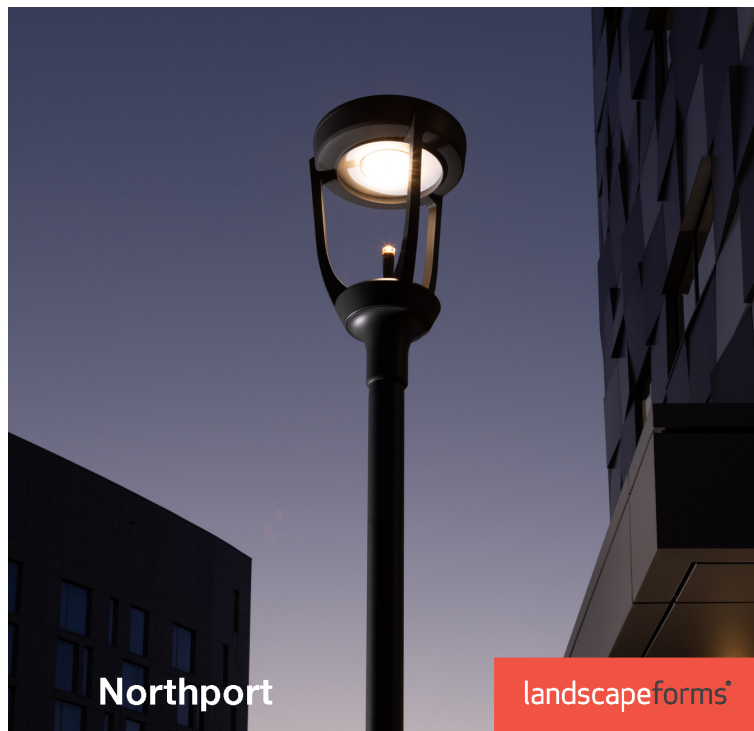




MISITES

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 4

MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY
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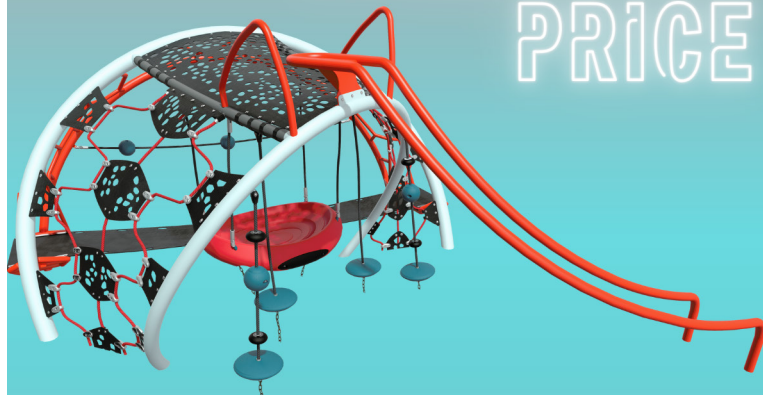
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings ASLA members!

On behalf of the Michigan Chapter ASLA Executive Committee and the MiSITES Editorial Board, we are excited to bring you this latest issue of MiSITES. In this issue, we highlight our student and professional chapter design awards. We received many outstanding submittals last year and are pleased to share more about the awarded projects as well as the firms and individuals who continue to push the envelope on design and innovation.

Save the Date! The Michigan Conference on Landscape Architecture is set for September 12, 2024 in Detroit. There will be more information coming soon – keep an eye on our webpage for the latest information: www.michiganasla.org

On June 6-7, we will again be co-hosting the **Great Lakes Region Climate Action Seminar**. This will be a joint virtual event hosted by the Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Upstate New York and Ohio ASLA Chapters. See the link on our homepage for more information on how to register for the event. [There will be continuing education credits available.](#)

We are also looking forward to hosting our **36th Annual Golf Classic** which will take place in mid-July (date and location coming soon!). Whether you're a seasoned golfer or someone who likes to play a couple times a year, this is

a great chance to get out of the office, spend some time with colleagues (or clients!), and network with other design professionals. In addition to a great day on the course, the proceeds from the outing go to support the student programs in landscape architecture and horticulture at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. In 2023, the Michigan Chapter donated over \$9,000 to these programs. These monies help finance student development such as covering costs for attending state and local conferences. We hope to see you there!

Would you like to get involved with the Michigan Chapter ASLA or know someone who might? We are always looking for volunteers to help us with events, promotions, etc. Volunteering is a great way to network and support your local chapter. You can learn more about events to get involved with at www.michiganasla.org/get-involved.

I hope you enjoy this issue of MiSITES. As always, please reach out to me or any member of our Executive Committee if there is anything we can do for you. You can reach us at excom@michiganasla.org.

Kyle Verseman, ASLA
2023-2024 President, Michigan Chapter ASLA

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SHARE AN IDEA!

We're currently filling our 2024 MiSITES editorial calendar. If you would like to contribute or suggest a topic or project to cover, please email: SITESpublication@michiganasla.org.

STUDYING FOR THE LARE?

To sign up for our LARE study groups, please email education@michiganasla.org.



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West terrace and amphitheater as gathering area. All images courtesy of Beckett & Raeder.

MSU STEM TEACHING & LEARNING FACILITY EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

DESIGN CONTEXT

The development of the STEM Teaching and Learning Facility on Michigan State University's campus in East Lansing, Michigan served as a catalyst for campus-scale changes in the way students collaborate and come together to learn, as well as ripple effects in the realm of construction sustainability, as the facility was the first-ever mass timber project in Michigan and one of the largest in the Midwest. This project's overarching goals were to improve and enhance the undergraduate learning experience, support experiential teaching and learning, attract and retain more students in STEM disciplines, and better prepare those students for professional careers in fields of science, technology, engineering and math. The adaptive re-use of the site and structure of a decommissioned campus power plant spurred a new hub of campus and educational connectivity.

The classroom building houses entry level courses in Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, Biology and Material Science and is physically located at the junction between the athletic and academic zones of the campus, serving as a gateway to the academic zone and a nexus for students to come together in interior and exterior social and learning spaces. Prior to the opening of this facility, these courses were taken in a variety of locations on the campus with no link between the disciplines. In the new building, "science is on display" in a way that enables students and faculty to mix, fostering greater awareness and a deeper interdisciplinary curiosity than in the previously distinct buildings.

The STEM facility consists of two newly-constructed wings on the north and south sides flanking a decommissioned former power plant, embracing the

University's cultural heritage and providing an excellent opportunity for adaptive re-use of an existing structure. The heart of the building contains a variety of student engagement, study and tutoring, and project studio spaces along with a new tiered lecture hall and large flat floored active learning classroom addition. The site design is crafted to bring students together from all corners of the site into the wings and central gathering spaces, offering opportunities to gather, study, and reflect. The facility is directly adjacent to Spartan Stadium, so in addition to it being a hub of student activity during the week, it is also the site of throngs of football fans.

SITE DESIGN

As the site is at the heart of campus and the confluence of many pedestrian desire lines, the pedestrian circulation paths are designed to connect the corners of the site and flow around in a manner reminiscent of curling natural structures, swirling toward the central gathering area on the west side of the STEM building. This is contrasted by strong diagonal lines that bring pedestrians toward the main entries on the north, south, and east sides of the building. These entries are emphasized by column lights that march up the edges of the path and provide a strong wayfinding signal to visitors. The entry plazas are enhanced by soft waving landscape plantings that create a sense of movement and excitement in the landscape as visitors approach the front doors and flow through the site, leading eye toward the destinations.

The site design provides opportunities for outdoor seating, reflection, and socialization allowing students, staff and educators the opportunity to unwind and unplug. Seat walls, benches, and amphitheater seating offer a diversity of experiences from individual private time to social gathering of both large and small groups. WiFi access points were added to the exterior to promote ease of connectivity.

Artifacts from the Power Plant are salvaged and repurposed throughout the facility to create a unique character and to balance the new components that will make this a functional building. These artifacts have been incorporated as programmed elements, furnishings and art installations, and are found casually around every corner of the re-imagined space. In the exterior, artifacts were artfully placed within landscape beds on the west terrace to remind

visitors of the cultural heritage of the site.

The site design is almost entirely pedestrian in nature, and service and loading functions are discretely tucked between the Shaw Lane Power Plant and the south addition wing. Bicycle parking is integrated into the entry plazas in an unobtrusive manner, providing ease of access and functionality for students without detracting from the entry experience.

Overall, the redevelopment of this site from a defunct and unused space in the heart of campus into a hub for student engagement and experiential learning is truly transformative. New life has been brought to this part of campus, re-energizing it and creating sparks that will drive innovation through student collaboration. The site design piques the interest of visitors before they set foot in this innovative facility, giving a hint of what is to be found within its halls.

SUSTAINABILITY AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The project site lies in proximity to the Red Cedar River and is an important contributor to the greater Red Cedar Watershed. The project protects water quality and provides additional flood protection of the immediate watershed, ultimately contributing to the protection of the greater Red Cedar Watershed. Water quality and flood protection measures included onsite storm water management via an underground detention system with a stormwater quality treatment unit for the 90% exceedance storm of 9,750 cf. Additionally, the project provided a water quality treatment unit within the Shaw Lane right-of-way to provide additional regional benefit for stormwater quality. Stormwater infiltration on-site was not considered feasible due to the existing clay soils and high-water table. The measures used provide stream protection, on-site retention, flood control, and water quality treatment in compliance with MSU Storm Water Management requirements and State of Michigan permit.

During the construction phase, the team found significant water conservation opportunities by utilizing an existing 13,000-gallon expansion tank as a water source during interior demolition, abatement, and power washing activities. The water was used as dust control, decontamination showers, and for power washing existing interior brick. As this project includes an adaptive re-use of

an existing building, it greatly minimizes the increase of impervious surface area on the building site. The landscape around the building includes planting beds of native and adaptive plantings with low maintenance/water requirements and incorporates artifacts of the power plant in an artistic “museum like” display. •





West terrace and amphitheater



West terrace and amphitheater



North entry plaza, looking southeast



West side, looking north



GENERAL DESIGN - MERIT

WMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES PLAZA KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN OCBA

THE RULES OF RENOVATION

The Board of Trustees Plaza and Fountain replaces the Alumni Fountain created by the landscape architect in the 1980's in the center of a large university campus. While the original feature was beautifully designed, it was placed in the center of the plaza which serves as a major pedestrian thoroughfare, forcing pedestrian traffic out to the edges of the space instead of through the center. In addition, the water element was recessed into the ground plane, and from the outset large planters and benches were placed around the feature to keep passers-by from falling in, compromising the integrity of the lovely design.

The project program was a complete renovation of the outdoor plaza to highlight the sound of water trickling on the edges of the courtyard with clear pedestrian circulation through the center. Reducing maintenance, simplifying snow plowing, greening and softening the space without adding trees that block views of the surrounding architecture, and repurposing expensive building materials already owned by the client were key aspects of the program.

The plaza is the primary focal point for the outdoor patio of a new student center recently built along the north edge of the space. The large buildings and site retaining walls framing two sides of the courtyard are of a post-modern architectural style and clad with pale pink tile. The curved walls retain raised beds planted with mature trees and shrubs. Initially, the client wanted the existing vegetation and walls to remain, however, the tile cladding and aluminum wall caps were in extremely poor condition and in desperate need of a facelift. The geometry of the site walls presented a significant design



All images courtesy of OCBA

challenge as they radiate from a central circle that does not relate to the adjacent buildings surrounding the space. In addition, the buildings framing the plaza are placed at random angles, resulting in a lack of cohesiveness and a clear path of travel. The landscape architect assembled a multidisciplinary team that included an architect and structural engineer to assist with the structural design of the fountain steps, a mechanical engineer to design the pumps and connections to existing infrastructure, and a landscape contractor to assist with the fountain design and estimating construction costs.

The redesigned plaza space is open in the center and framed by plantings and a water feature made of stacked granite, with space for movable tables, planters, and pedestrian movement through the open pavement. The campus landscape master plan recently completed by the landscape architect calls for a variety of seating options along walkways from which students can see and be seen. Based on that idea, a concept was developed offering a seat wall along the plaza perimeter that defines the edge of the water feature/planting area stepping up behind it. The use of a seat wall edging the plaza ties this area of campus to another plaza space nearby that similarly organizes pedestrian traffic and gives students a place from which to people watch. In the large, paved, central plaza space, tables with umbrellas offer more seating and shade are located to the sides without blocking pedestrian traffic through the center of the space.

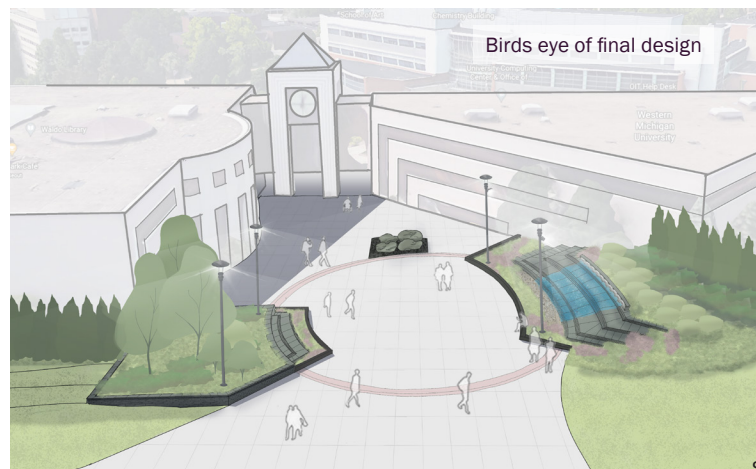
A large set of granite steps set back behind the seat wall allows water to cascade down into an underground basin before recirculating back to the top. The pondless recirculating fountain system has an equipment vault located in the landscaped mound behind the fountain. The changing, colored lights in the fountain provides a focal point at night. Plantings between the seat wall and granite steps are intended to discourage students from accessing the water cascade and aesthetically soften the edges of the granite steps. Setting the water feature back from the plaza space and separating it with a seat wall and planting reduces the likelihood of contact with the water and many of the risk concerns associated with it.

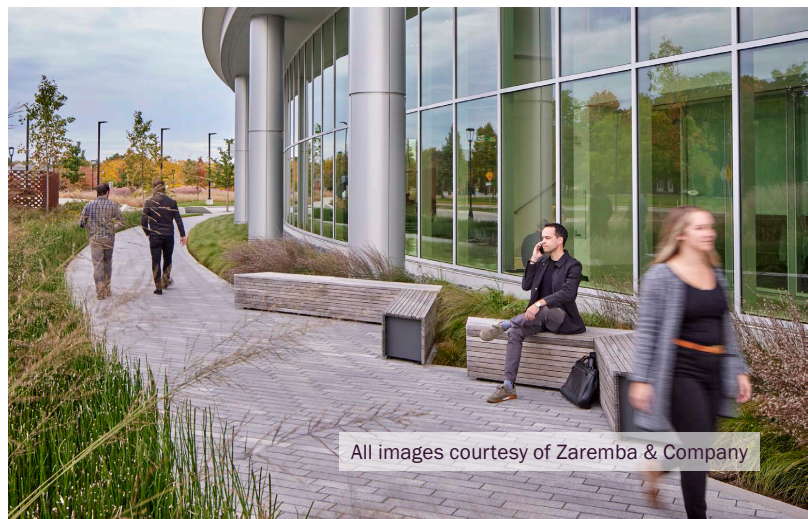
Because the adjacent student center was being designed by a different design team and constructed at the same time as the plaza space, collaboration and

coordination was required throughout the process. Landscape architects from both design teams met regularly during design and construction to coordinate paving layout and planting materials. Seat wall details were shared so that a small portion of seat wall within the student center building limit of work would match the plaza walls and blur the lines between the two projects, and the granite stack concept was carried into the student center landscape closest to the plaza.

RECLAMATION IN ACTION

The project reused approximately 750 slabs of the existing 1,249 slabs of granite that had been sitting unused for more than twenty years. Positive environmental impacts include repurposing the granite for the fountain stacks and cladding of the existing walls, reducing waste that would go to a landfill. The landscape architect selected the height of each tier of stone to respect the odd stone dimensions and utilize the material most efficiently. Similarly, cutting down and burying some of the existing retaining walls rather than removing them completely reduced waste going to a landfill. •





All images courtesy of Zaremba & Company

FORD EXPERIENCE CENTER

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

Zaremba and Company

The desire to create a sleek human-centered environment drove the landscape design of this hospitality facility in Dearborn. The project embraces multi-functionality while paying particular attention to sustainability.

This phase of the new corporate campus master plan called for a new 95,000 sf building along with a complete overhaul of the existing landscape. Along with programmatic requirements of entertaining, coworking, and large public functions, the client and stakeholder group desired a visitor experience that reflected the core values of the vehicles they create: style, innovation, durability, accessibility, mobility, sustainability, and comfort.

One driving concept of the project was motion, the need to accommodate for all forms of mobility and arrival, whether visitors approach the space by car, bike, or by foot. While much of the landscape is meant to be moved through or viewed at a distance, the design also offers moments of pause via both formal and informal spaces. Two large terraces grow from the building and invite indoor events to extend naturally outdoors. Guests can lounge on wood-topped benches, enjoy lively conversation around tables, or lie in the cool grass of the berms.

From the flat drive aisle to the curbless plaza to the terraces that flow seamlessly from interior to exterior, movement is effortless and encouraged. Flowing earth contours and custom retaining walls sweep alongside walkways and offer a lively visual treat while directing movement. The walls also subtly divide space and create moments of privacy. The precast concrete forms undulate and fold, transforming into sculptural elements, plant bed borders, and benches.

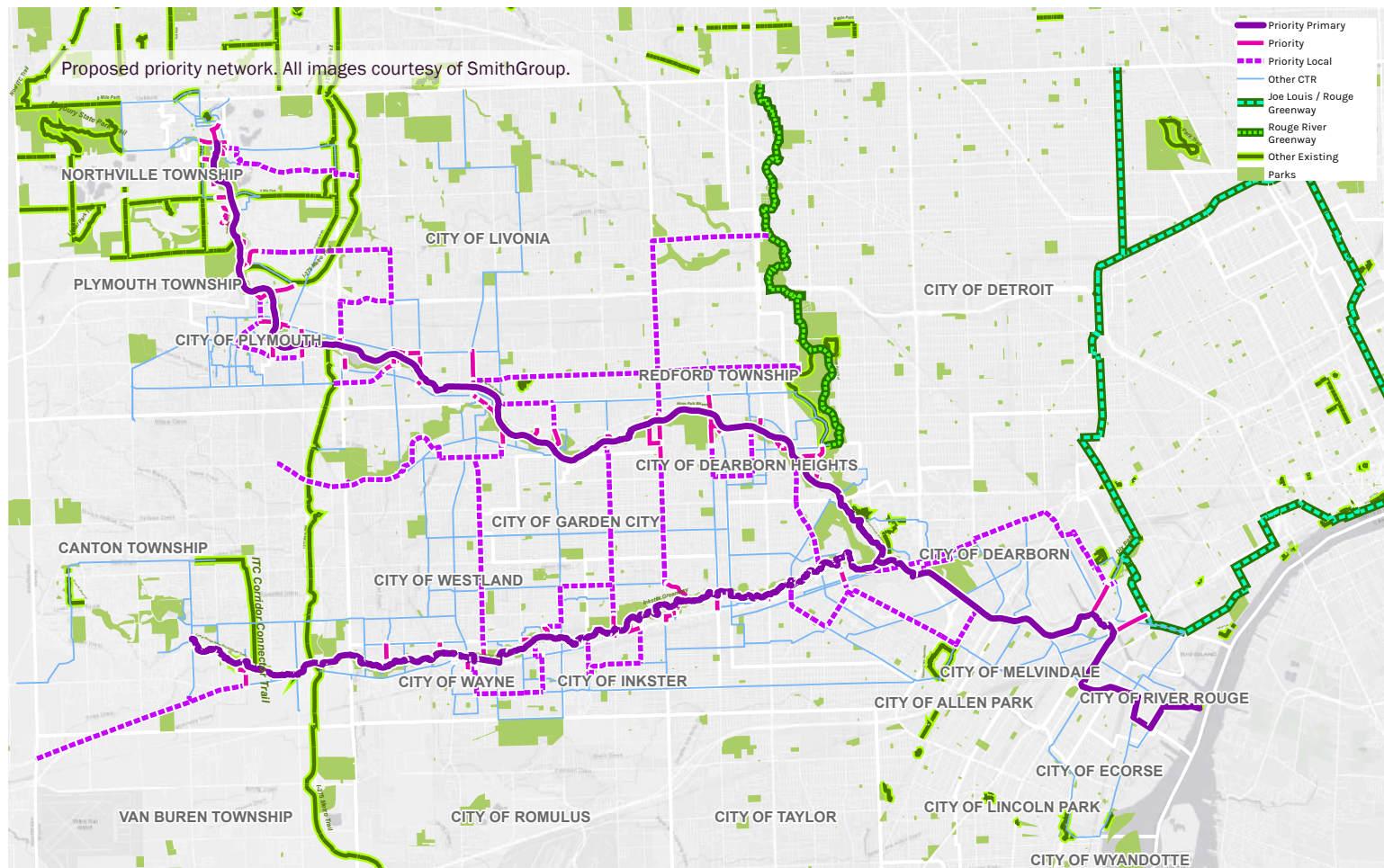
Sustainable plantings and materials were chosen to restore the site's oak savannah prairie typology, large sweeping beds of prairie dropseed and little bluestem punctuated with tall oaks bring historic vistas to the present. Under the patio surface, structural soil cells support the health and vitality of a ginkgo tree grove. Seasonal forbs offer ever-changing pops of color. Topping the concrete benches is thermally modified ash, a sustainable and beautiful detail.

The precast concrete walls were custom designed with versatile functionality in mind; their utility and beauty are a crucial centerpiece of this project. While each wall was uniquely designed, they share a common design language with the building. They also offered two design problems: individual molds because cost-prohibitive, but the solution lay in repeating molds as much as possible by modifying the wall design. The second challenge was grading for positive drainage away from perfectly level foundations where the wall meets the hardscape, which required a considerable amount of careful attention and precise detail. •



Rendering of outdoor cafe seating area

Proposed priority network. All images courtesy of SmithGroup.



CONNECTING THE ROUGE FRAMEWORK PLAN

WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

SmithGroup

DESIGN CONTEXT

There are 17 Wayne County communities located along the three regional trail corridors that serve as the foundation of this plan. These communities vary in terms of size, demographics, job base, and access to commercial and recreational resources. Providing safe, equitable non-motorized means of transportation to access jobs, schools, commercial destinations, and recreation opportunities is essential. Such access can have a positive impact on the overall quality of life for residents by providing stable neighborhoods and promoting economic development.

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) is the municipal planning organization coordinating the transportation network in the seven-county southeast Michigan region. One focus of theirs has been in coordinating bicycle and pedestrian mobility. In their Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan for Southeast Michigan (March 2020) they identified a planned and existing regional trail network. This network describes corridors that serve as primary routes for longer distance trips while also connecting local communities and other non-motorized trails.

Connecting the Rouge provides a framework plan to improve connections to and between trails along Hines Drive, the Lower Rouge River Greenway and the Rouge River Gateway Greenway. Linkages have been identified between neighborhoods, communities, jobs, commercial areas, and destinations along the Rouge River.

ENGAGEMENT

Within the planning process, community and stakeholder engagement was

vital in understanding the local and community context. The Connecting the Rouge engagement process was a multipronged approach, involving various methods and phases of engagement:

- Creation of a project website
- Online community surveys
- Community stakeholder meetings
- Virtual public engagement meeting
- Online community engagement



The project started in February 2020. The detailed public engagement plan took a hard right turn with the pandemic lockdown. The planning team regrouped and facilitated a successful virtual program using several different tools. A project website and kick-off survey solicited community comments around 6 topics:

1. Community Vision
2. Arts, Culture & Community
3. Economic Development
4. Health & Wellness
5. Placemaking & Open Space
6. Transportation & Accessibility.

The use of our community's public platform was to explore ideas and engage the community to solve important local issues. The website included community surveys and results along with interactive maps and information on how the community can be involved in the project.

CANDIDATE ROUTE IDENTIFICATION

The Connecting the Rouge project is ultimately about identifying and building new greenway, trail, and non-motorized connections to the regional trail network. Central to this task was identifying a broad range of potential routes, from which a set of actionable and prioritized projects can be pursued for implementation. Potential routes were identified using several sources during the planning process including:

- Community Plans/Master Plans
- Transportation Plans
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Public Participation
- GIS Data

ROUTE EVALUATION

The technical analysis for Connecting the Rouge focused on two key factors: (1) the demographic characteristics of neighborhoods within the project area

and (2) the important assets and destinations proximate to the potential project alignments. These factors provided a better understanding of the communities along the greenways and their potential needs for access. In particular, understanding equity factors and where greenways can support historically underserved areas and provide people with means to safely recreate and access important destinations was a critical focus of the plan and the purpose of this analysis.

The demographic and destination analysis considered two sets of data, one encompassing a broad range of demographic factors and the other destinations and assets, which were used to locate hotspots or key areas to emphasize for future investment. These emphasized areas were then used as a basis for prioritizing routes identified during the process, supporting more informed decision-making, and ensuring equitable outcomes were achieved.

FRAMEWORK PLAN & PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

The Connecting the Rouge Framework Plan was developed iteratively through the planning process, incorporating the results of the technical analysis and evaluation as well as stakeholder and community feedback. The framework plan began with the overall network of potential routes and then refined those projects down into a priority network that should be pursued first for implementation. Priority routes were further broken down into actionable projects that fell into three different categories:

1. Priority Primary Trails: improvements to the three regional greenway trails
2. Priority Direct Connectors: that connect directly to a primary route providing frequent access points
3. Priority Local/County Connectors: routes that interconnect communities across Wayne County Parks

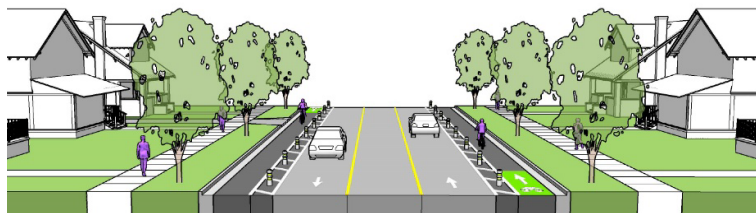
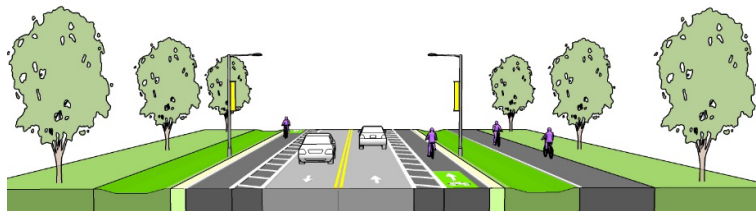
OUTCOMES

The Connecting the Rouge plan is the culmination of regional collaboration, route identification, technical evaluation, and community engagement. The resulting priority projects list takes 300 miles of candidate routes identified in the overall framework and distills them into 101 projects divided into three categories:

1. Priority Primary Trails: 19 projects/37.5 miles of trail
2. Priority Direct Connectors: 57 projects/23 miles of trail
3. Priority Local/County Connectors: 25 projects/69 miles of trail

These high impact projects were determined based on a combination of technical input and stakeholder feedback. The projects are prioritized due to their functional role within the network, the potential benefits they afford to the county, community needs, and local support for implementation. In addition to identifying priority projects, the Connecting the Rouge plan identified strategies that focus on collaboration toward improving user experience and providing a vision for how these trails can be integrated into the community fabric. Four topics were identified as critical to achieving this vision. These topics focus on mobility, health and open space, arts and culture, and economic development.

Within each of these topics, several strategies were identified that support the vision. The mobility framework focused on improving access for all users and the design of facilities that maximizes comfort and safety. The health and open space strategies focused on the multiple positive health effects realized from trails and open space. The public arts and culture framework was built around advancing opportunities for community and neighborhood connections and facilitating an enhanced user experience. This process utilizes the power of public art in a diversity of forms to celebrate cultural identity, history, and increased engagement with parks and greenspace. Trail development can be a meaningful component of a community's economic development strategy as well as strengthening quality of life. •



Examples of cross-section typologies from the design guidelines.

MICHIGAN TECH CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN

SmithGroup

AN AMBITIOUS CAMPUS PLAN

Profound technological changes are occurring today, and universities need to prepare students to work and live in this new world. As Michigan's flagship technological university, Michigan Technological University (Michigan Tech) recognized the role it could play in influencing and adapting to the disruptive forces of the 21st century.

In early 2021, Michigan Tech began the journey to develop a new comprehensive Campus Master Plan (CMP) for its 925-acre campus. The bold CMP anticipates growth in undergraduate and graduate students and faculty with an increase in research activity.

PROGRAM GOALS

The CMP premise was simple: translate the university's strategic initiatives into physical responses to enhance the campus. The CMP seeks to create innovative teaching, learning, and research spaces; develop resilient and sustainable infrastructure; celebrate the "place" of campus; connect to our host community; and enhance the student experience.

The past few years have underscored the need for a highly adaptive campus ecosystem. Michigan Tech is facing a rapid shift in student demographics, the resurgence of the skills economy, and unprecedented technological changes in teaching and learning environments. All of these challenges require facility adaptations and a reprioritized investment strategy. This means refocusing planning efforts around several university priorities. These include:

- Embracing hands-on STEM learning in a residential environment

- Realigning existing facilities to match Michigan Tech's national reputation and brand
- Placing "tech on display" and showcase the university's best academic, research, and maker spaces
- Designing networked collaboration spaces for faculty and students
- Embracing the campus environment, which includes the waterfront and the winter experience
- Elevating the student experience

The CMP enables growing total student enrollment from 7,000 students to 10,000 students. These goals underpin the Vision 2035 CMP and signal an exciting new direction for Michigan Tech.

DEEP INVESTIGATIONS

The planning team gathered and analyzed quantitative data regarding space utilization, program growth, research expenditures, facilities assessments, infrastructure condition, and mobility/transportation. A space needs analysis identified existing opportunities as well as need for new space across various disciplines. The plan recommends increased use and productivity through scheduling practices and research space recovery policies.

The planning team investigated the characteristic site conditions of the waterfront campus. The campus is on the Keweenaw Peninsula that extends into Lake Superior. As a result, the area receives significant wind and snow over an extended winter season. The planning team studied the outdoor thermal comfort level across campus.

The purpose of the analysis was to find out the most feasible areas to invest in new outdoor developments on campus, where both the heat and wind feel comfortable for students to gather, study, and play on campus. The planning team built a digital campus model and simulated summer and winter wind patterns. Buildings on the campus alter the natural wind pattern and can create a wind tunnel and generate stronger wind effects. The CMP focused outdoor gathering investments in the areas most feasible for development

where cold winter winds are blocked by buildings.

PLACE MATTERS

Michigan Tech is unique—world-class academic and research set amidst a backdrop of unparalleled physical beauty. The Michigan Tech brand is its environment – the campus topography, the waterfront, the bluffs, and commanding views of Portage Lake and Mont Ripley. The CMP continues to improve the campus open spaces with vibrant malls and new plazas, punctuated with native landscape and seasonal outdoor amenities. Recommended building and site projects embrace the northern climate, the campus' characteristic terrain, and its position with the Houghton, Michigan community.

Once an industrial landscape, the waterfront will be a campus and public asset. Michigan Tech is creating a new public destination to address the need to enhance recreation opportunities, to connect to Houghton's Waterfront Trail system, and to showcase environmental and sustainable leadership. Michigan Tech will replace industrial storage and a steam plant with active open spaces, watercraft and a boat house, marina, warming hut, expansive open space, and waterfront amenities on Portage Lake. Interior elevators and exterior grand staircases connect the campus core to the waterfront experience. •





All images courtesy of Detroit Collaborative Design Center

THEIR UNTOLD STORIES

Detroit Collaborative Design Center

BACKGROUND

Their Untold Stories - Black Landscape Architects Michigan Connection is a collaborative research project and exhibition exploring the history, efforts, impacts and journeys of Black landscape architects, artists and designers with a Michigan connection. This exhibition was held for two-weeks and encouraged community gathering at a private local university to learn, hear, see, and educate oneself on stories on current Black landscape architects and those who have come before us. Featured design professionals varied in age generations and gender with connection ties to the state of Michigan. Attendees learned how their influences have impacted their journey and career in the profession. Community members were also provided opportunities to join in together and engage with the art and exhibition.

MINDING THE GAP

"13.4 percent of the U.S. population identifies as African American, but only 2.14 percent of ASLA members do." The profession of landscape architecture is not very diverse. Currently there are over 18,700 landscape architects in the United States with approximately 375 identifying as Black or African American. This makes up less than one percent of landscape architects. This exhibition featured a selected number of Black landscape architects from, and with roots in or projects in Detroit and Southeast Michigan - highlighting their contributions to the design profession, and celebrating a body of work that is rarely acknowledged. This exhibit kicks off a larger oral history and research project collecting the stories of Black landscape architects throughout the country. As artists, creatives, landscape architects and designers, we uplift that the solutions for our professional community must come directly from us. Harmoniously, we believe it is important to



THEIR UNTOLD STORIES: BLACK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS MICHIGAN CONNECTION



2022 EXHIBITION SHOWING SEPTEMBER 19TH THROUGH 30TH
University of Detroit Mercy Loranger Architecture Building
4001 W McNichols Rd, Detroit, MI 48221



celebrate and uplift these untold stories, further celebrating their connections whether be attending a Michigan college or university, working at a Michigan design firm, and/or being a direct native of the city of Detroit and growing up in the city with family. As stated by licensed landscape architect and architect, Everett Fly, "The proposed exhibition seems to have great potential due to its groundbreaking nature and content".

Their Untold Stories - Black Landscape Architects Michigan Connection exhibition cultivates a space to further the conversation and amplify the diversity of representation in the profession locally and at the state level while celebrating differences. As a Black multi-ethnic background research and design team in the profession of landscape architecture, representation matters. Invited design professionals were asked to submit digital

information related to their individual story including but not limited to: biography (with title and place of work), a headshot photo, project works, inspirational quotes (optional audio or video), personal connection to Michigan and supporting reference links such as resumes, CVs, articles, books, writing, etc. Displayed through a visually compelling timeline of stories, this research forms a deeper unified linkage to the state of Michigan, the city of Detroit and surrounding areas.

RESEARCH DATA COLLECTION AND OUTREACH

This is just a snapshot of an ongoing research project and exhibition recognizing the deserving Black design professionals who have led and produced ground breaking work. There is a need and desire for this work. Many names yet to be spoken and stories yet to be told.

DETROIT MONTH OF DESIGN

This exhibition was held and recognized as an event a part of the Detroit Month of Design, a citywide festival celebration that invites creatives to submit ideas for experiences appealing to local and global audiences. This event highlights why Detroit serves as the first and only UNESCO City of Design in the United States. Over 100+ visited and participated in the exhibition with exposure including the public, students of various age groups, community members, local residents and attendees visiting from out of state. In 2022, the festival featured 175+ creatives, 80+ events, and engaged 50,000 attendees in various Detroit neighborhoods throughout the month.

ENGAGEMENT AND CONVERSATIONS

While continuing to increase community connections and unifying residents with local opportunities, visitors learned about a diverse blend of project works designed by landscape architects and fun facts about local connections. Resource materials included media, video clips, links, articles, news, and magazines.

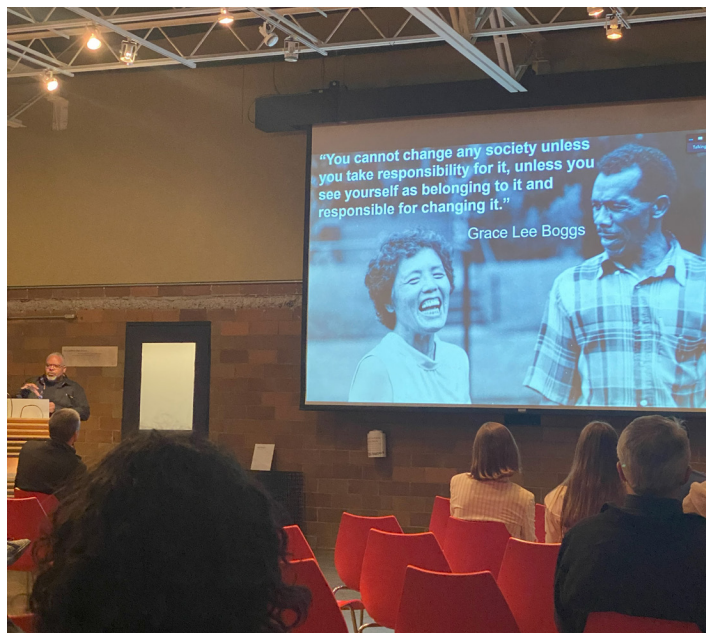
REFLECTION AND CELEBRATION

The two-week exhibition closed out with the supporting university lecture series event featuring keynote speaker, Kofi Boone, FASLA which was open to the public and provided a virtual webinar viewing option. Local Black landscape

architects, artists and designers were invited and highlighted during the ceremony. Attendees captured photos with family and friends at their featured boards.

SUPPORTERS AND COLLABORATORS

This research project was completed with the support, commitment, and collaborative efforts of the research and design team, supporting local universities, professional organizations and a network of like-minded individual connections interested in forwarding the conversation. •





THEIR UNTOLD STORIES: BLACK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS MICHIGAN CONNECTION

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the following for their support, generosity and commitment to this research and exhibition.



Special Thanks

Dan Pitera, FAIA - Dean, School of Architecture & Community Development
 & Professor of Architecture & Community Development
 Faculty and Staff at the School of Architecture & Community Development
 Michigan State University School of Planning, Design and Construction
 University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability
 Michigan Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

*We are very proud to present the exhibition here at the Loranger
 Architecture Building - Architecture Exhibition Space.*

Thank you for your visit!

The Team

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 Center and Adjunct Professor

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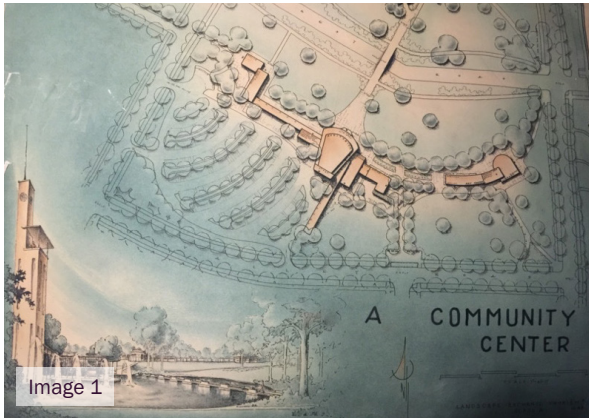


Image 1



Image 2

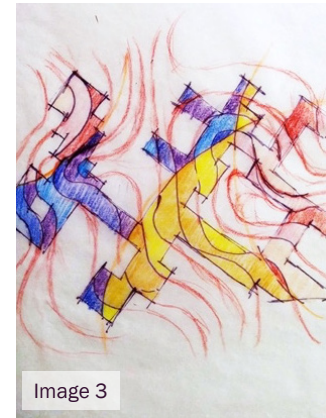


Image 3

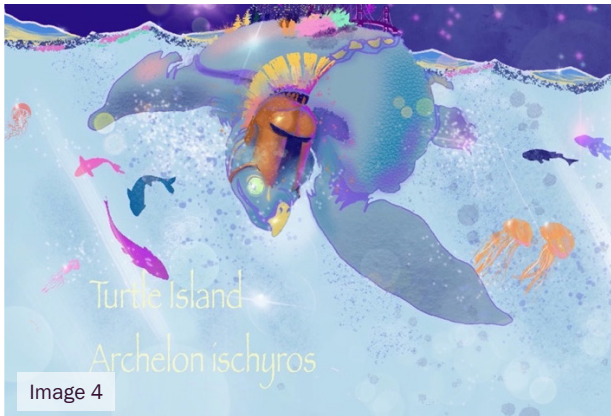


Image 4



Image 5

All images courtesy Dr. Jon Burley

Image 1. 1948 watercolor rendering presenting landscape graphics post-WWII.

Image 2. Markers in the 1950s changed media, but not basic communication principles.

Image 3. Illustration of iterative design drawings.

Image 4. Digital rendering of a First Nation interpretation of North America.

Image 5. Text to AI renderings, Latin-America.

THE HANDS OF GRAPHICS

DR. JON BURLEY

This submission is a document presenting evolving methods in landscape architectural graphics from the 1850s through the present time, describing the changes in media and techniques employed by the profession. This is not a document about “how to draw.” Instead, this is a report with an “overview” about the trends and changes in graphic art technology, what remains similar, and what is discarded. The document relies upon a collection of graphic examples collected after WWII at a major research university that were used as examples to teach landscape students about drawing and landscape communication and fall within the copyright ownership of the authors. In the last decade, the collection was abandoned when the planning and design library disbanded, with textbooks and journals being folded into the main holdings and all other material being discarded. The drawings were rescued and many of them were compiled to be featured in this document. The document is posted on ResearchGate, free of charge, so that all students may benefit from the presentation. Since its release, the document has been viewed by landscape students around the world.

The document is a highly personal and semi-autobiographical in nature, with numerous stories and anecdotes. From the 1850s to the 1940s and 1950s, the profession was dominated by Caucasian males with Western influences. Perspective drawings often included subtle themes of sexism with beautiful super-model women walking through the landscape and primarily Caucasian individuals; but times have changed. This document notes that such depictions are not acceptable. In addition, the document includes recent examples of a more diverse cultural depiction of people experiencing landscape. Especially throughout the later sections of the book, drawings include Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu, Asian, and Latin American themes and images. Authors need to be

self-aware. What they show and say and what they do not show and do not say, sends subtle hints about who is included and who is not included. Landscape Architecture and graphic communication is a world-wide activity. Books, reports, and documents should reflect this diverse and holistic nature of the profession.

The document contains some special features typically not found in many publications about graphics. First the document presents some fresh ideas about graphic communication rendering. It provides insight into how to render images that either are about space or about an object in space. This advice gives some clarity concerning how to depict space and objects in a simplified and focused manner. Also, the document illustrates the design process, something publishers are hesitant to accept. Sometimes beginners believe a design starts with wonderfully rendered efforts, so this document illustrates the many iterations necessary to evolve a design. The document also features current technologies in graphic presentation and rendering, including text to graphics AI examples. Finally, the document includes citations of research associated with graphic techniques, an area of scholarly investigation that has been under-examined and offers future opportunities for a new generation of scholars.

Many publications concerning landscape graphics feature immediate advice concerning perspective, color rendering, and technological steps in digital drawing, being driven by the book publishing industry to show a collection of beautiful drawings, and some immediate advice. Yet for the dedicated graphic artist/renderer there is so much more to learn, contemplate, and understand. Few documents offer historic insight and because many graphic examples have a temporal lifespan, presenting a broad range of past examples become atypical. This submission attempts offer some of this insight, a historic narrative, and ideas concerning the hands of graphics.

As advances are made in technology and techniques, updated version of the document can be posted. Landscape graphic techniques instructors are being notified of this document and encouraged to share it as supplemental reading, as well to compile examples from their own schools and post them on academic social networking sites. Collectively, we all learn together. •

REVIVE THE ISLE

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Jordan White and Matt Bayer

The Great Lakes Drainage Basin contains 84% of the United States freshwater and 21% of the world's freshwater. The region is defined by smaller watersheds that drain directly into the systems of lakes. The Great Lakes Basin is separated into five watersheds, defined by the land that drains directly into specific lakes. Our area of study is in the Lake Erie Watershed, off the shore of the City of Detroit, in the Detroit River, which drains directly into Lake Erie.

The City of Detroit was first founded in 1701 by settlers but had been home to several Native American tribes previously. From 1805 to 1847 it was considered the capitol of Michigan, which did not become a state until 1837. Belle Isle was first purchased from Native Americans in 1768 and then sold to William Macomb in 1793. During that time the island was home of wild hogs giving it the name "Hog Island". In 1817 Barnabas Campau purchased the land, and it soon became a popular picnic spot for Detroiters. The island was renamed after the daughter of Governor Lewis Cass, Isabelle Cass in 1845 and was then known as Belle Isle meaning Beautiful Island. There was much debate in the growing city of Detroit on where to place a park, or several parks. In 1879 the city purchased the island for \$200,000.00. Fredrick Law Olmsted, the Landscape Architect responsible for New York's Central Park, was consulted on the design of the Island. The only part of his design that was implemented was the series of cultural, recreation and natural areas of the park, Central Ave, and the series of canals through the park. Some notable developments relative to the west end of the island, where our site is located, is the completion of the James Scott Memorial Fountain, in 1936. 20 years later Detroit's population peaked at 1.8 million people making the park an asset at the time. Throughout the years many structures and amenities have been built. In the early 2000's when the city of Detroit was under much

financial stress, the city shut down many amenities and left them abandoned such as the Zoo, Driving Range, Golf Course and Aquarium. In 2013 when the city filed for bankruptcy the DNR took over operations and since then the Isle has been making a comeback opening many old and new attractions. The island is a total of 982 acres and over 2.5 miles in length. It takes an average person approximately an hour to walk from one end of the island to the other.

Our site makes up 115 acres of the island and is located on the west most end of Belle Isle. This portion of the island is home to some of the oldest and most significant structures. It was intended to be a cultural hub of the island. The James Scott Memorial Fountain, Lagoon, Casino, and sunset point are prominent landmarks on the site. But the site currently lacks attractions that reliably bring visitors on our end of the island. Upon entering, drivers must stop at toll booths that can cause extreme congestion. There is no visitor center for questions about the island and the circulation can be confusing to visitors. In addition, sidewalks and bike lanes do not meet current needs of the site and are inconsistent. Very Few trees exist throughout making this area of the island very hot in the summer. Combined with that the sewer overflow frequently gets overwhelmed and drains polluted water directly into the Detroit River. We have sorted out strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats of the site into 8 main areas. Wayfinding, paddock parking, landmarks,

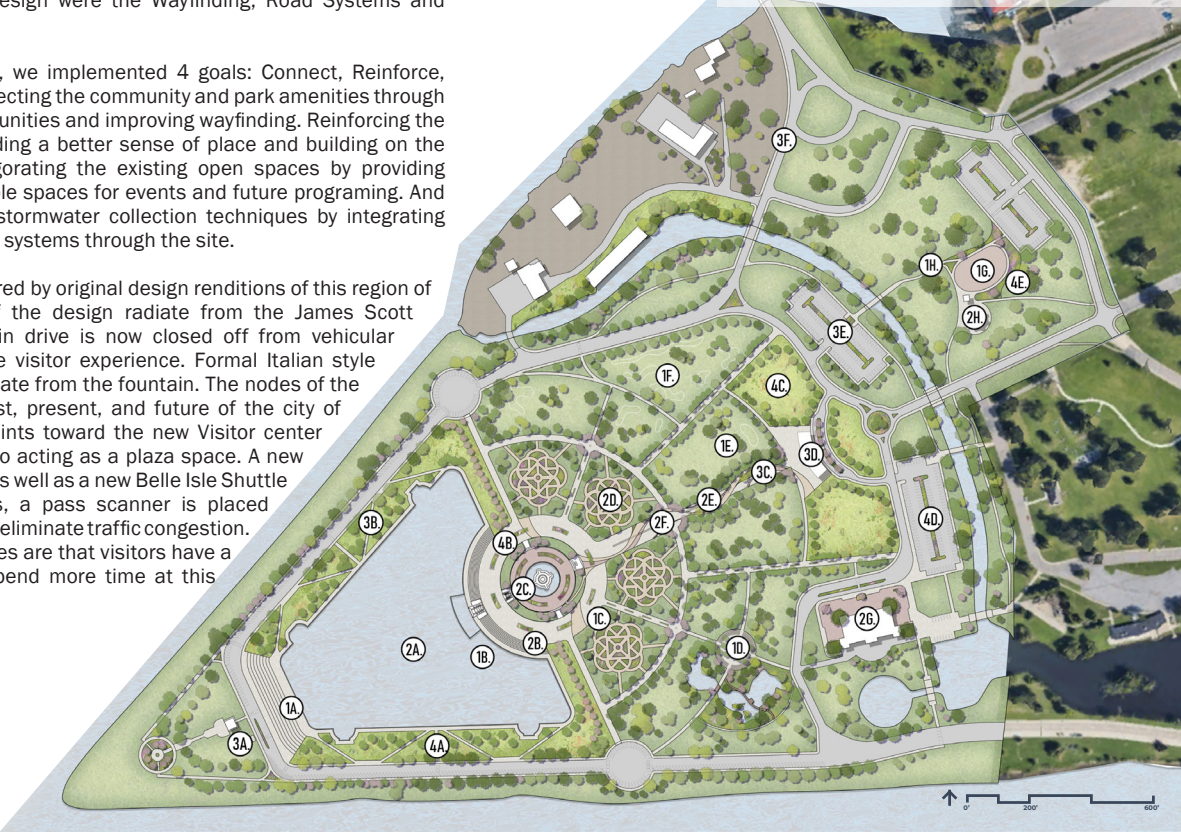


Road system, Pedestrian paths, greenspace, and waterways. The three major areas of concern for our design were the Wayfinding, Road Systems and Paddock Parking.

To address these concerns, we implemented 4 goals: Connect, Reinforce, Invigorate, and Evolve. Connecting the community and park amenities through providing multimodal opportunities and improving wayfinding. Reinforcing the historic landmarks by providing a better sense of place and building on the original design vision. Invigorating the existing open spaces by providing needed amenities and flexible spaces for events and future programing. And lastly, evolving from aging stormwater collection techniques by integrating green infrastructure and LID systems through the site.

The final masterplan is inspired by original design renditions of this region of the island. All elements of the design radiate from the James Scott Memorial Fountain. Fountain drive is now closed off from vehicular traffic to focus more on the visitor experience. Formal Italian style gardens surround and emanate from the fountain. The nodes of the walkways represent the past, present, and future of the city of Detroit. The future node points toward the new Visitor center and transit station while also acting as a plaza space. A new DDOT bus stop is proposed as well as a new Belle Isle Shuttle Bus. Instead of toll booths, a pass scanner is placed adjacent to Pleasure Drive to eliminate traffic congestion. With these changes our hopes are that visitors have a more enjoyable visit and spend more time at this historic part of the island. •

Site plan identifying important design elements.



DETROIT REVITALIZATION: FOR AN EQUITABLE FUTURE

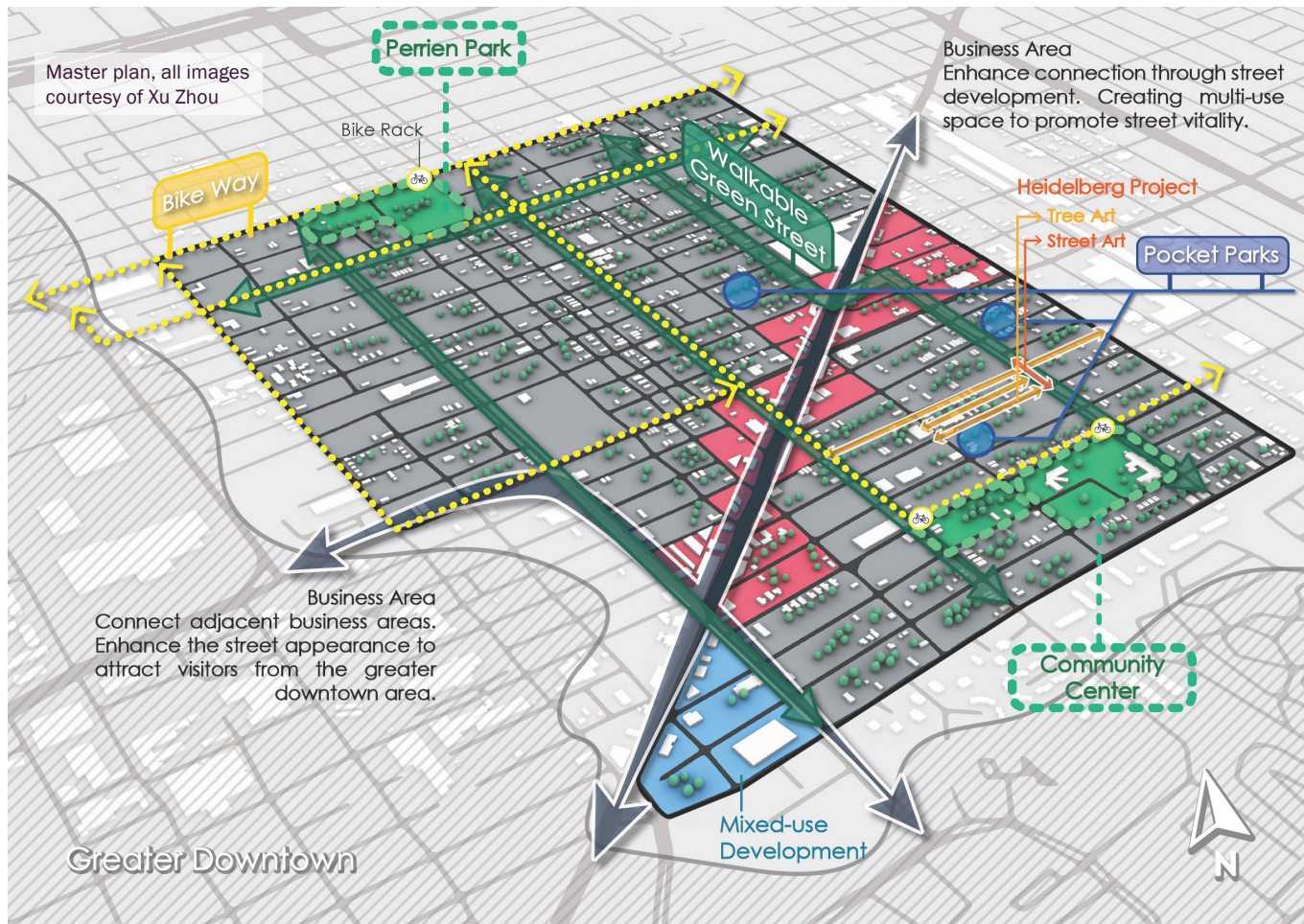
XU ZHOU

To support historically disadvantaged communities in Detroit and address environmental injustices, this project introduces a framework that integrates social and natural impacts into landscape design.

The McDougall Hunt community, historically known as “Black Bottom,” emerged in the 1900s due to discriminatory housing policies but was later displaced by an interstate highway during the “Urban Renewal” movement. The proposed comprehensive plan outlines key design solutions, including: (1) implementing green streets for cycling that connect to regional bikeways and greenways in Detroit, (2) renovating the business area to establish connections between the community center, existing art exhibition areas, and neighboring communities, (3) providing temporary yet effective solutions for vacant lots, and (4) constructing a community center to reunite the community and commemorate its past. These interventions aim to breathe new life into McDougall Hunt, promoting vitality, connectivity, and preserving its history. By addressing social and environmental challenges through landscape architecture, this project contributes to the well-being and resilience of historically disadvantaged communities in Detroit.

As climate change becomes increasingly evident, the impact of landscape architects is gaining visibility and significance among the general public. So, how can we contribute to uniting grassroots efforts and mitigating the divisive and discriminatory past? The environmental justice framework has three key factors: process, access, and health. By incorporating these factors into our design framework, we can seamlessly integrate design performance and new processes within the broader context of environmental justice. •





MANITOU MIIKANA

MANITOU, CANADA

Jack Lavigne

Manitou Miiikana explores the potential of developing communal experiences as a means of addressing historical and tourist-related concerns within the Canadian rural landscape. The experience aims to create a social environment for all occupants of the selected region, including indigenous, non-indigenous residents, and tourists; this significantly contributes to social sustainability, and creates a region-wide inclusive space. The communal focus aims to provide economic sustainability, directly addressing concerns of local businesses in regard to tourism fluctuation. Finally, these experiences also seek to foster a deeper connection and respect for our natural environment through direct immersion. Informed by Manitou Miiikana's framing concepts, the context of this rural landscape was studied independently to facilitate a meaningful analysis and conceptual intervention. Placeknowing specifically speaks to the importance of contextually informed design, which is influenced by community understanding and societal interest.

Manitoulin Island, situated in northern Ontario, was selected to study the potential and underlying challenges in rural areas due to its unique context and significant historical impact. Observations of resident-tourist dynamics revealed pre-existing issues and historical disconnection between indigenous and non-indigenous communities. Several methods were used to understand the issues, needs, and challenges specific to Manitoulin, including analysis of historical relationships, community meetings and engagement reports, one-on-one interviews, rural and spatial case studies, and on-site documentation of conditions across seasons. The outcomes of these studies revealed a specific desire for deeper connections between indigenous and non-indigenous residents. At the same time, tourism interests were built around a more profound experience relating to the Island's environment and history,

which would strengthen resident and tourist relationships. Multiple frameworks were designed to address Manitoulin at the island, community, and individual scales. These scales are connected through a proposed pedestrian path network that will simultaneously address the lack of community linkages and create an overall experience that brings attention to the environment, culture and history, building awareness, respect, and understanding of all aspects. This idea also creates pedestrian-focused space for year-round recreational opportunities throughout the region with supporting pavilions and wayfinding elements. The wayfinding elements are designed to highlight important elements of Manitoulin's history, ecology, culture, and people in the area relevant to that information. The path itself immerses visitors in the environment and provides accessibility vertically through the Island. Proposed materials, including the local copper-based Tombasil, are sourced locally from the island's timber and quarry assets. This metal emulates the surrounding environment with textures related to Manitoulin's unique rock landscape.

The resulting proposal illustrates that interventions that support communal experiences address more than lacking physical spaces and connections but also emerging and historical issues. Beyond addressing the past and present, significant attention was placed on The developed concepts' ability to shape opportunities for the future. Firstly, the two significant developments were created to maintain flexibility and changing needs. But most importantly, the Manitou Miiikana system provides room for growth past its current applicability. It opens opportunities for collaboration between communities that can operate outside of the summer months through the support of necessary trail services and new events. These services particularly bring opportunities for local business to expand either their current services or new businesses, creating more jobs and opportunities for residents. These services could include accommodation and food support, trail guide/information, shuttle and luggage transfer, and support of new events that come with the trail. The research and conceptual framing particularly demonstrate the ability to learn from a community and provide a comprehensive strategy rooted in its context. This strategy can influence strategies to engage with other rural contexts in Canada that are similar to Manitoulin Island. •



South Baymouth Centre and contemporary lighthouse



Path system along southern shore



Inside the Freer nature center



Path system in South Baymouth - Mindemoya

REIMAGINING DETROIT'S INDUSTRIAL HISTORY THROUGH THE RESTORATION OF BROWNFIELDS

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Andreea Bodea

Throughout its 200-year history, River Rouge in Michigan served as an integral part of Metro-Detroit's automotive industry. The project location holds a special design challenge; the 80" Hot Mill Steel Company which sits on about 260 acres. While the structural integrity of the buildings is undetermined, it is safe to assume that with degradation they are not structurally intact. Accessibility to the site is challenging, given the limited and deteriorated entryways. The extensive concrete coverage and the flatness of the site contribute to severe flooding issues. The site's topography is predominantly flat, complemented by clay-based soils. It lacks significant vegetation or greenery within the project area.

The main design goals and objectives were established by adopting landscape ecology principles of design and created with the consideration of the site analysis conducted. The area offers opportunities for stormwater management, providing social benefits for the community, waterfront design, as well as creating wildlife habitats, and implementing other sustainable practices. The design goals are broken into three categories: Mobility, Connectivity, and Sustainability. To achieve the design goals, several design objectives were developed considering site analysis and ecological design principles. Within the category of mobility, there are protected bike lanes, ADA-accessible walks, boardwalks, and opportunities for people to connect with nature. Second, the design goal of connectivity is meant to provide a bridge connecting the gaps between people and the environment in a sustainable and safe manner. Similarly, the goal of sustainability is to create avenues for habitats to regenerate themselves, whether that is through species connectivity, harvesting/recycling stormwater, or promoting native species on site.

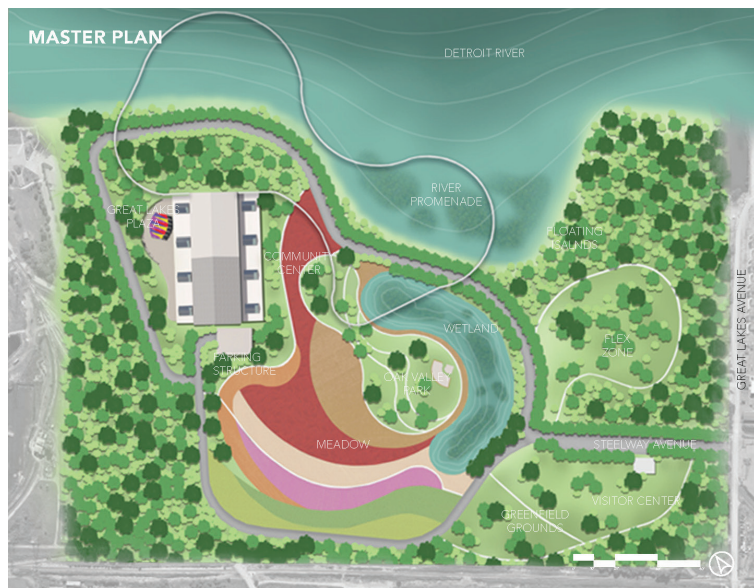
Ecological planning and design principles were applied in decision-making process to propose the final master plan. The intents were put into practice with varying elements of floating islands, wetlands, vegetation, soft and undulating plant edges. These features were implemented at different scales to improve species equality and diversity. By implementing program elements such as an elevated boardwalk, the species habitat is not fragmented, and their health is preserved while still providing mobility for site visitors. The floating islands would help alleviate problems of species isolation. The patch size is designed in various sizes and utilizes different plant species to provide a soft and undulating surface where species habitats can flourish. By designing a corridor where the Detroit River connects to the site, species are able to migrate across multiple habitats and the quality would be improved.

Bioswales are a low impact development control feature, one that serves as a stormwater mitigation strategy and a safety buffer for pedestrians and bikers. Connected to the visitor center and across the entry road there is designated flexible space, meant for versatile use of outdoor activities such as futsal, picnics, or hammocking. One of the ecological planning components of the design is the flower field. The field's purpose is to improve soil health, promote species diversity and bring social benefits to guests. Additionally, this helps reduce the fragmentation that animal species experience with extensive infrastructure development. The large patch size allows for increase in habitat health, species connectivity and mobility.

The community park serves a multi-use purpose, as both an open space for flexible use and an outdoor amphitheater to host events. A wetland wraps around the community park and features floating islands for species diversity

and health which is done by using ecological planning principles such as soft undulating vegetative edges. These edges decrease the extent of species isolation by providing a buffer zone where species are able to transition smoothly between one habitat to another. Similarly, the Detroit River was invited into the site through a channel; this design implementation provides a corridor for species to move through different environments. The elevated boardwalk suggested as a design element prevents fragmentation of the site by allowing species habitat to remain intact and sustaining human use. As part of the social improvements, the existing warehouse is to be repurposed into a community center which would hold gathering spaces and educational classes for that community to learn about ecological planning. Lastly, an elevated boardwalk is proposed which allows pedestrians to walk over the wetlands and floating islands and gives them a more intimate experience of the site.

With the proposed redevelopment of the 80" Hot Mill Company, new amenities for residents were added that will positively impact community health and wellness. Economically, new revenue will be generated through savings on air pollution and stormwater retention costs. Environmentally, benefits can be seen through pollution and carbon sequestration being offset due to species reclaiming their habitats, and plants becoming established throughout the site. Socially, the new amenities offers 2,519,660 sq ft of recreational space and 51,465 sq ft of gathering space along with additional safety features such as lighting features. •



PRESIDENT'S AWARDS



HONOR AWARD

WH CANON

WH Canon is a full service landscape construction company based in southeast Michigan. Established in 1993 as a small landscape construction company, WH Canon now employs over 200 professionals including landscape architects, LEED accredited professionals, certified landscape technicians, arborists and construction professionals. WH Canon has worked on a number of notable landscapes including Maya Lin's Wave Field at the University of Michigan, The Ford Rouge Complex Restoration, Greenfield Village, The Kresge Foundation and DTE Energy Campus.

WH Canon's team of professionals have helped to bring many designers visions come to life. With great attention to detail, excellent customer service, and tireless devotion to "do the job right", WH Canon continues to be a valued partner to our local design community and make their mark on projects across the state and nationwide.

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

ARIANNA ZANNETTI, PLA, ASLA

Arianna currently works as the Assistant Chief of Landscape Architecture for the City of Detroit General Services Department where she works as a project manager and construction manager for parks and open space throughout the City of Detroit. A graduate of Michigan State University, Arianna has made significant contributions to the profession, working with local communities to help enhance play and bring the communities vision for their parks to life. Her ongoing involvement with the Michigan Chapter ASLA includes participation on the Executive Committee as well as supporting chapter activities through organizing social events and promoting ASLA activities and events through our social media. Arianna currently serves as the VP of Marketing for the Michigan Chapter ASLA.



FIRM OF THE YEAR

ZAREMBA & COMPANY

Zaremba & Company is a design and landscape contracting firm located in Pontiac, Michigan. Through a highly personalized design and build process, they collaborate with clients, architects and design professionals to transform spaces into living works of art. Zaremba has won numerous design awards throughout their 25 plus years in business, including most recently, a Michigan Chapter ASLA Honor Award for the Ford Consumer Experience Center in Dearborn, MI.



DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE YEAR

TERRY CROAD, AICP, ASLA

Terry has served as the Director of Planning with the City of Southfield, MI since 2010. In this capacity, he is dedicated to fostering Southfield as a vibrant community through a unified strategy for community development that focuses on connecting communities and celebrating public art. Through Terry's vision and leadership, the Michigan Chapter ASLA Foundation is proud to be co-hosting the 3rd annual "Placemaking Through Landscape Design" summer camp for high school students in 2024. This camp serves as a pivotal platform for introducing local high school students to the diverse realm of landscape architecture. Terry's invaluable contributions played a pivotal role in securing both a host site (Lawrence Technological University) as well as a comprehensive program for the camp.



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