

LUX SIT

Lighting the Way to the Heart of Campus

Each year, Red square is host to tens of thousands of educators and students engaging in a multitude of activities. Being one of the liveliest and most visited spaces on campus, Red Square is at the spatial and metaphorical heart of the University of Washington. The motto of University of Washington is “Lux Sit”, or “Let There Be Light”. In pushing the boundaries of what red square could become, we imagined a new space that symbolizes the unity, innovation, and leadership that is the driving spirit of the University of Washington.

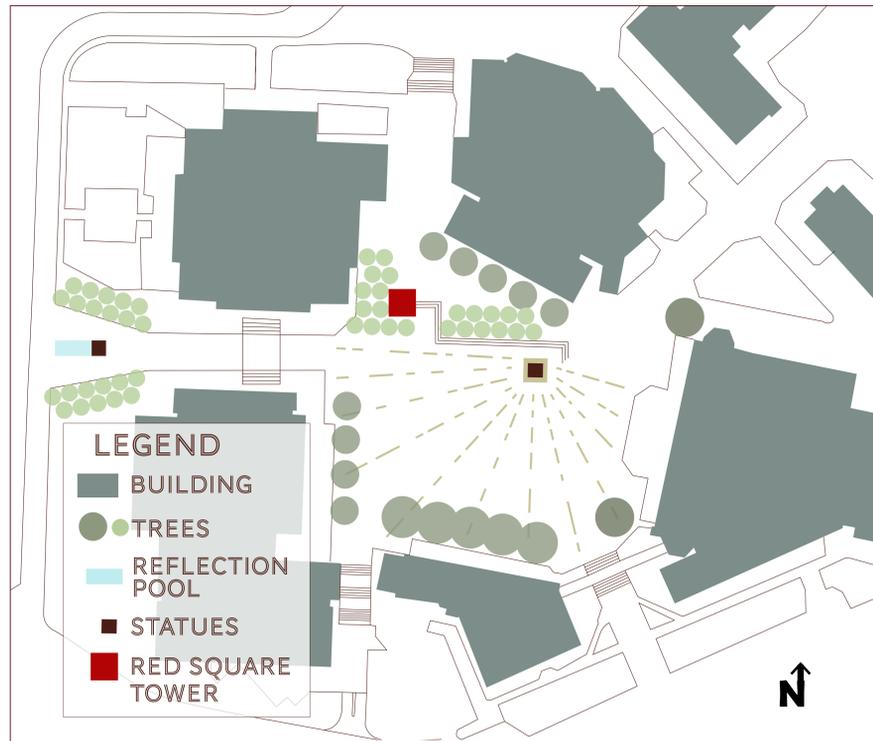
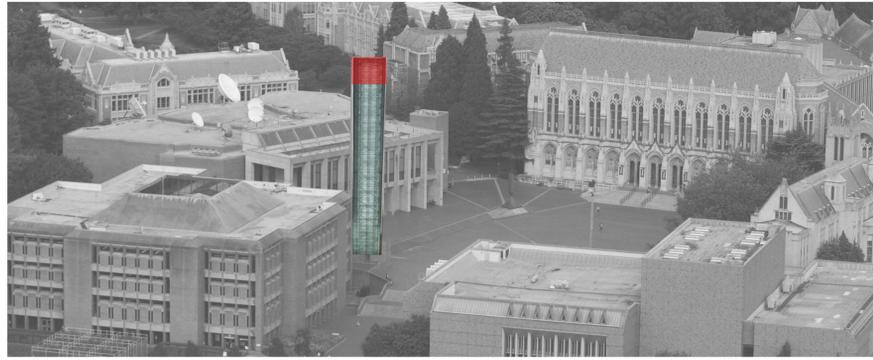
In celebrating place, the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest inspired us to plant trees along the perimeter of Red Square to begin forming spaces within the vast openness that was once defined by woodlands. The lines of trees are complementary to the established views of Mt. Rainier and the Olympic mountains, as well as access to the Quad and Memorial Way. These newly defined spaces create moments for students and visitors to sit among nature and serve as a reminder of our role in effecting positive change in the world around us. This design choice also takes responsibility in establishing the ecological function of filtering storm-water, reducing heat island effect, and providing habitat for urban wildlife.

The University of Washington embraces a spirit of innovation, and we envision the heart of campus to be a spectacle showcasing the strength of community. In the central plaza, smart LED lights are embedded within the pavement, illuminating the walkway at night with integrated sensors that collect data and mimic the natural movements of circulation that occur through the space, generating a subtle yet evocative light show along the ground-plane. In addition, technologically advanced kinetic pavers generate small amounts of electricity from the footsteps of pedestrians.

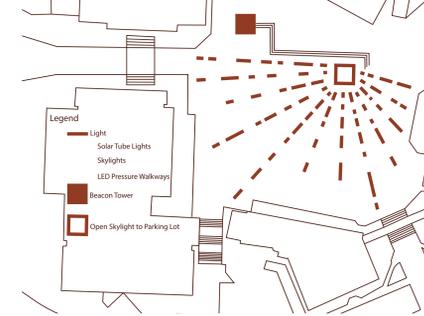
The energy is stored and used to illuminate the iconic view tower replacing the smoke stacks that serves as a beacon of light. The more energy generated within the plaza, the brighter the light shines in the sky, visible by Seattle and the surrounding community. The beacon of light is a representation of the University’s outward display of compassion and commitment as engaged global citizens. It also pays homage to the name ‘Red Square’ despite replacing the slippery red bricks. The tower is a wayfinding tool and serves to orient visitors to the campus as they arrive, parking in the garage and taking the elevator to the top of the tower to get their bearings and truly take in the beauty of the campus and of Seattle.

Light permeates through the ground and into the garage with the use of translucent material laid in to the pavement. These inlays radiate outward from the obelisk statue that floats above a glass structure located at the point of convergence between 3 of the primary axes and is surrounded by seating so people may enjoy the best views the site has to offer all at once.

As stated in the University’s commitment to excellence: “We hold ourselves to the highest standards of ethics, as a beacon for our community and the world.” Discovery is at the heart of the University of Washington, and it is our hope the reimaged Red Square can embody this spirit from now in to the future.



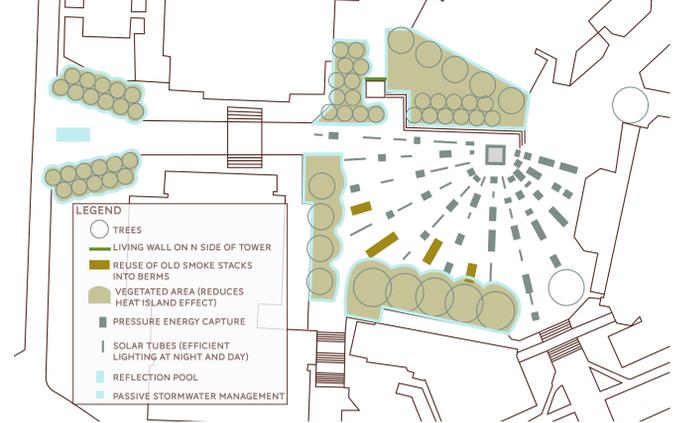
LIGHTING



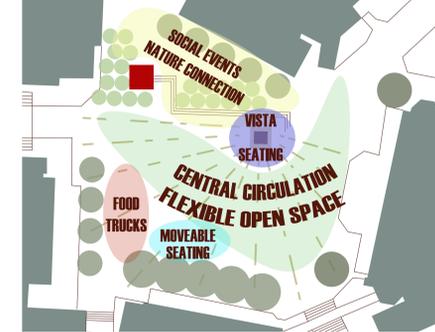
MEADOWS AND WOODLANDS



ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS



PROGRAM DIAGRAM



VISTAS

