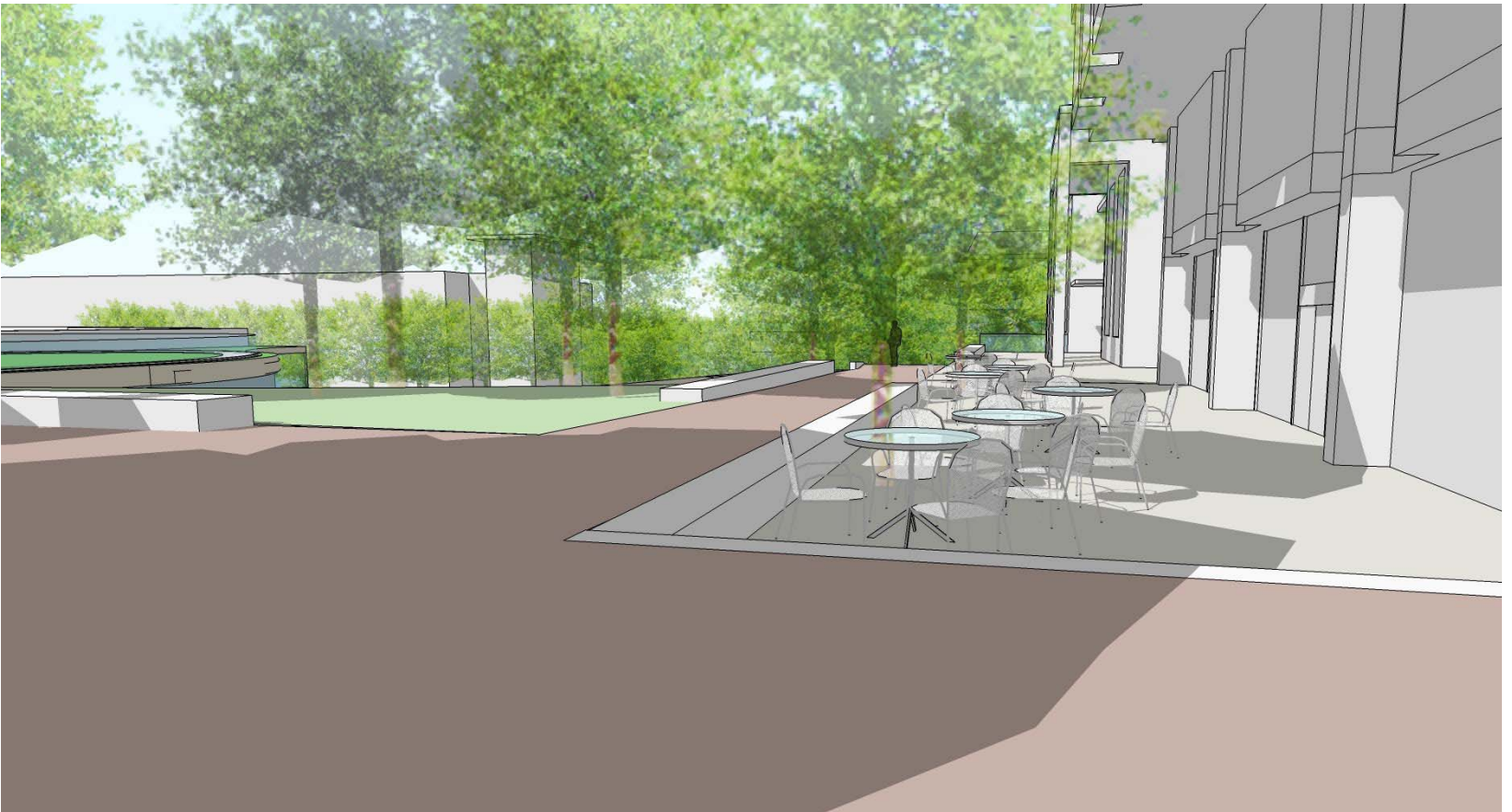
VIEW FROM REHEARSAL HALL TERRACE

A direct visual connection is made between the Rehearsal Hall Terrace and the thrust theater terrace and Lower Arts Quad. There is also a clear physical connection to the Ruffin Hall Terrace and directly up to the Fiske Kimball Fine Arts Library from the Rehearsal Hall Terrace.



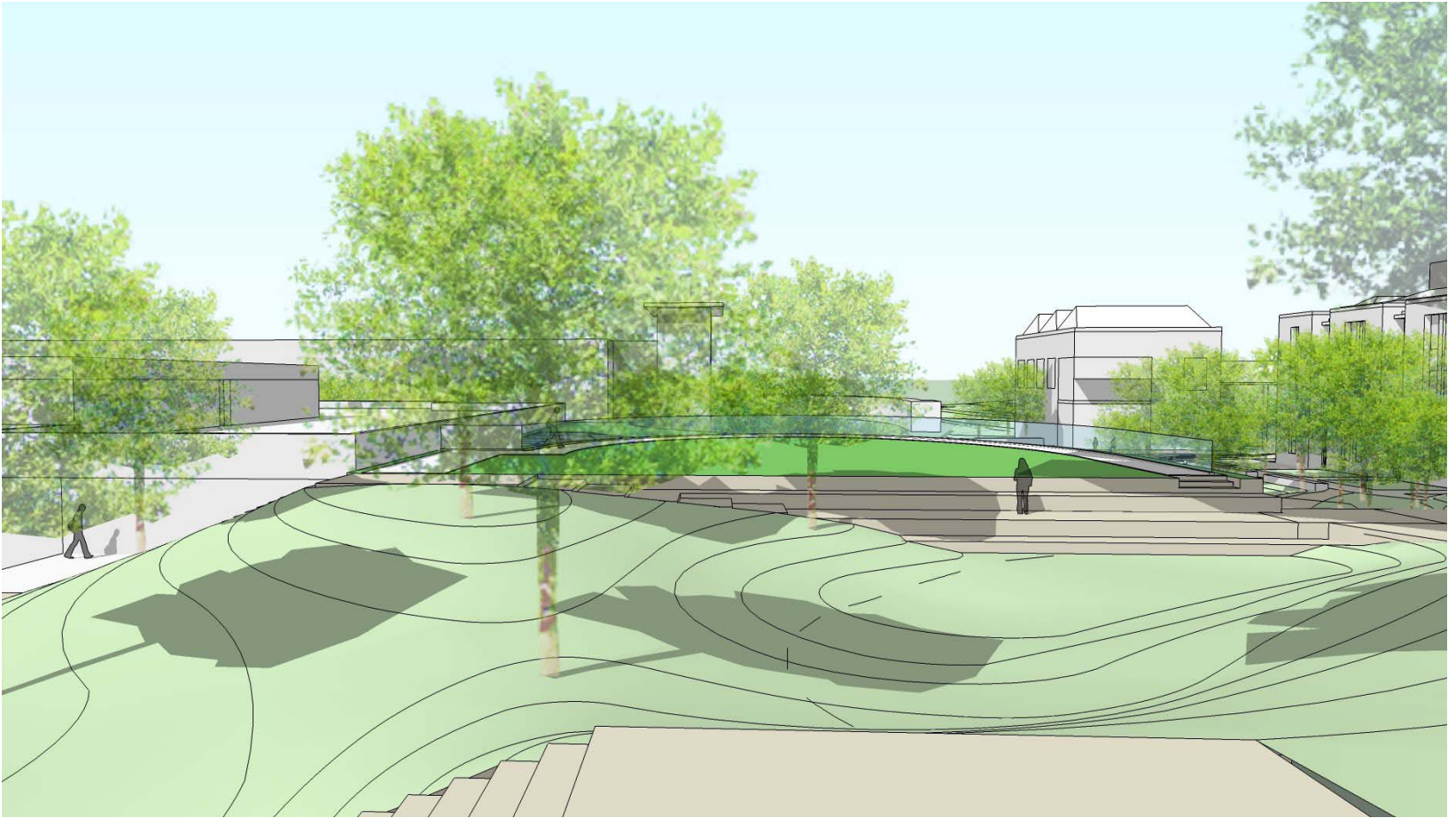
RUFFIN TERRACE

The existing Ruffin Terrace is connected to the new thrust theater terrace with an accessible path at <5% between the lower and upper zones of the Arts Quad.



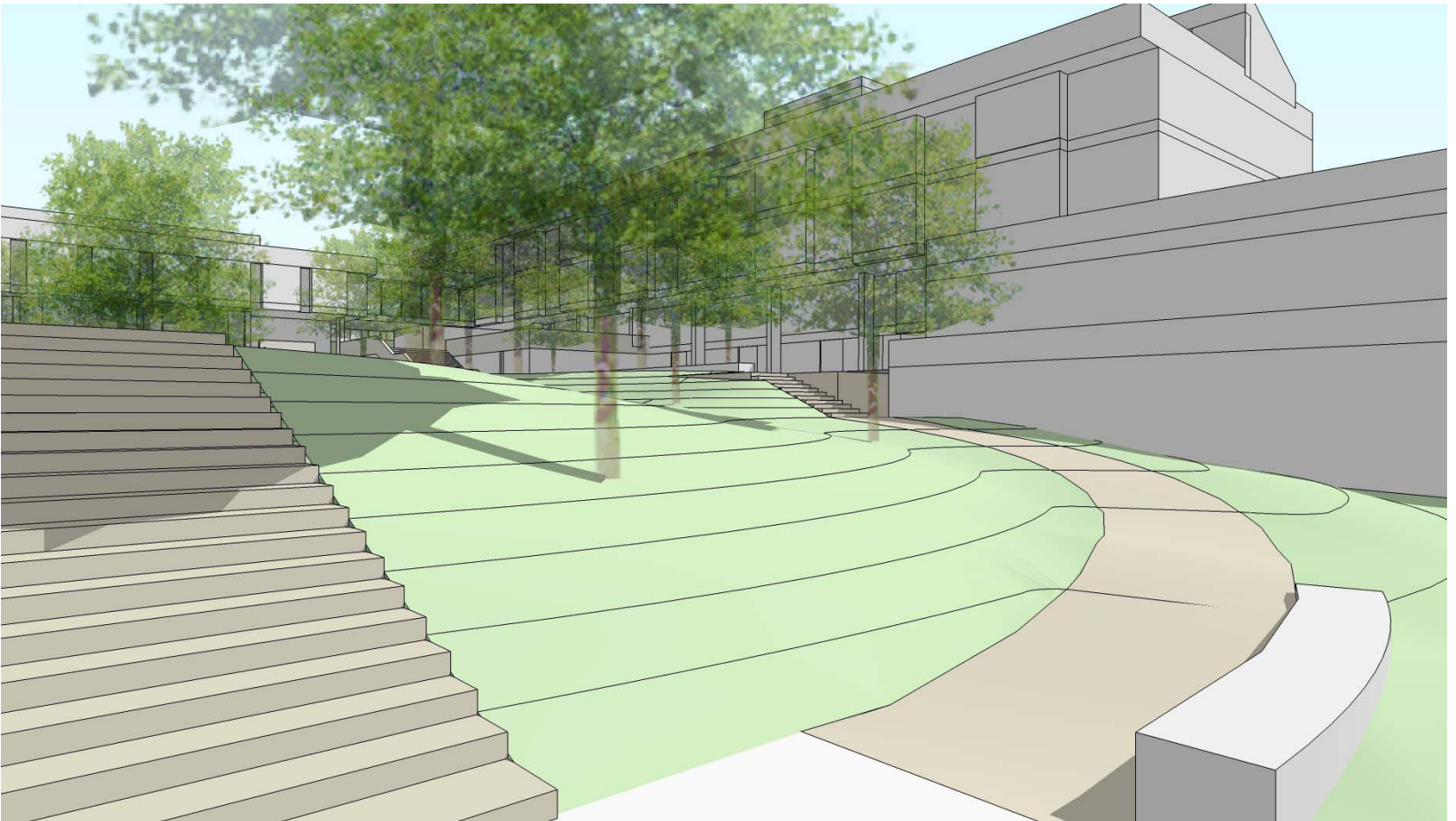
CAFE TERRACE

At the café terrace, the existing planter is removed, allowing for an expanded seating area. The Memorial Tree is retained and surrounded by a new grove of trees, to give shade and more a more comfortable microclimate. A new ramp to the left of the seating area provides an accessible route from the café terrace to Campbell Hall.



CAMPBELL HALL TERRACE LOOKING NORTH

The thrust theater roof is visible from the Campbell Hall Terrace. The intent is to design the structure of the roof to allow sculpture placement and trees in raised planters in phase 2 which includes a new dance studio. To accommodate the root system of the existing white oak near Campbell Hall, the southern edge of the thrust theater is terraced down to meet grade, forming an amphitheater focused on the historic tree. An arborist is being engaged to advise on the appropriate measures to take to care for the tree in the design and during construction.



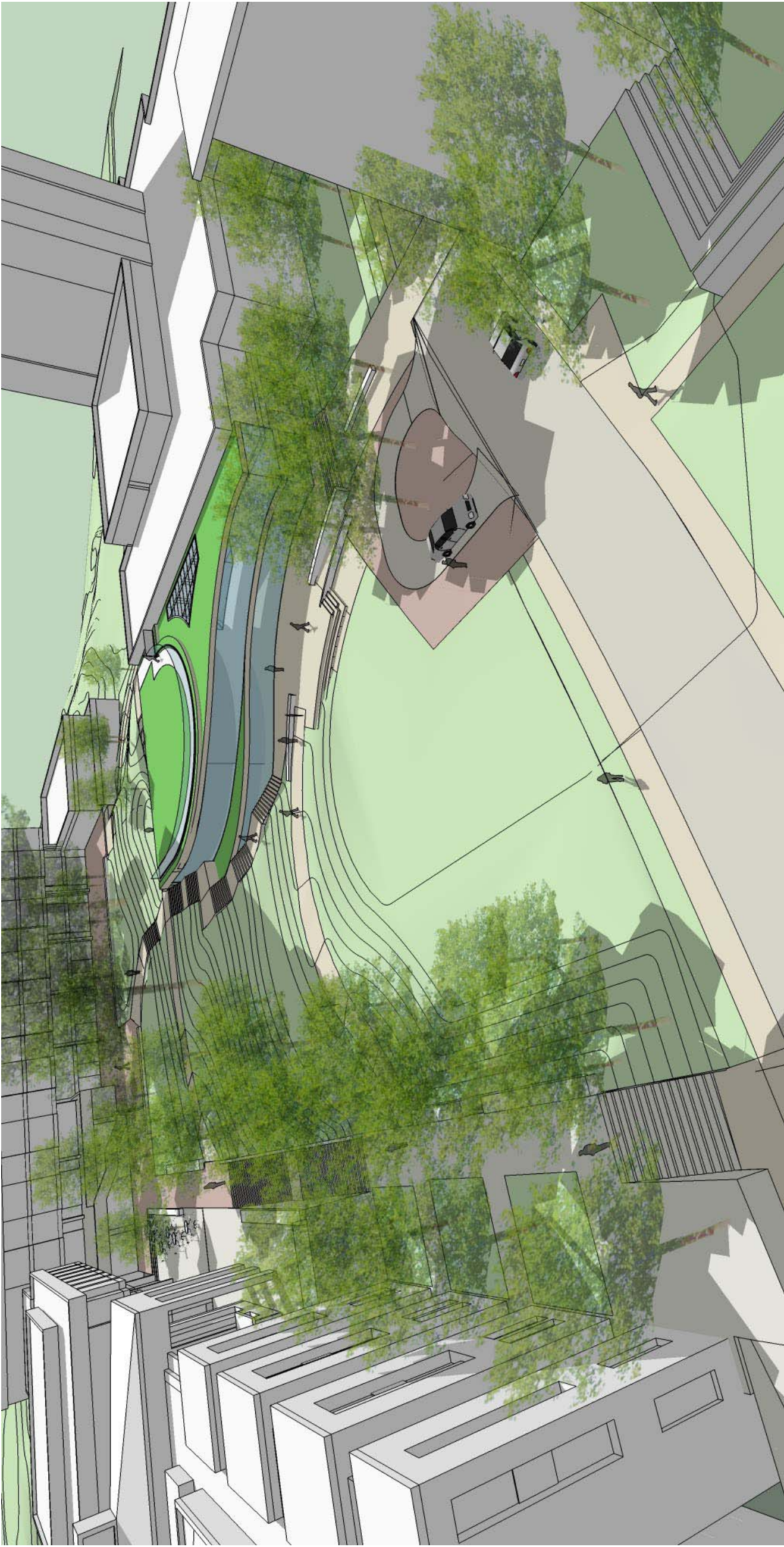
VIEW FROM EXISTING DRAMA ADMINISTRATION TERRACE

Following the theater expansion in Phase 1, access to the drama administration offices is accomplished by a path arriving from the Campbell Hall Terrace. Stairs to the left of the administration access provide access to the roof of the thrust theater. This area would become the site for the new dance studio, black-box theater and faculty offices in Phase 2.



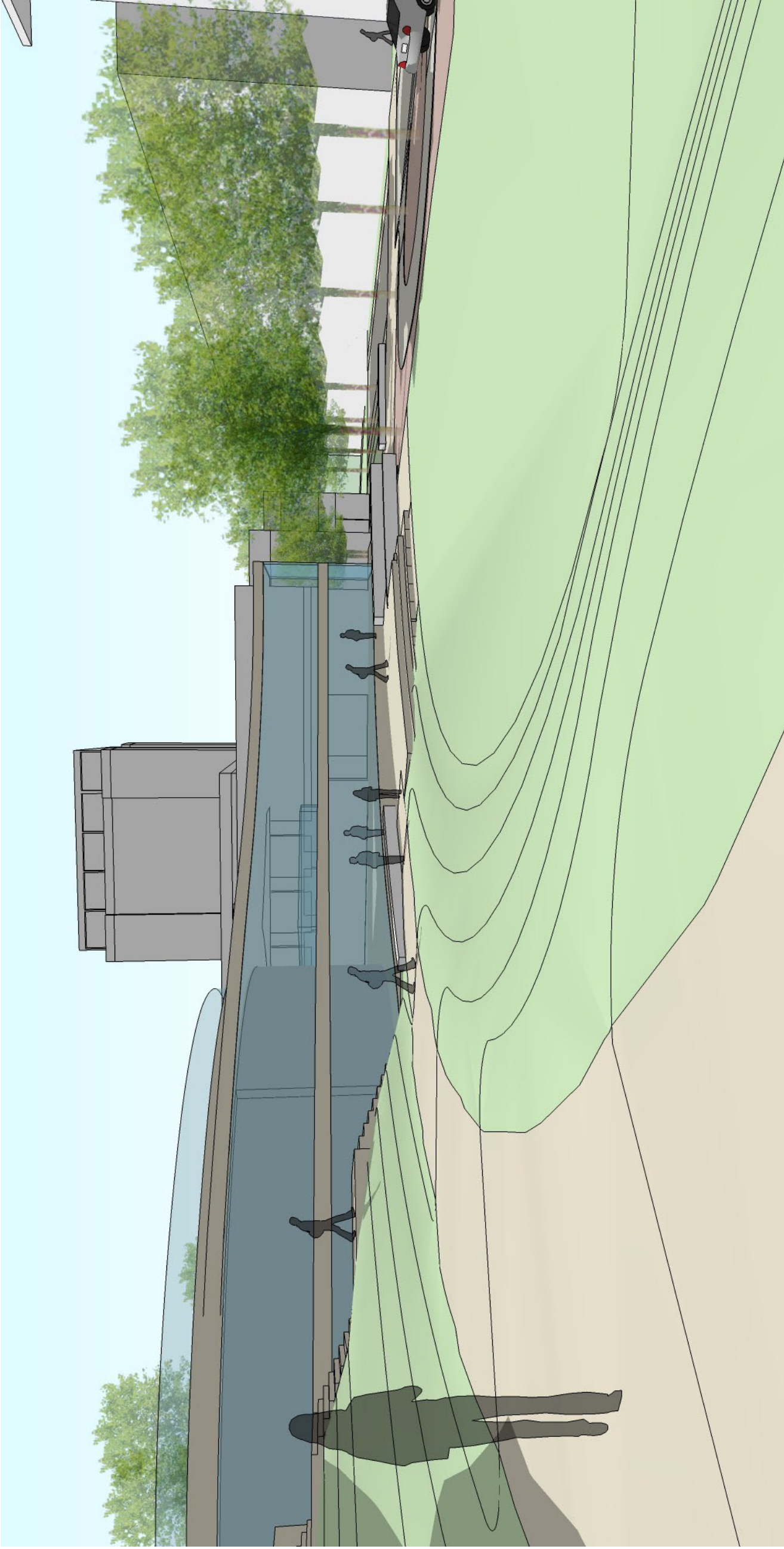
VIEW FROM THEATER TERRACE

During intermission and after performances, theater goers can exit the theater lobby onto a spacious theater terrace, which connects directly with the lower Arts Quad Lawn. The terrace is ADA accessible from the vehicular drop-off and the Ruffin Terrace.



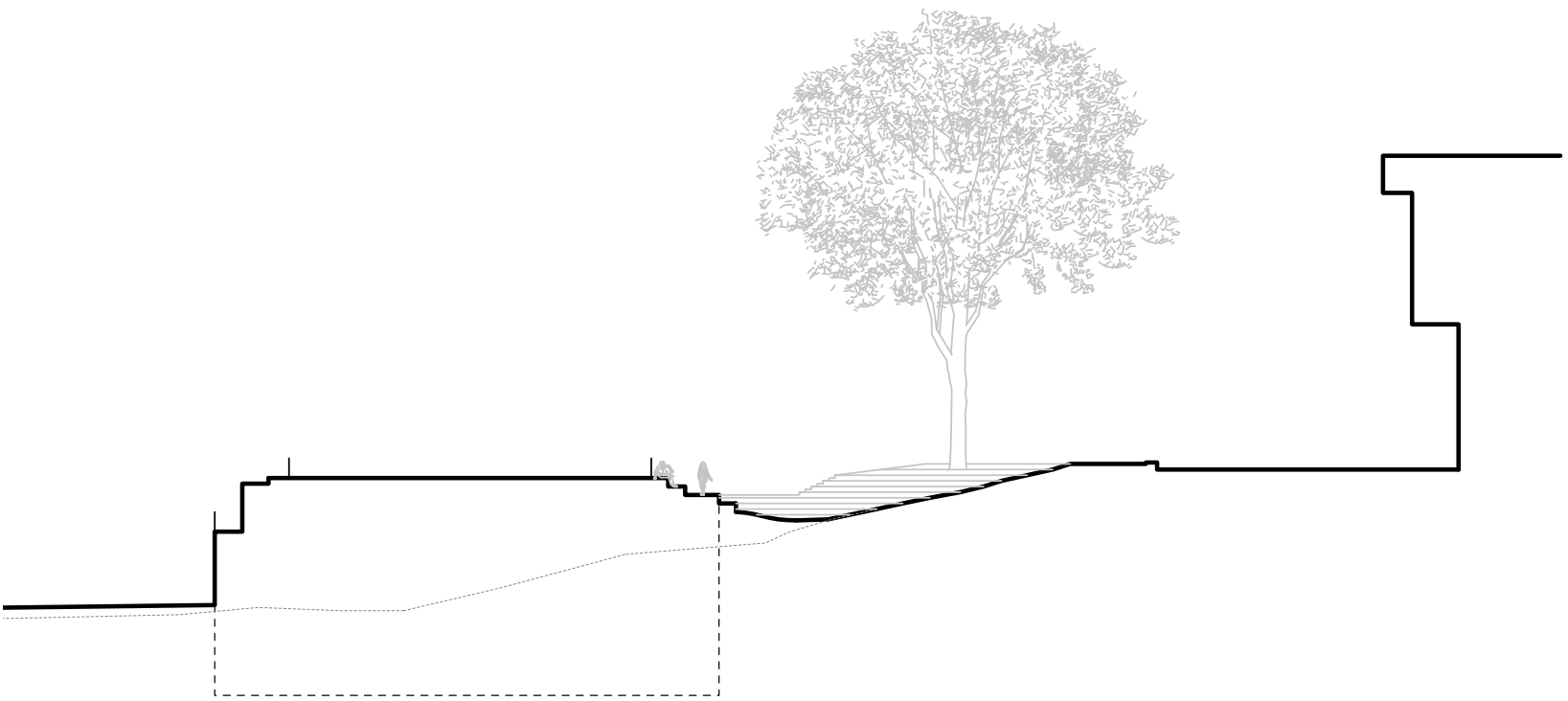
BIRDS EYE OF ARTS COMMONS TOWARD NEW THRUST THEATER

The new Arts Commons creates multiple opportunities for circulation, gathering, and performance. The west facing side of the quad is planted with a grove of trees, creating an attractive shady microclimate, while the western side of the quad is more open, allowing for views to the Lambeth Field amphitheater colonnade and the North Arts Commons.



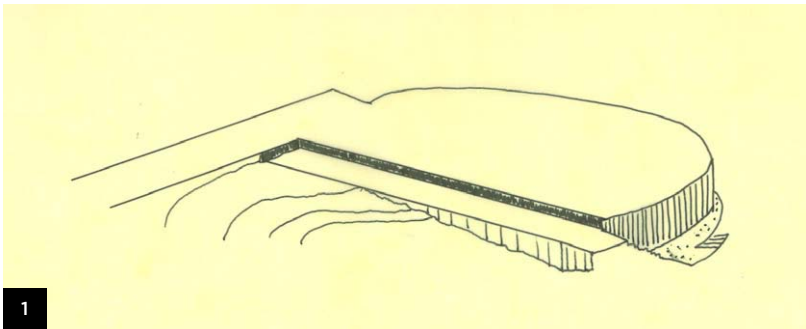
THEATER PERFORMANCE TERRACE

The thrust theater terrace is spacious enough for small performances and gatherings. The connection to the Lower Arts Commons allows patrons to exit the theater and directly access the lawn while the stair wrapping the eastern edge of the theater provides access to the Upper Arts Commons, the thrust theater roof, Campbell Hall, and the University Art Museum.

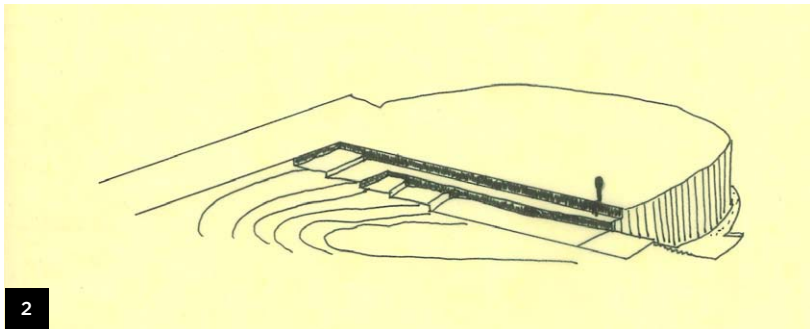


NORTH/SOUTH SECTION AT THE HERITAGE WHITE OAK TREE

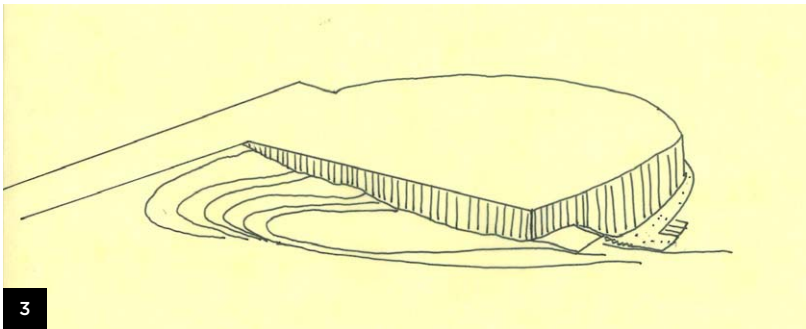
Terracing the back of the thrust theater roof lessens the height difference between the existing grade and the theater roof. Existing grade shown as dashed line.



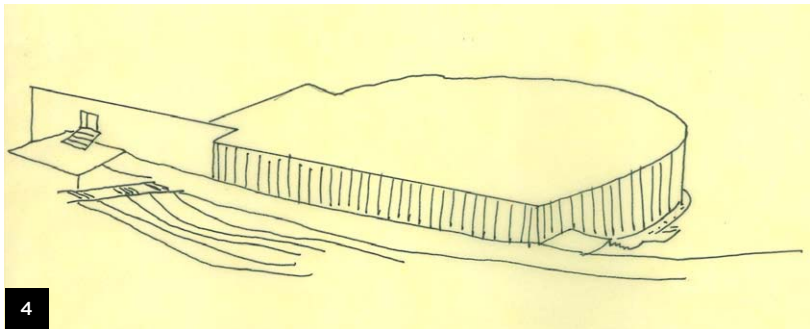
1



2



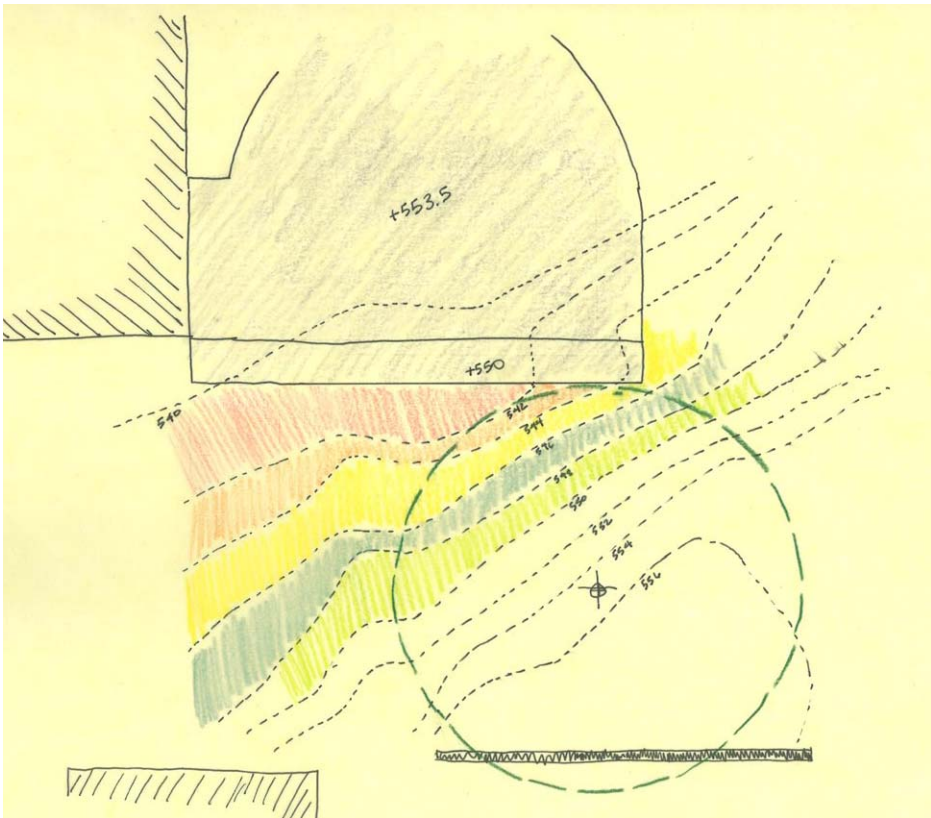
3



4

BACK OF THRUST THEATER AXONOMETRIC STUDIES

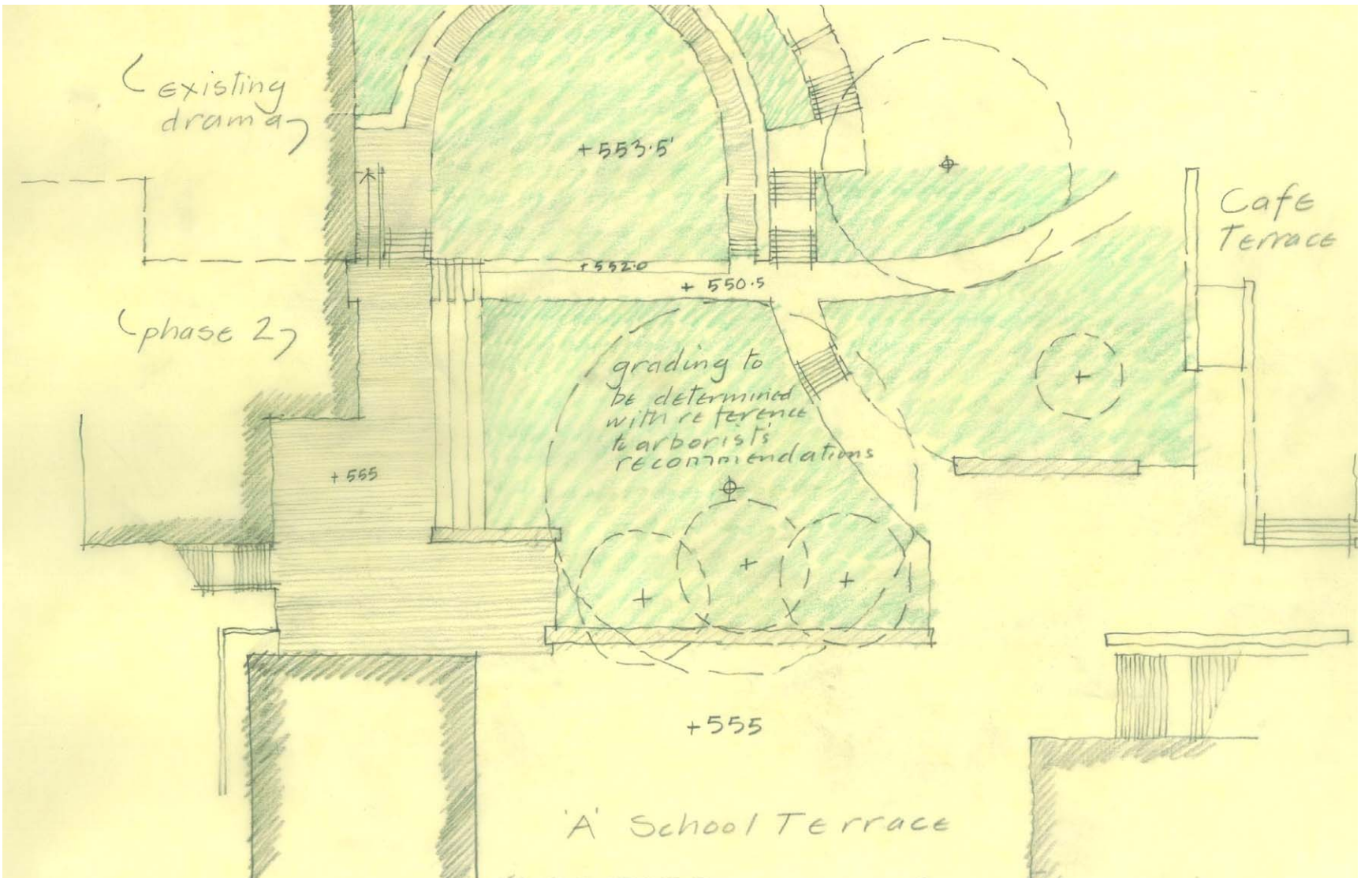
Given the grade difference between the theater roof and the white oak roof zone, the above axonometric drawings study potential solutions that do not require significant regrading in the tree root zone. The first two illustrate options for terracing the south side of the roof, the third illustrates a solution where the east/west path across the quad does not connect to the theater roof, and the fourth illustrates the amount of exposed wall if the building was inserted into the existing grade without additional grading. Option 2 is adopted for the master plan pending the arborists review of the grading scheme.



FILL DEPTH STUDY	
	8 - 10 FEET
	6 - 8 FEET
	4 - 6 FEET
	2 - 4 FEET
	0 - 2 FEET

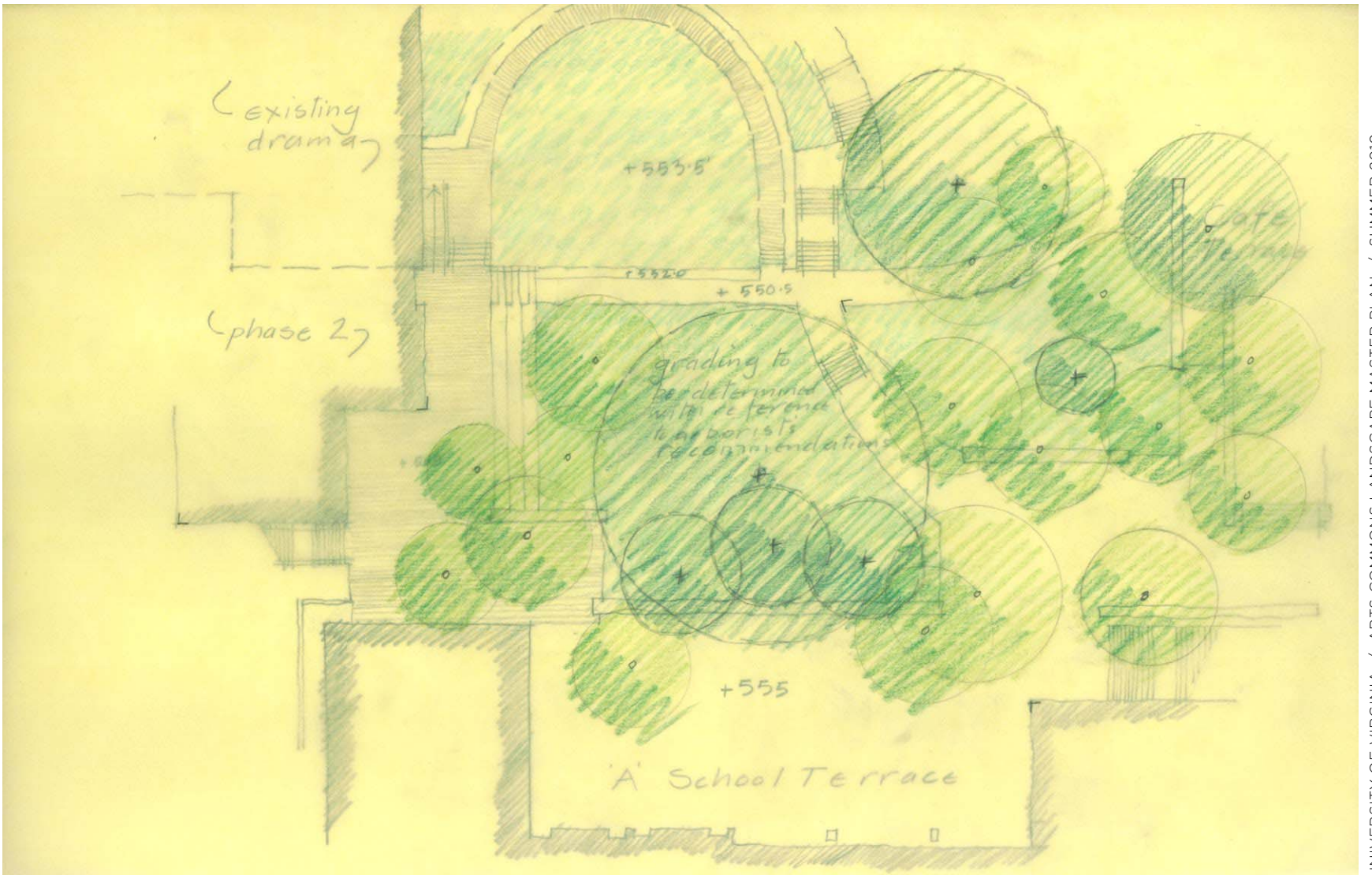
WHITE OAK FILL DIAGRAM

Illustrated here is the amount of fill required over the roots of the existing white oak tree to create a smooth connection between the theater roof and the tree.



PHASE 2 / GROUND PLANE

In phase 2 of the theater expansion, the Campbell Hall Terrace will be connected to the new dance building and the thrust theater roof providing a generous terrace at the same grade as the Campbell Terrace.



PHASE 2 / TREE CANOPY

APPENDIX

UVA ARTS COMMONS: GUIDELINES FOR MASTER PLAN

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 2010

The UVA Office of the Architect will sponsor a master planning study in the winter of 2010 for the open quadrangle at the heart of the “Arts Precinct on Carrs Hill. Informally known as the “Arts Common”, the site is northward sloping, between 1.5 and 1.75 acres, framed by the Buckingham Railroad to the north, the Drama building and Carr’s Hill garage to the west, the School of Architecture / Campbell Hall to the south, and the Fiske Kimball Fine Arts Library, Studio Art / Ruffin Hall, and Rehearsal Hall to the east.

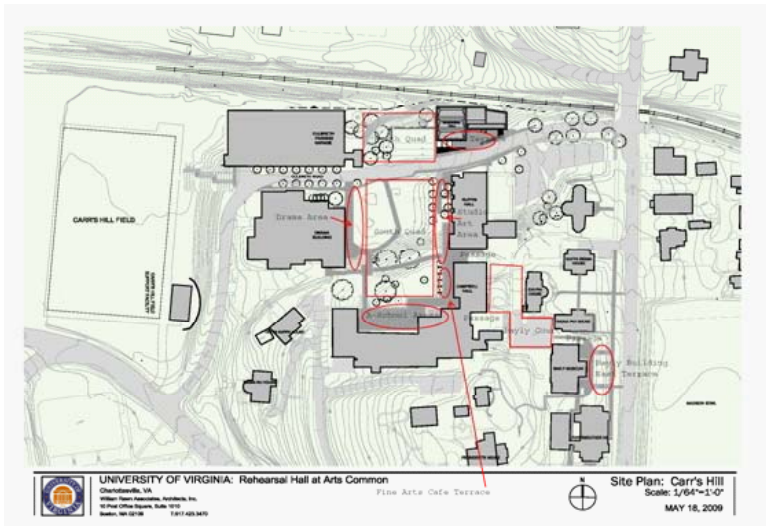
To prepare for the physical planning effort, the Vice Provost for the Arts organized a committee in the fall of 2009 to develop a set of goals, concerns, and academic program activities for the Commons and for some of the smaller open spaces at key locations around the Arts Precinct. The focus was on issues and activities important to the students and faculty of the academic units, who would be the primary users and identity-givers to the common.

The committee includes representatives for each academic unit in the Arts and is made up as follows:

- Convening: Office of the EVP and Provost
 - Beth Turner, Vice Provost for the Arts
 - Richard Minturn, Senior Academic Facilities Planner
- Arts and Sciences, including Art Department, Drama Department, Music Department :
 - Richard Myers, Senior Associate Dean for Administration and Finance
 - Bruce Holsinger, Associate Dean for the Arts and Humanities
 - Larry Goedde, Chair, McIntire Department of Art
- School of Architecture:
 - Kim Tanzer, Dean
- Library
 - Diane Walker, Associate University Librarian
- University Art Museum:
 - Bruce Boucher, Director
- Coordinating with the Master Plan and Rehearsal Hall and Thrust Theater Designs: Office of the University Architect
 - Mary Hughes, Landscape Architect for the University
 - David Neuman, Architect for the University

METHODOLOGY

Using a site map and grid format developed by the Provost’s office, the academic members were asked to gather input from their faculty prior to a first meeting of the committee when all the input would be discussed and organized.



Arts Quads Activity Program November 2009 Vice Provost for the Arts				
Unit/Use	South Quad	North Quad	Bayly Court	Priority Use areas
Architecture				
Event Uses				
Ongoing Uses				
Unit/Use	South Quad	North Quad	Bayly Court	Primary Use areas
A&S - Drama				
Event Uses				

The committee met in December 2009 and early January 2010. Quickly, the emphasis turned to the Commons as a resource for the arts community and the activities either as undertakings for the community or, if sponsored by an individual unit, as events that would be scheduled cooperatively, and would use relatively flexible facilities in the Commons for a set time. Goals and concerns, also made up a larger than expected part of the conversation. In response, the data format listing activities and goals unit by unit was scrapped in favor of developing a set of shared goals and concerns for the Commons, and lists of activities for the Commons spaces which are largely undifferentiated by which unit is the sponsor. Headings were made for Goals, Concerns, and the various outdoor spaces, and input from all the academic units was listed and then edited under each heading.

FINDINGS

SITE

Although the committee focused Arts Commons proper, they recognize that the arts precinct extends well beyond: from the Rugby Road entries on the east, to the land west of Emmet St. at the Cavalier Inn which is reserved for a performing center in the future. Circulation routes, planned visual experiences, and systems of wayfinding will all be important considerations in making the arts precinct comprehensible and toward using the precinct as a tool to reinforce the arts experience at UVA.

The Architect's office provided a broader site plan which was used for the January discussion:



General Goals, Concerns, and Amenities. Most of the discussion time in the committee's meetings was devoted to defining the qualities for the space that everyone considers important, and the qualities everyone wants to avoid. The common theme is community, and recognition that the Arts Common is a key tool for the students and faculty of the various arts disciplines to create an interdisciplinary community of the arts at UVA.

SOME GENERAL GOALS:

- A "Shared and Safe Space" for making and showing art, and for arts events.
- A sense of common purpose and belonging for whole arts community around a physical outdoor space where each academic stakeholder has an address.
- Governance which establishes a clear arts mission for the space, assigns operational responsibility for its programming and use to the academic arts community, and provides processes for transparent and collective decisions about event scheduling and event guidelines.
- A Landscape, not a hardscape. A designed outdoor space which takes its cues from the topography, history, and botany of the place:
 - Distant views preserved: Mountains and Lambeth Colonnade.
 - An "open forest" aesthetic on the hillside. Trees should remain, or be re-created.
 - Despite density of surrounding development, circulation, and program, Commons should still feel like landscape, not hardscape.
- Despite the abundance of activities to be supported, not over-designed. A few flexible, multi-functional elements to support activities.

Likewise, despite the need to resolve universal access on a multi-level site, wayfinding, and the needs of the activity program, the final design feels simple and elegant.

SOME GENERAL CONCERNS:

- Timing of decisions on the Thrust theater. Planners should push for clarity on University's intentions.
- No planning for Dance. Don't preclude an eventual Dance addition on Drama Building. Try to anticipate how it will fit into the multipurpose landscape.
- Too much building in quad. Assuming Thrust theater proceeds, concern that we end up with a spatially coherent and pleasant outdoor space, not stripes of circulation with vestiges of green between.
 - The exposed side wall of the Thrust theater needs to interlock with the landscape. Should steps be used?
 - What to do w/ roof of Thrust theater – a significant resource, not to be wasted. Must integrate with quad, not chop it up. THE important issue for physical programming and then for design.
- Future building site at Rugby and Culbreth. A consideration for the planning study: the parking area at corner of Rugby and Culbreth, presently used by the adjacent fraternity, is UVA land and a likely site for future academic building.

SOME AMENITIES WHICH THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED WOULD HAVE GENERAL APPLICATION TO THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS:

- Navigation:
 - Clear and easy "flow" between the buildings.
 - Connections to the wider arts precinct, to Grounds, and to community.
- Consider all the users and what they will experience: Arts community, general UVA community, game day crowd, neighbors, prospective students.
- Their walk or drive through the Arts should engage them in the arts at UVA, as well as get them to their destination.
- Signage, not just identifying the space as Arts Grounds but providing clear directions to, from, and between the various buildings
- Space that is flexible and which users can manipulate for a variety of uses at different times.
- Bicycle access improvement. Ideas: Uphill bike lane on Culbreth and Rugby. Commuter bike racks at buildings along Culbreth. More capacity and more orderly racks at Bayly Court.
- Traffic calming at Culbreth Road.

THE ARTS COMMON

The committee considers the shared central common both south and north of Culbreth Road as the most important outdoor space, and key to making a working arts community. They spent most of their time working on ideas for these spaces. They did also discuss the goals and activities for some of the specialized sub-spaces of the Arts Commons such as the Fine Arts Café Terrace. The main points covered were:

COMMON: A-SCHOOL TO CULBRETH ROAD

Event uses:

- Outdoor theater performances during the school year and summer. (Could there be a temporary or movable stage?)
- Space for jazz and percussion performances: Jazz on the Lawn could easily become or be supplemented by Jazz on Arts Grounds
- Graduation for various Departments a possibility.

On going uses:

- Sculpture display (temporary or permanent) -outdoor exhibit space, whether covered or not -think about media art projection on building surfaces or screens
- Outdoor year-round film screening: could part of the Arts Grounds budget go to a large outdoor screen (perhaps inflatable), with seating on the hill or in the grass?
- Easy availability and access to (1) adequate, comfortable seating; (2) food; and (3) weather protection--shade and rain/snow cover.

ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL TERRACE

General:

- In general, limits on new permanent installations on landscape/hardscape going forward.

Event uses:

- Receptions, parties
 - Not Graduation, due to limited size of present space. Adding useable roof of new theater might change this.
- Temporary exhibits and installations
- Lay out and assembly for large projects

On going uses:

- Outdoor classes (limited areas now, can they be increased)
- Individual / group study
- Informal play

WEST SIDE OF LIBRARY AND FINE ARTS CAFÉ TERRACE

Goals

- Library reading areas: Preserve / enhance views to mountains.
- Connect the Library vertically to café and terrace amenities.
 - *When Library renovation project is funded, good location for elevator that is needed for accessibility anyway.*
- Café: Needs to be brought into better conversation with the outdoor areas, the plazas, the hill, the grassy and paved areas below
- Needs to become the food venue for all the arts, incl. Museum & Library: More seating, longer hours, better access.

DRAMA LOBBY FORECOURT

Events:

- Possible performance venue at new drop off – oriented east/west rather than north/south.

On-going uses:

- Possible performance venue at new drop off – oriented east/west rather than north/south. Combine band performance surface with drop-off hardscape.

COMMONS NORTH OF CULBRETH ROAD, AND CULBRETH ROAD

Goals:

- Different from South Quad, but connectable for events. Manage the design of road and traffic plan accordingly.
- Culbreth Road becomes a journey of discovery about Arts at UVA. Slow, enlightening, and safe.
 - Ability to shut off traffic, traffic calming, a brief “arts experience” for motorists.

Event uses:

- Media display
- Band concerts. Maybe in a demountable shell. See also idea of east-west orientation for concerts under “Drama Area”

On going uses:

- Informal play, study, and socializing.

BAND TERRACE

Event uses:

- Family meeting area on game days

On going uses:

- Staging, loading, unloading.
- Informal gathering for band , practicing musicians, & friends

ENTRY SPACES

The committee recognizes that the Bayly Building terrace east of the Art Museum, Bayly Court, and the east side of the Library / Ruffin Hall entry are all important outdoor spaces and must be considered part of the arts precinct composition. The committee developed some goals and activity programs for these spaces:

BAYLY COURT

Event uses:

- Promenade between venues on Final Fridays etc.
- Front path to A-School, Library, & Studio Art. “second front” to Museum .
- Is this an event space itself or just path to other places?

On going uses:

- Arts “entry court”
- Increasing the visibility & identity of the Fiske Kimball Library
- Media wall/display
- Outdoor study
- Expansion space for the Fine Arts Library (possibly incorporating the Music Library—depending upon location of music academic program)

MUSEUM TERRACE AT RUGBY ROAD.

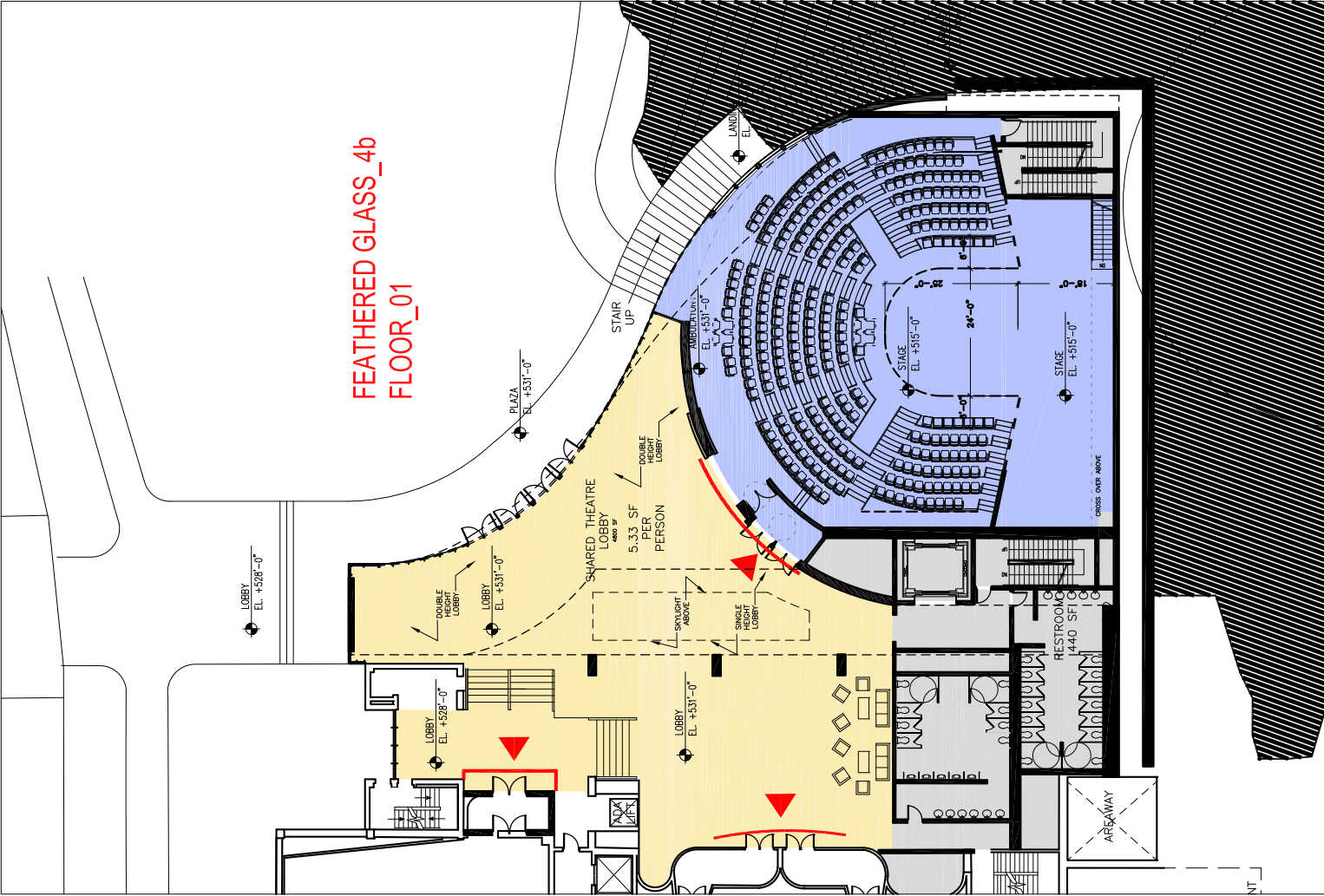
(Note that some restoration and upgrade work will be done on this space during 2010 as part of the Grounds Improvement Fund program.)

Event uses:

- Receptions, member events, private events

On going uses:

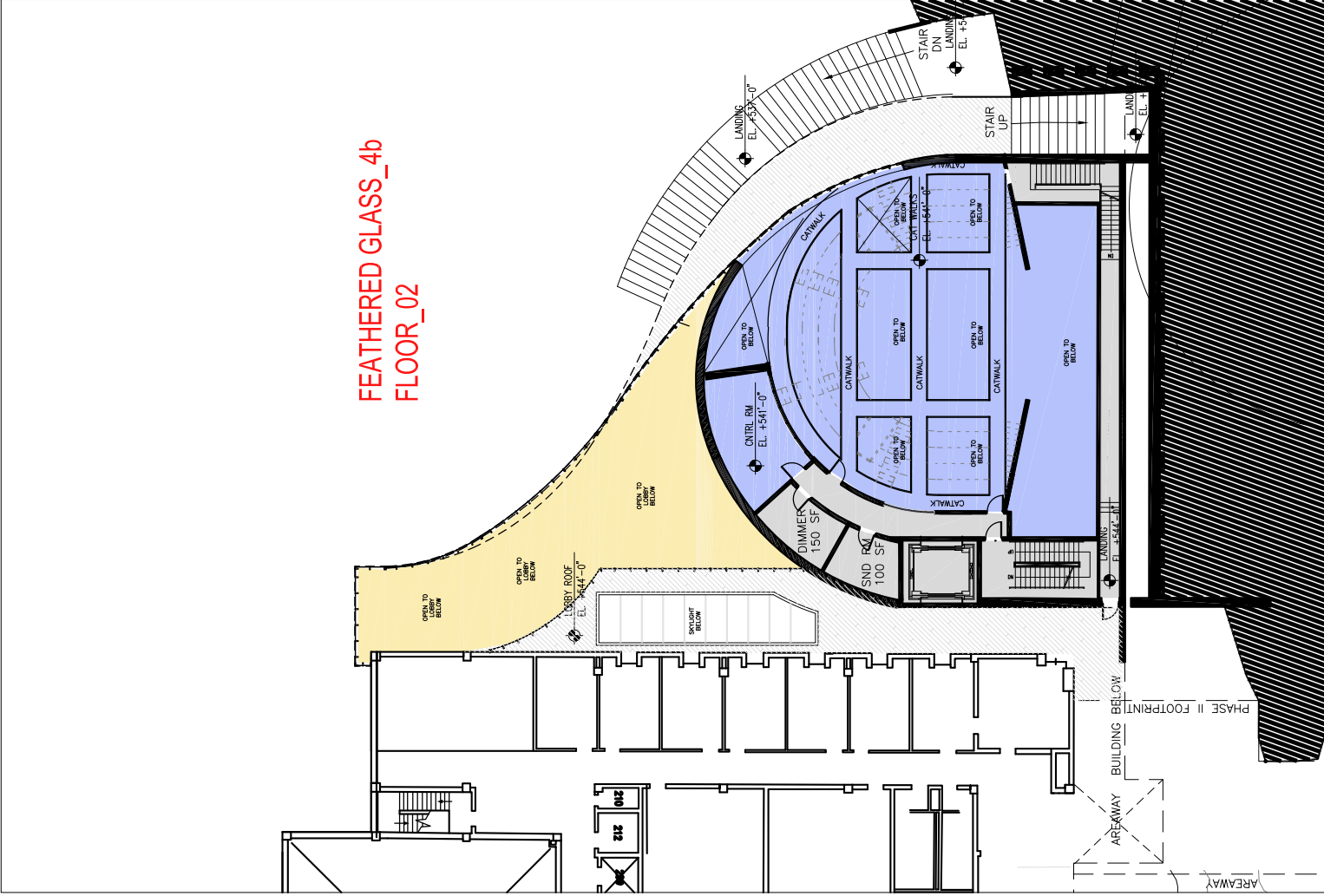
- Front entry to Museum
- Possible coffee kiosk in fair weather
- Informal outdoor socializing, study
- Main pedestrian entry point to Arts Grounds from Central Grounds



FEATHERED GLASS_4b
FLOOR_01

CULBRETH THEATRE ADDITION
William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc.
10 Post Office Square, Suite 1010
Boston, MA 02109 T:617.423.3470

FEATHERED SCHEME First Floor
6-15-10
1/16"=1'-0"



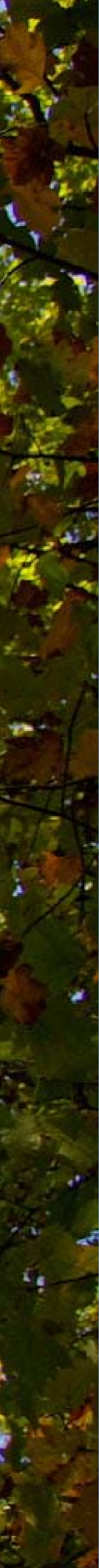
FEATHERED GLASS_4b
FLOOR_02

CULBRETH THEATRE ADDITION
William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc.
10 Post Office Square, Suite 1010
Boston, MA 02109 T:617.423.3470

FEATHERED SCHEME Second Floor
6-15-10
1/16"=1'-0"







OLIN

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN / WWW.THEOLINSTUDIO.COM

PHILADELPHIA

PUBLIC LEDGER BUILDING, SUITE 1123
150 SOUTH INDEPENDENCE MALL WEST
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106
TEL 215.440.0030 / FAX 215.440.0041

LOS ANGELES

THE TAFT BUILDING
1680 VINE STREET, 7TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90028
TEL 323.387.3598