Red Square is the heart of the UW campus; a flexible space that can be used for gatherings, protests, studying, people-watching, eating, playing, and commuting. To address issues of safety, comfort, and enjoyment, our redesign will evoke a Pacific Northwest Landscape through the incorporation of a multi-layer canopy and a contoured ground plan reminiscent of a river gorge surrounded by old-growth forests. A contemporary, tessellated canopy will provide a strong visual presence unique to Red Square, and provide lighting, weather protection, and enclosure. The canopy will be solar-powered and interactive, allowing users to adjust the level of shade to their preference. Our design will also maintain and enhance the square’s views to Mt. Rainier and the Olympic Mountain range, while creating universal access through the incorporation of an ADA pathway throughout the entire space. We acknowledge the long-term nature of this design, and aim to provide short-term activation in the mean time through a mobile app that highlights the square’s history and a messaging board for student use.

**SHORT TERM ENHANCEMENTS**

**ACTIVATE THE TOWERS**

The exhaust stacks for the underground parking garage are a dominated element of the square’s current design that does nothing to engage the student body. Adding elements to the base of the three towers, such as bulletin boards or an interactive chalkboard element, would provide a reason for students to stop and linger.

**AUGMENTED REALITY APP**

There is no one experience or character that defines Red Square; its strength lies in its ability to function through expositions, events, redesigns, and seasons. This app would highlight this versatility by guiding users to various locations throughout the square that share views with historic images, which would overlay reality allowing the user to simultaneously experience present and historic conditions.

**LONG TERM VISION**

**FLOWING PLAZA**

Similar to the form of a river gorge, this plaza would provide ADA access throughout the square and offer terraced seating options overlooking a central circulation area.

**CONTEMPORARY CANOPY**

The tessellated geometric pattern of steel and glass, transparent and opaque, evokes the feeling of a canopy. The canopy would house solar panels on top so it can function without an external energy source. The translucent panels would be interactive, allowing users inside the plaza level.