Converging on a Future for the University Campus

Reddelta uses the delta, both the natural form and as a symbol for change, as inspiration for a reimagining of Red Square for the future. The flows of foot traffic become the water and inspire the patterns and functions of the design, while still seeing the importance of having a large open space on campus.

The southern edges of the square have been reimagined to include seating and canopy cover, something the plaza is currently lacking. Tables and chairs invite people to sit and eat or socialize near the rearranged food trucks, making the scale of Red Square feel much more intimate in this corner. As the gateway to campus, this welcoming area helps make the university feel smaller and more inviting to visitors.

Redesigned stairs, with an integrated ramp, reinforce the grand view of Suzzallo from the western entrance, and make more accessible the heart of campus, embracing people of all abilities as welcome at UW, whether they are visitors or students.

Rather than make student organizations bring their own tents that take up heavily trafficked space in Red Square, partition walls with retractable canopies give an opportunity to make advertising clubs easier and feel less out of place in Red Square.

The circulation maps served as inspiration for placement of forms. The concept abstracts the sinuous pathways through Red Square into a simpler form that breaks the monotony of color and shapes, while seeing the opportunity for more equitable design in the square. The red brick is replaced with no-slip colored concrete in two tones, and the stairways from west campus and memorial way are redesigned to include integrated ramps that allow access for all into Red Square.

Another set of integrated steps and ramp follows the dedication to accessibility of this whole design. Improving these entrances to Red Square treats ADA access as more than an afterthought and makes campus more engaging, visually and experientially. Water features create a calming area set back from the high-traffic center of Red Square and creates more usable open space on campus.