

Traditions Plaza

Cristian Gonzalez, Rubi Ramirez-Avila, Lauren Randolph, and Daniel Molina

Team 1

LAND 319

Spring 2016

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Purpose

The purpose for this project was to redesign the area of the traditions plaza to commemorate the ceremonies of Silver Taps, Muster and fellow Aggies that have passed away. Our overall objective is to leave a legacy to the history of Silver Taps for current and future generations of Aggies to have a clear understanding of its history, the working of the ceremony and the meaning of the tradition and how it is tied to the time honored Texas A&M tradition of Muster. The site is located in front of the Academic Building, west of Military Walk, between the YMCA and Coke Building.



Image Source: Google Maps

History



Texas A&M's Silver taps is to honor both Aggies of graduate or undergraduate students who passed away while enrolled at A&M. The first Silver Taps was held in 1898 which was to honor Lawrence Sullivan Ross, the former governor of Texas and president of A&M College. During the events of Silver taps, a small card with the deceased student's name, class, major, and date of birth is placed as a notice at the base of the academic flagpole. (aggietaditions.tamu.edu)



Along with that event, we wanted to redesign the area to reflect the Aggie tradition of Muster. Honoring and remembering the time in Aggieland, "the tradition of mustering has grown in strength, meaning and spirit."
(aggietraditions.tamu.edu) Muster was established to bring Aggies together, and reflect the Aggies of the past.



One important attribute to the site is to display the Letter of Fish Cowards, which is a letter describing the feelings one Aggie experienced during the first time attending a Silver Taps ceremony. He goes into the letter of how Silver Taps meant to him and how significant it is to the students and faculty of Texas

A&M University.

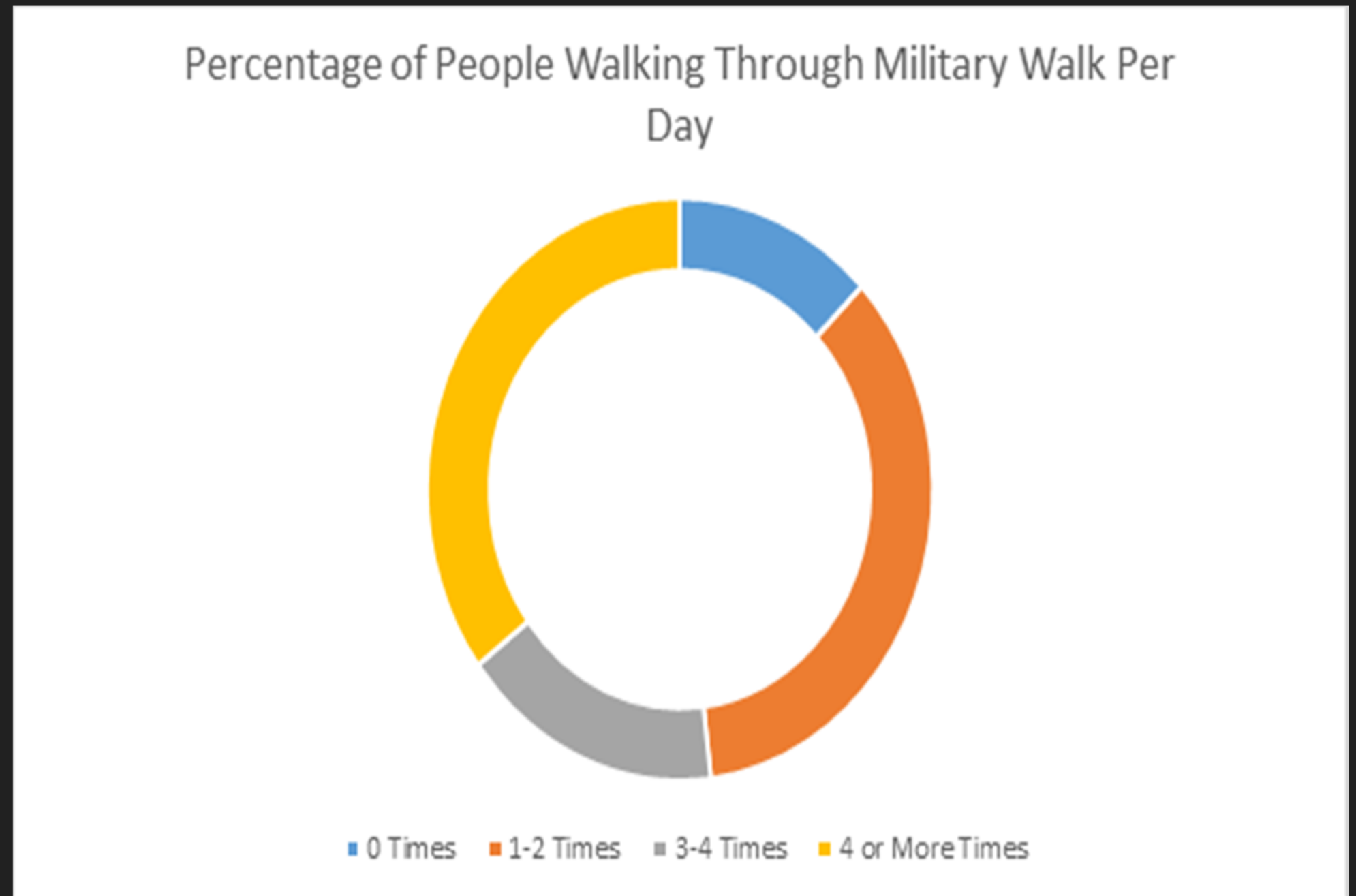
Image Source: <http://studentlife.tamu.edu/sas.silvertaps>

<http://www.chron.com/local/education/campus-chronicles/article/A-M-students-alumni-to-protest-renaming-of-5965881.php>

<http://spirit-of-aggieland.tumblr.com/post/21575373281/it-was-judgment-day-in-aggieland-and-tenseness>

Data / Research

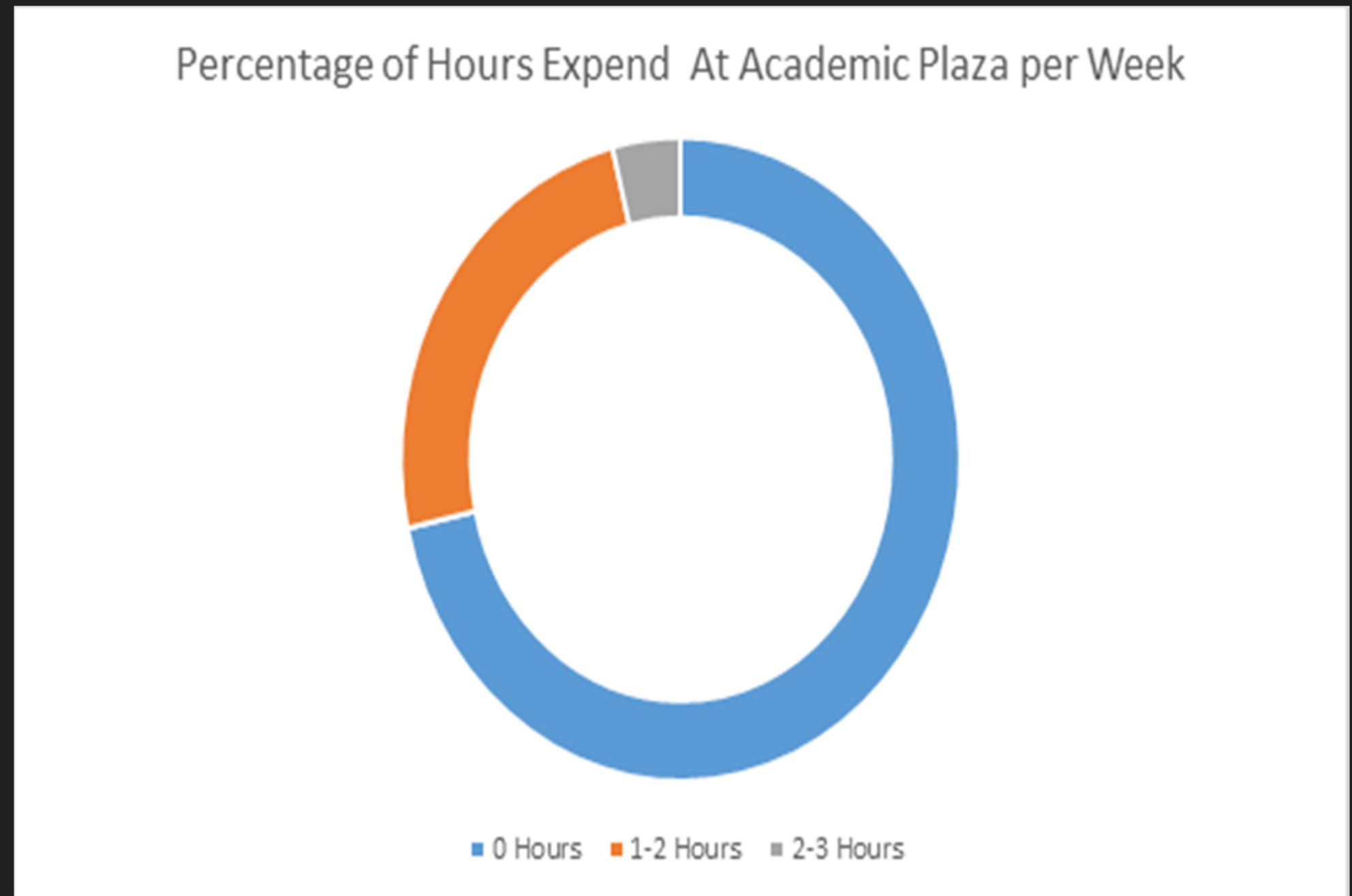
- Transition point
- High pedestrian use



Data from sample survey of 101 students

Data / Research

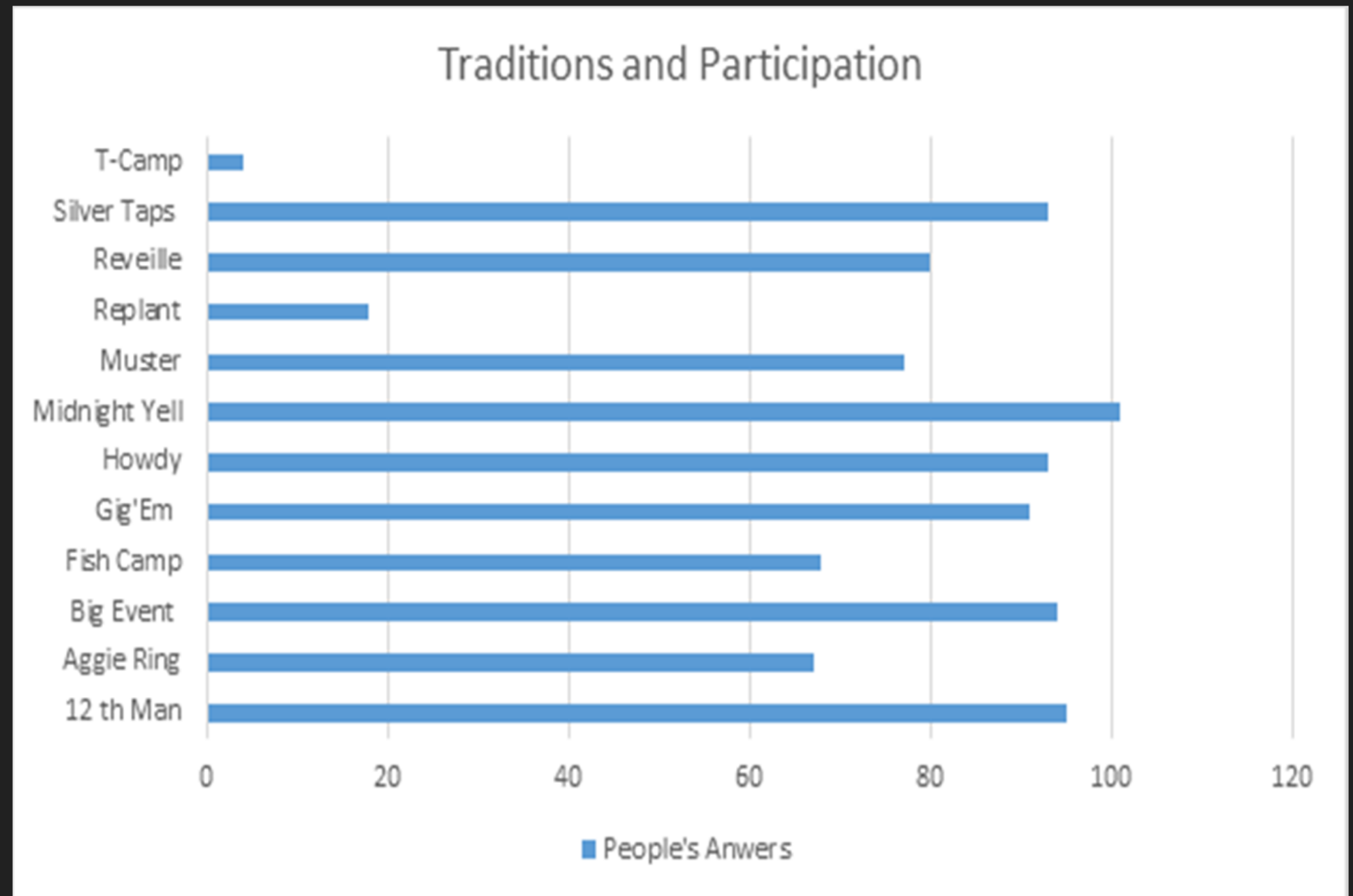
- Lack of use
- Place as transition point



Data from sample survey of 101 students

Data / Research

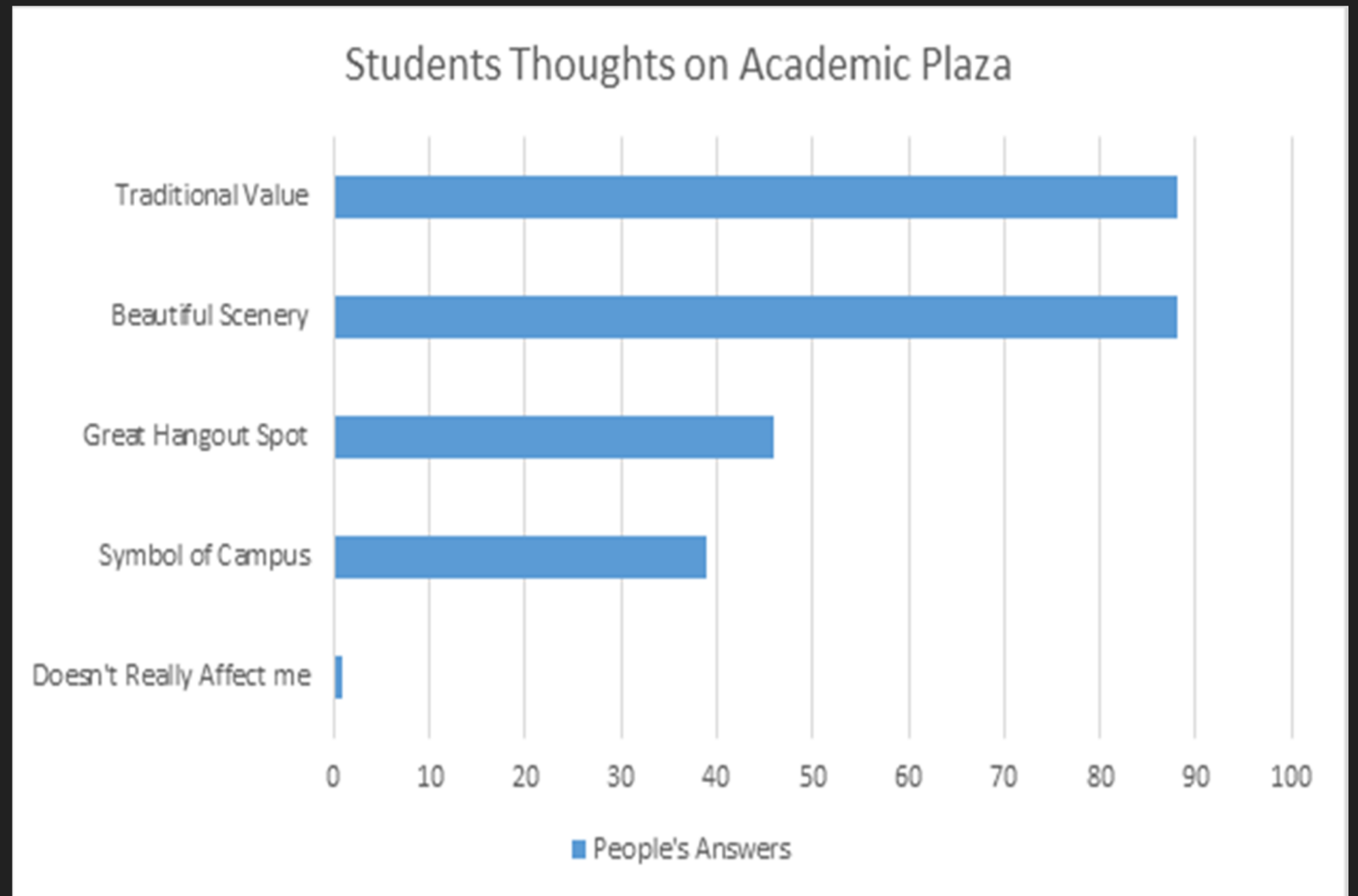
- Strong student participation on traditions.



Data from sample survey of 101 students

Data / Research

- Academic Plaza is a place of tradition with a beautiful landscape.



Data from sample survey of 101 students

Site Analysis

Legend



Existing Trees



Planters



Flowering Beds



Grass



Vehicular Circ.



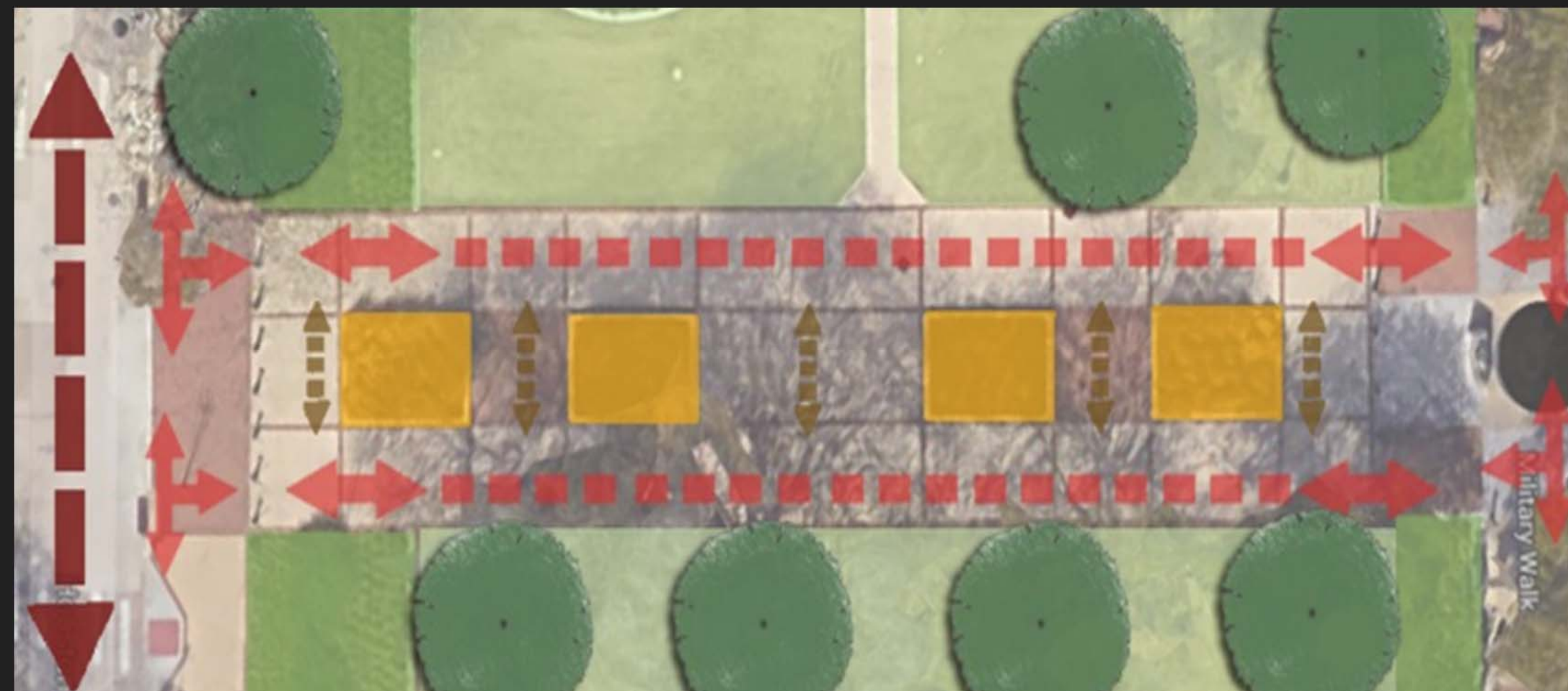
Primary Circ.



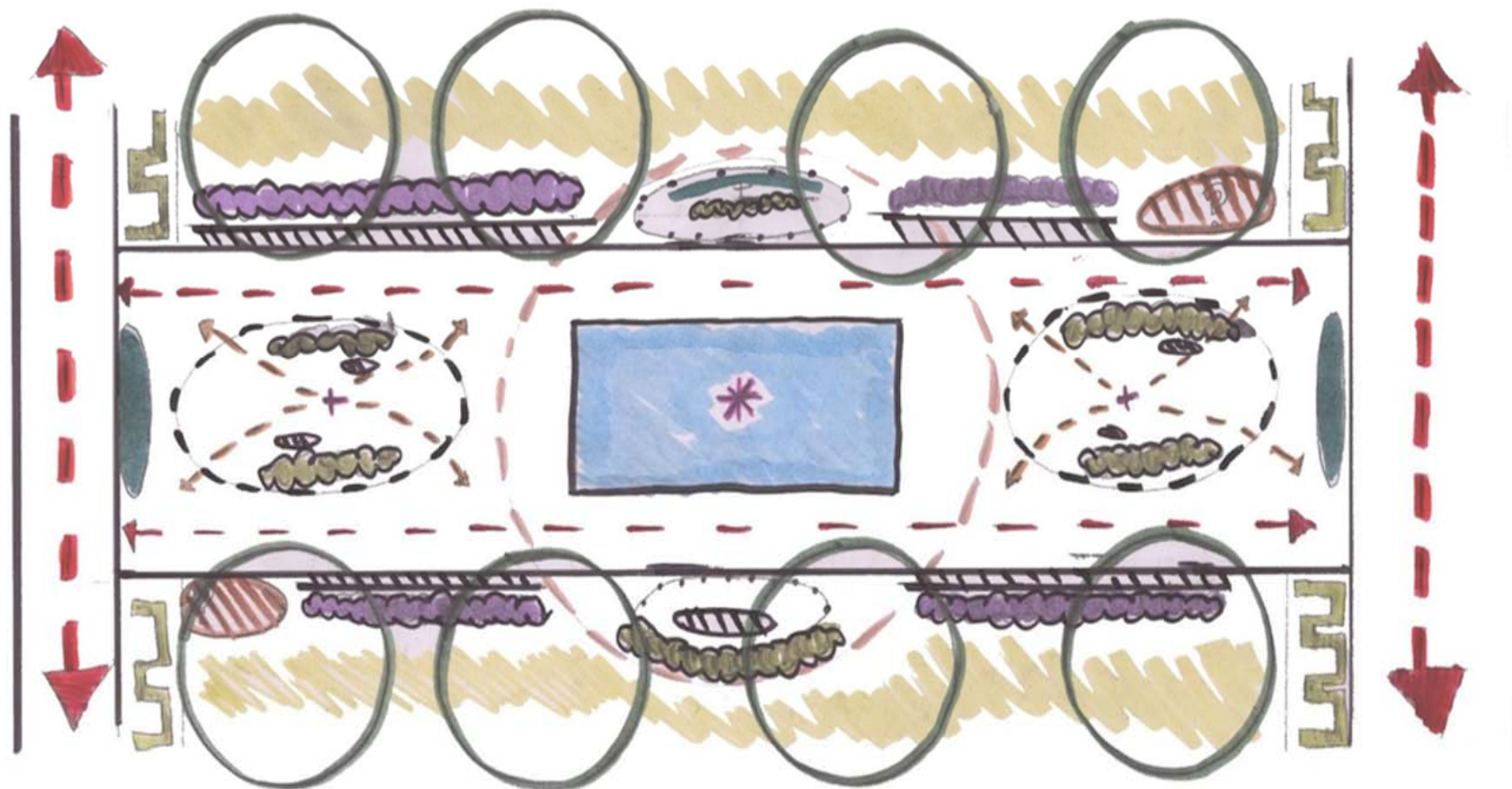
Secondary Circ.











Seal



Concept Diagram



LEGEND

-  WATER
-  MAJOR PATHS
-  STRUCTURE
-  SHRUBS
-  GRASS
-  PLANTING
-  KIOSK
-  FOCAL POINT

Proposed Site Plan

The symbolism could be seen with displaying the bugles on the surface to the ground and displaying formal existing Silver Taps and Muster sculptures. Also we wanted to implement some new innovated ideas to the site, by using technology of the Kiosk to inform the visitors and a running water fountain in the center of the site to create a main space of reflection. The vegetation in the area are all to accommodate for the weather in Texas, and also bring a sense of tranquility to the site.



Entrance To The Plaza



The entrance to the plaza creates mystery and a viewing frame. The centered structure at the entrances let the visitors know they are entering a space. The structures also have a concave top which represents the missing of those we lost, while it creates a frame with the trees to view what's inside the plaza.

Reflective Fountain

- Sculpture of a Cadet and a civilian
- Concave water feature
- Reflective Wall displaying Donald Coward's Letter



Kiosk Informational



One challenge that was addressed during the design process was to indicate a way that would do justice for every individual that is being respected during the specific time of the Silver Taps ceremony. Which is how we developed and proposed the idea of the Kiosk Informational system. The idea was also developed to implement technology into the site and allow individuals to interact with the area.



Vegetation Through The Plaza



The plaza uses vegetation to provide shade, color, and space. The purples on the edges along with the trees help create a border to give the plaza its own sense of place. The color changes to green and yellow in the areas where the sculptures will be moved into place. The decision to provide a different color is to create different spaces, but also to have a color that represents life around the sculptures which mean so much to the University and Aggies.

Plant List

Crimson Pygmy



Lambs Ear



New Gold Lantana



White lilies



Texas Compact Sage



Conclusion

Each one of us in our group including Daniel Molina, Lauren Randolph, Rubi Ramirez, and Cristian Gonzalez are all current Aggies and are aware of how important and sacred the traditions of Texas A&M University are. Therefore, as a group we wanted to design an area that is both aesthetically pleasing, but would honor the traditions of Silver Taps, Muster, and fellow Aggies that we have lost. We sought to implement as much symbolism into the site as possible while still providing an area that would allow individuals to go and unwind.



Sources

Plant List Images Sources:

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TRADITIONS PLAZA

LAND 319 - Landscape Design II

Team 2

Phillip Hammond, Iris Soh, Leticia Meza, and Laura Presley

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CONTRIBUTIONS

Phillip Hammond - Model, Site Plan, Poster, and Survey

Iris Soh - Model, Sections, and Concept Diagram

Leticia Meza - Base Plan, Perspectives, and Poster

Laura Presley - Site Analysis and Poster

Program Goals

Capture Aggie Spirit

Educate The Community On Giving Back

Allow For Contemplation & Comfortability

Honor Silver Taps & Symbolism Of Aggie Tradition

Carry The Legacy Of Aggie Family

Consider The Feasibility Of The Preexistence Site

Presentation Notes

As a central space to campus, our team focused on programming that would unify the three main goals of creating a sense of Aggie Spirit, pay respect to Aggie Tradition and the Aggie Family, and still appropriately serve student life. The resulting plaza should embody the heartbeat of campus as a symbol and location at the literal heart of campus.

Acknowledging the Existing Site



Ceremonial Axis



Major Access Point



Existing Utility

Presentation Notes

To design in accordance with the previously listed programming goals, the plaza must still include and especially consider alignment to the campus access along Old Main to New Main, use as a major pedestrian passageway between West Campus, bus stops, and academic plaza, and also, accommodate for the existing utility access.

Silver Taps Experience

1. Exit-way for post ceremony
2. Noise pollution from buses
3. Light pollution from passing cars
4. Calm feeling on military walk



Presentation Notes

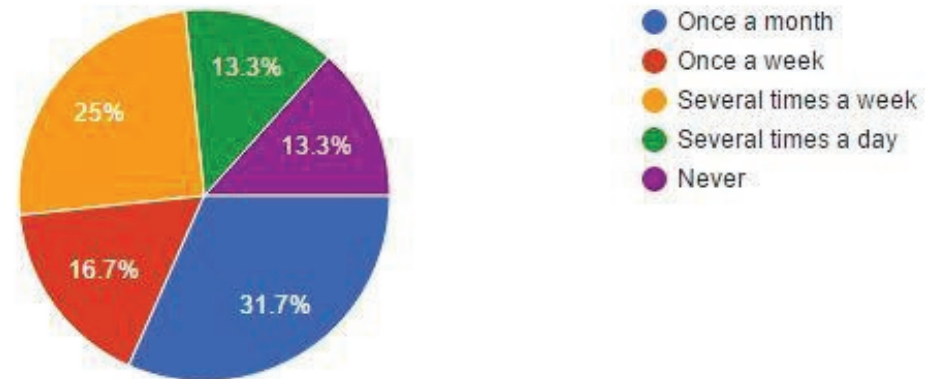
In consideration to physical embodiment of tradition and the Silver Taps ceremony, the site would also serve as a waiting zone and reflection space for the respectful event on Tuesday nights. The design should also help mitigate the issues of noise and light pollution coming from Old Main's vehicular traffic during the quiet reflection.

Opening the Dialogue

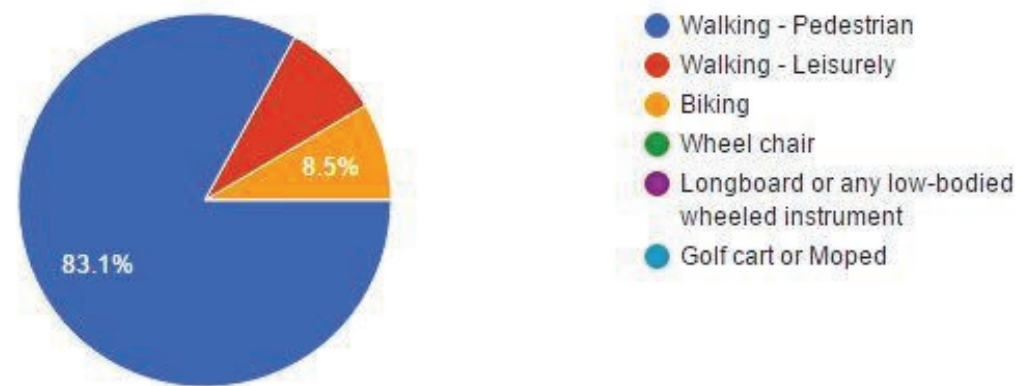
Presentation Notes

As a project that would greatly affect the campus and the student body, many of us referred to an online survey created with the help of another group. The intent of the data collection was to look into how individuals currently view the space, Aggie Tradition, and ways to improve the site in a way that would benefit its primary users.

How often do you travel through this space? (60 responses)



What mode of transportation do you use the most through the space? (59 responses)



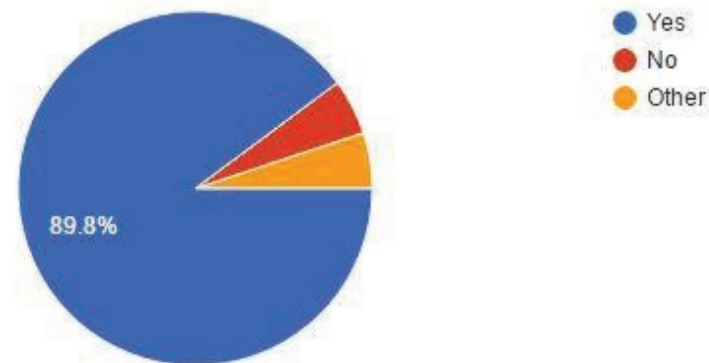
UNDERSTANDING ACCESS AND USE OF THE SPACE

Presentation Notes

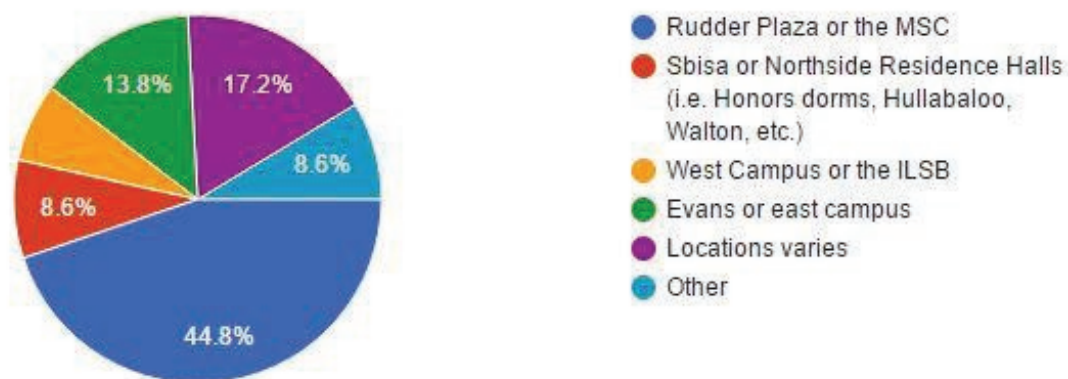
Addressing this data, our group acknowledged that the design should include a method to direct traffic in a manner that would reduce a sense of interruption or intrusion upon a private area of reverance.

Would you feel comfortable having more seating within this area? Seating on the edges of this area? If not, why?

(59 responses)



Where do you typically wait or come from prior to Silver Taps? (58 responses)

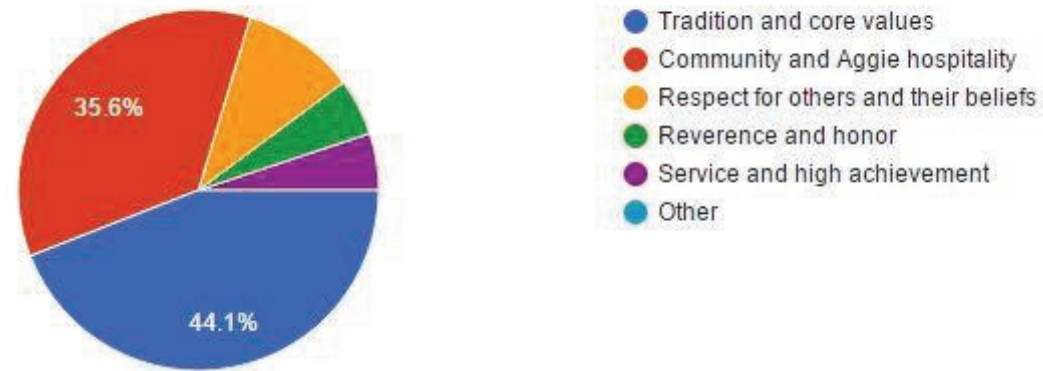


BUILDING A SENSE OF PLACE

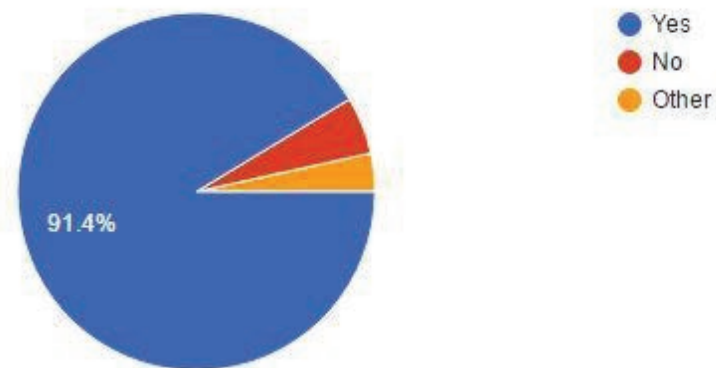
Presentation Notes

As displayed, seating for the site would be a must in the future of the plaza design. In addition, the following question focused on the concept of how to use the space, whether for waiting, using during, or reflecting on the Silver Taps ceremony. The majority claimed to come from the south, while a small minority comes through the plaza at the west.

In your opinion, what is the strongest aspect of the Aggie Spirit? (59 responses)



Would you like to see a space dedicated to the remembrance of Silver Taps? (58 responses)



ATTENTION TO TRADITION

Presentation Notes

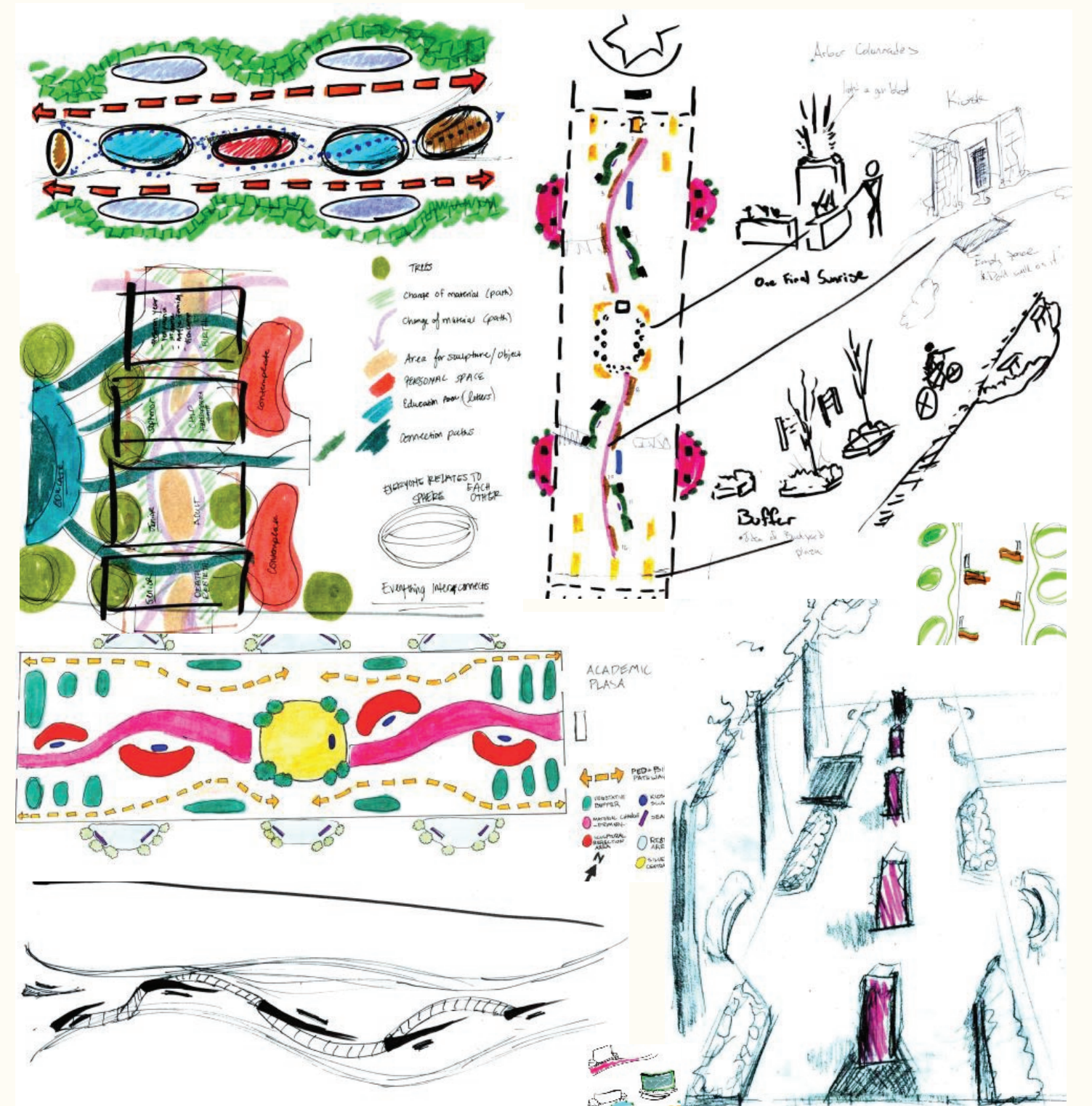
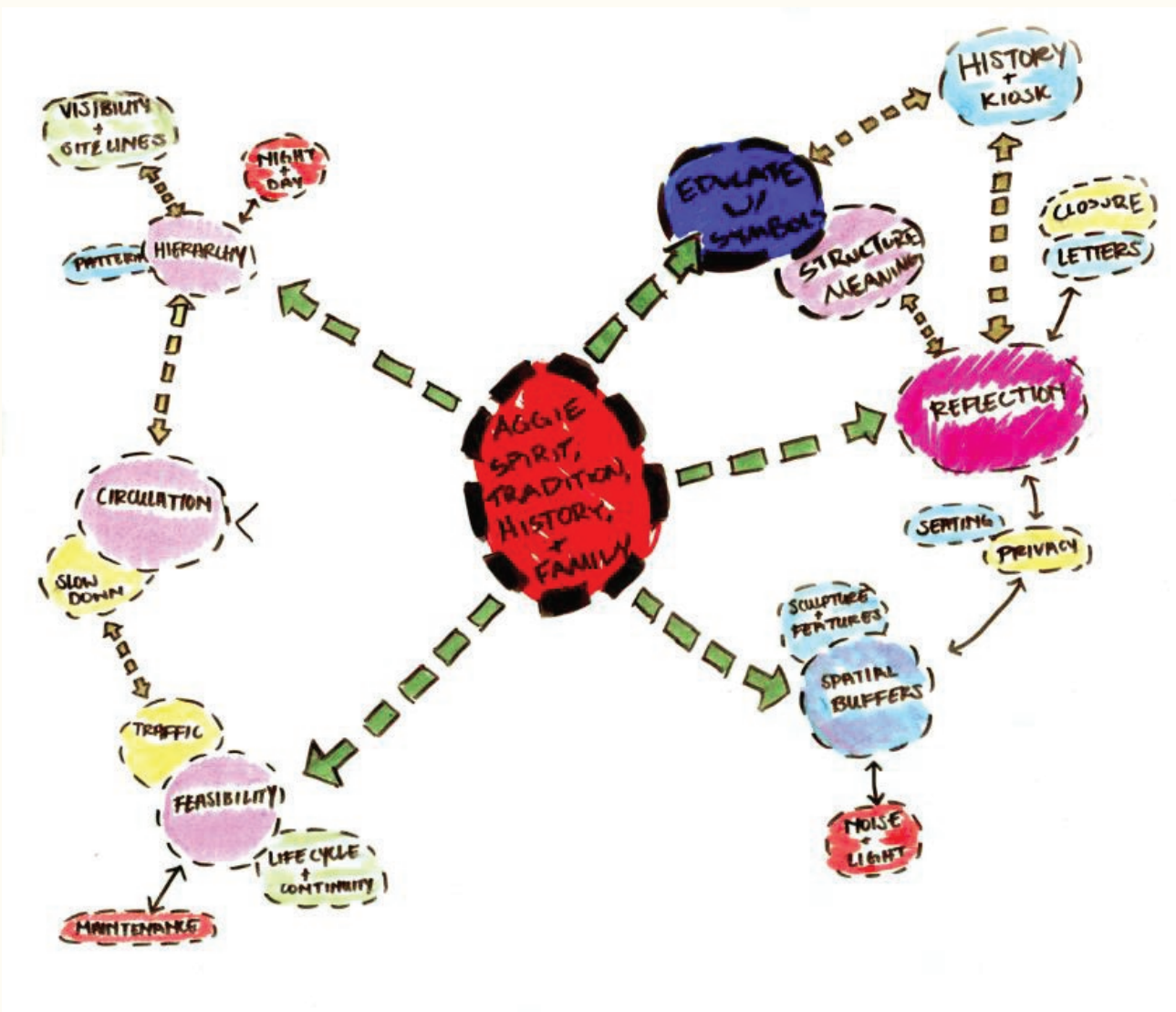
Wonderfully put, the survey displayed strong support for Silver Taps and Aggie Tradition, voting Tradition and core values to be at the heart of the Aggie Spirit with Community and Aggie hospitality (the Aggie Family) coming in second. The data reflects well on the purpose of the space and the programming goals listed for the design.

The Design Process

Presentation Notes

Utilizing the previous goals and data, our team went forward with design focusing on a physical symbolism that would create a reverent space while simultaneously providing a sense of being surrounded by life and the support of the Aggie Family.

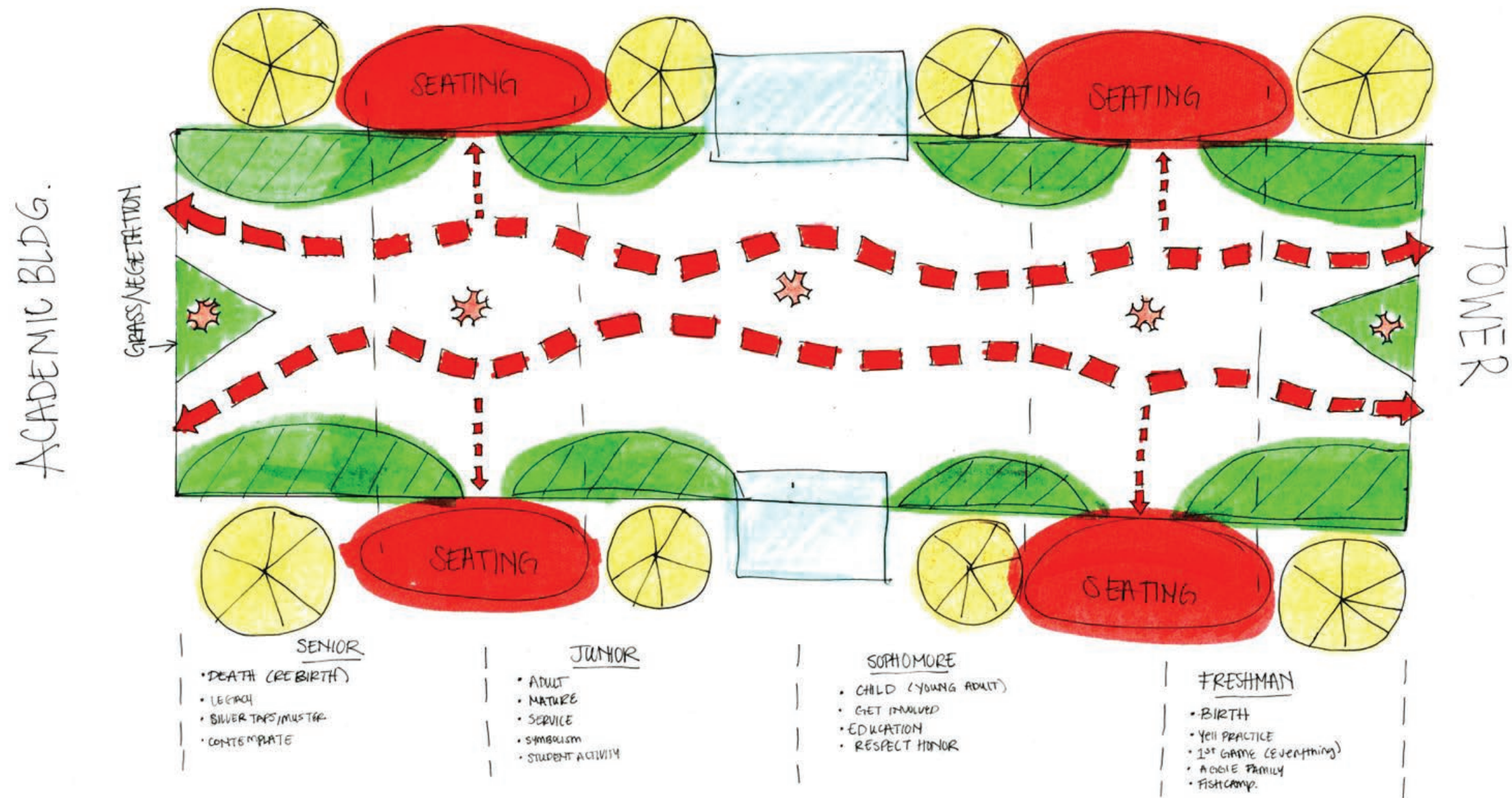
First Stage of Design



Presentation Notes

Presented here, our team went through several renditions in the concept phase. Our reoccurring themes involved a freeform design that still aligned well with the campus axis, the use of waypoints that symbolized a student's passage through college and life, and the utilization of features with differing heights to mitigate noise and light.

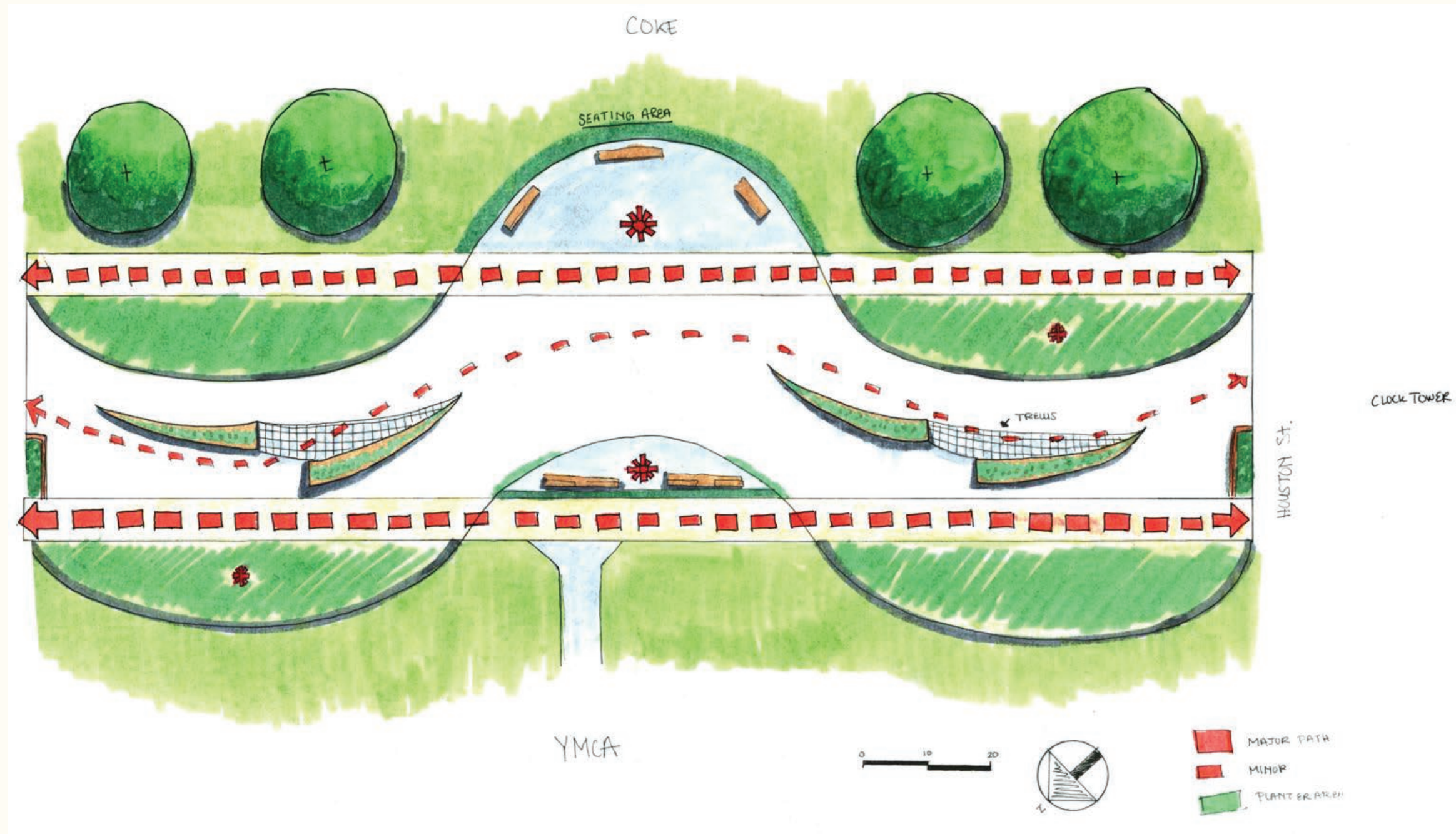
Conceptual Design



Presentation Notes

The resulting concept came about as a simple design broken into four sections which represent the four class years of college with the core values of A&M for each. The arrangement of pathways and features were to direct users into private areas for reflection or past the included plaques detailing the history of Silver Taps.

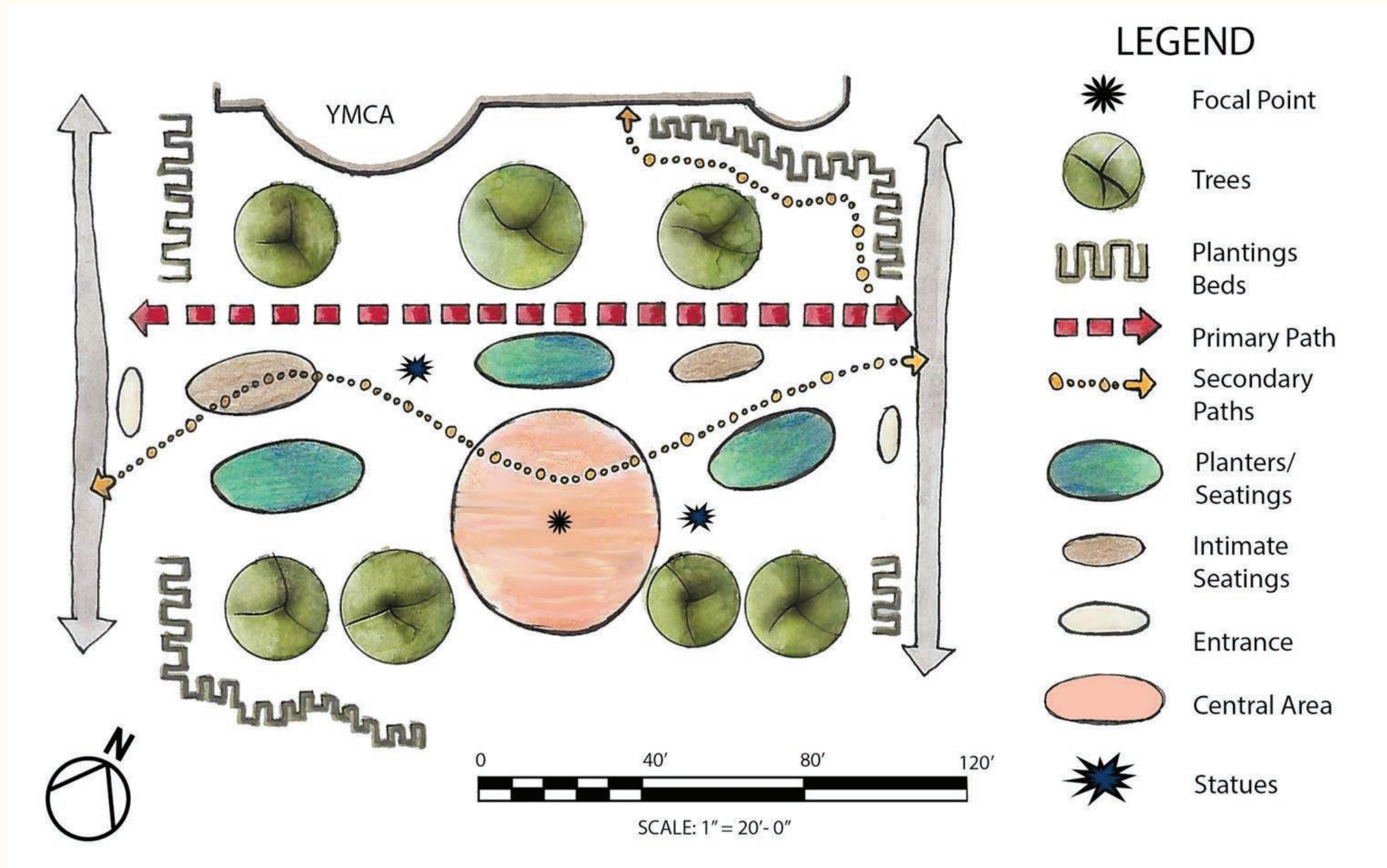
Final Concept



Presentation Notes

With more detail added, the above design shows our initial ideas for adding directed pedestrian traffic flow, a central space, edge plantings, and more private seating off to the sides. Planters connected by trellises would provide a welcoming feeling of enclosure which would overarch the central path of reflection.

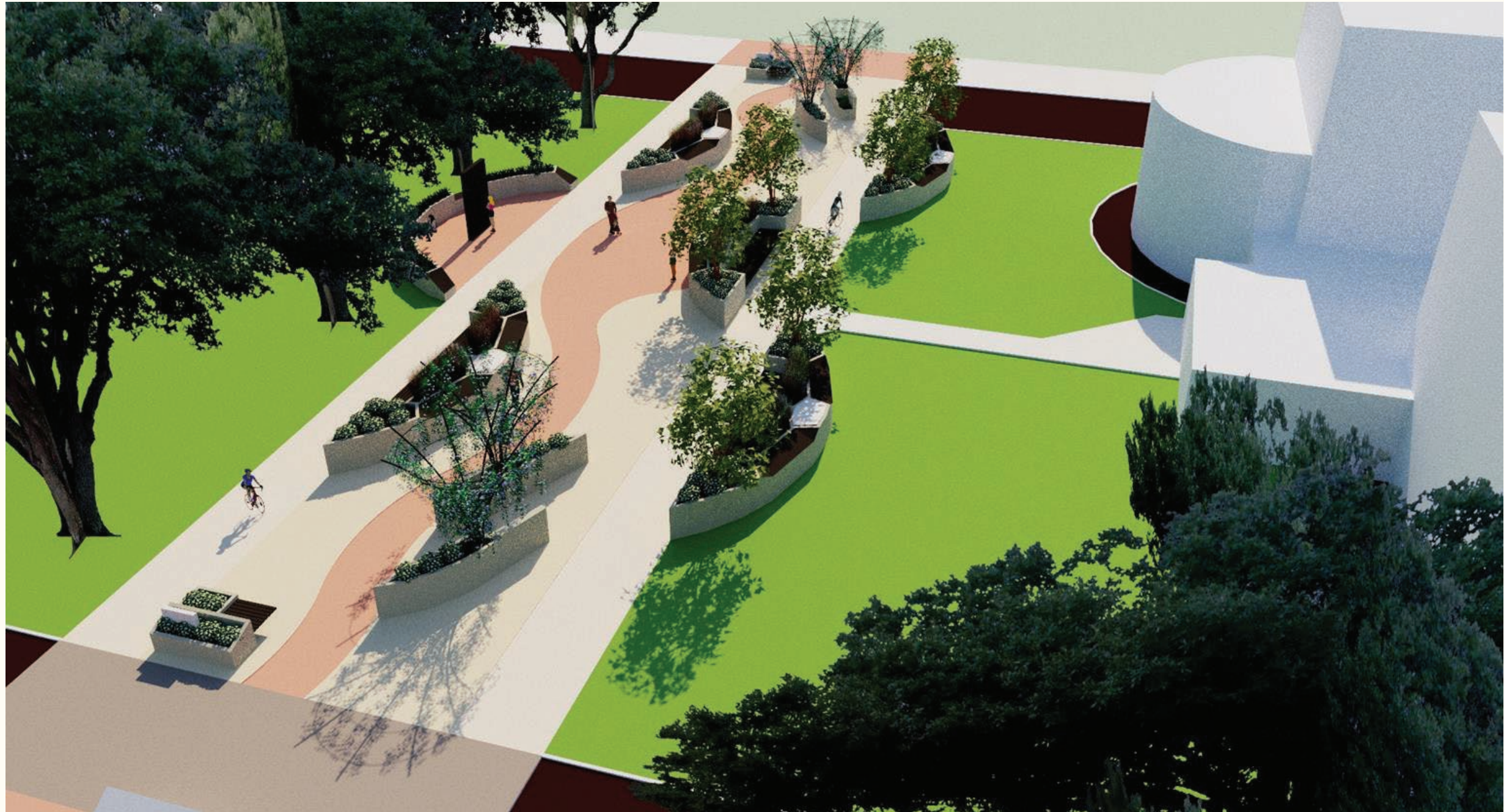
Flow Diagram



Presentation Notes

The final design simplified the previous concept down to a greater central space for gathering, private seating incorporated into the planters, edge planters that hold continuity to the surrounding site, and only one directed lane for pedestrian traffic.

Initial Design



Presentation Notes

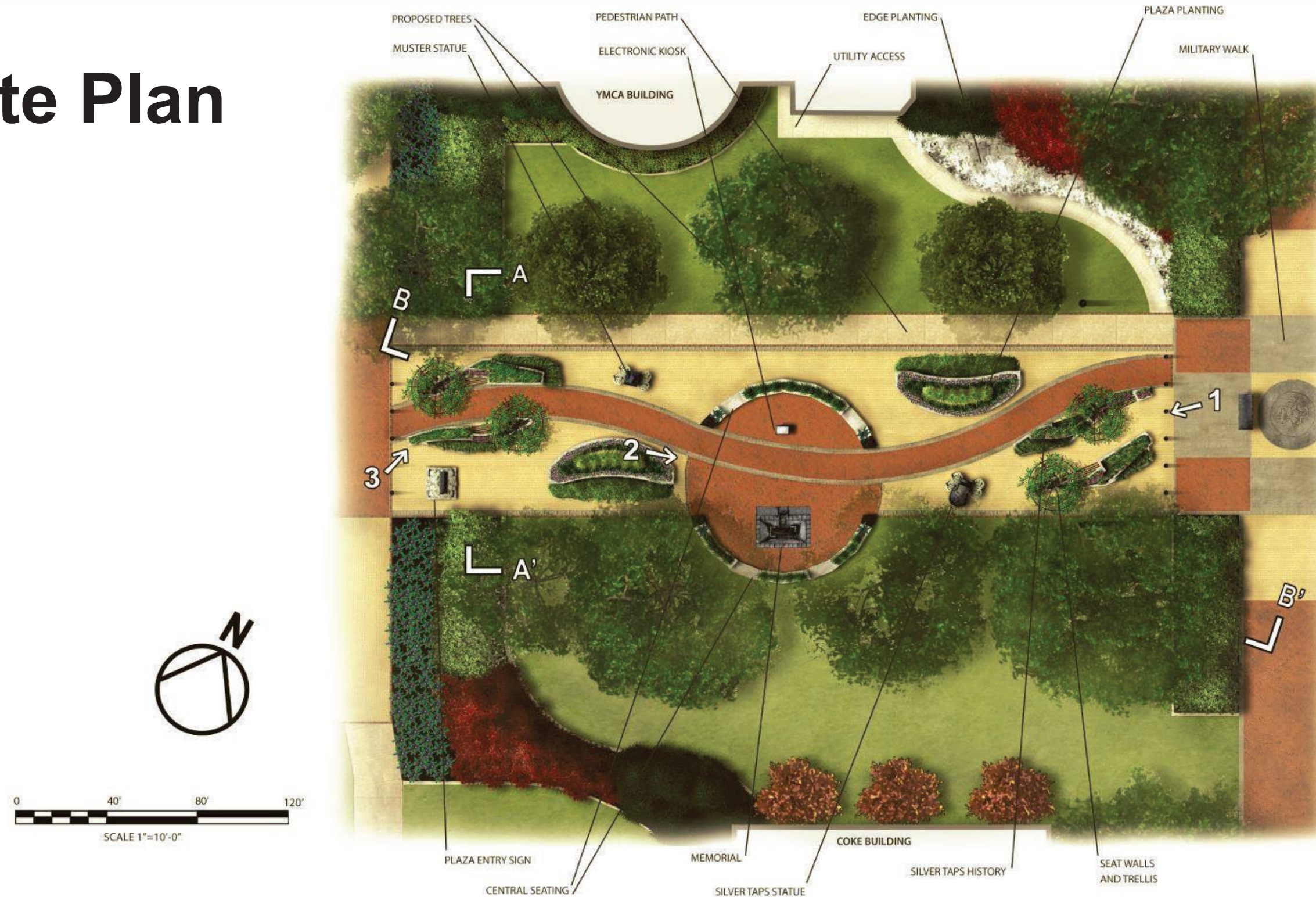
A Sketchup 3D model was constructed to better illustrate our preliminary ideas of using differing heights and plantings to create a sense of enclosure while mitigating noise and light effectively.

The Final Design

Presentation Notes

The design developed more in the final stages and came to be what is presented in the following pages.

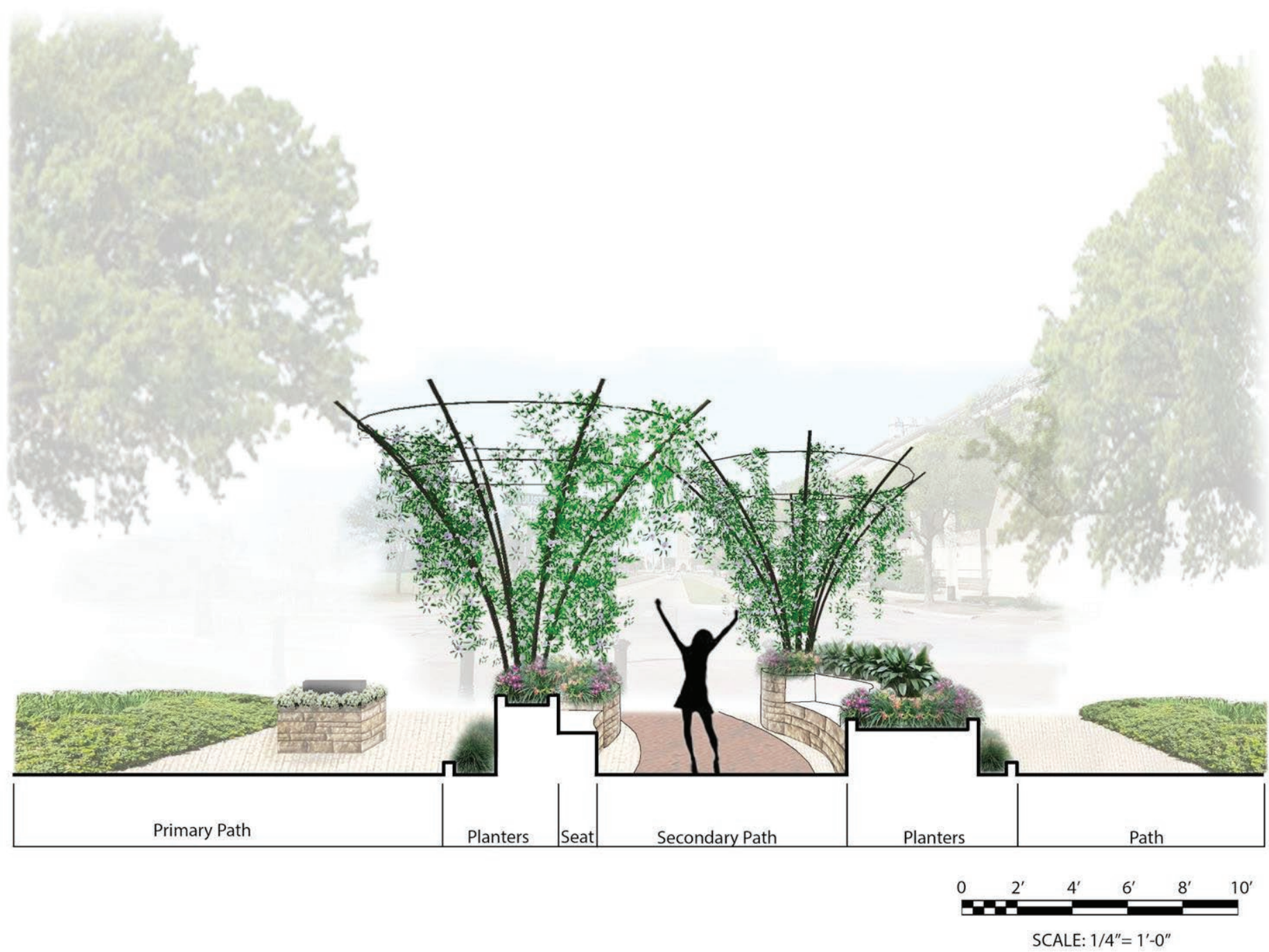
Site Plan



Presentation Notes

As mentioned during the section on design process, the final design incorporated a freeform design that incorporated the materials in the area nearby on campus, such as the brick of Military Walk. The final design also includes freeform edge plantings that provide a backdrop to the plaza, two new proposed trees, and an altered sidewalk for the YMCA bldg.

Section A-A'



Presentation Notes

This particular section displays a view exiting the plaza to the west toward the ILFSB and Old Main. The cut shows the details of differing heights within the planters and the overarching sense of enclosure and support of life provided by the trellises.

Section B-B'



Presentation Notes

This section cut along the longitudinal length of the plaza faces the YMCA building from the south. Most importantly, the graphic helps convey the procession and hierarchy of the plaza as an experience and symbolic story which unifies Aggies and visitors into one central space, where the Silver Taps memorial of the design is placed.

Trellis Perspective



Presentation Notes

The perspective above illustrates a user entering the plaza from Military Walk toward the existing Silver Taps statue, positioned on the east side of the site toward Academic Plaza, where the ceremony is held. These seated planters at alternating juxtaposition provide a gathering space for reflection that can be private but not wholly lonesome.

Overview Perspective



Presentation Notes

On the opposite side of the site, another archway of seated planters arches over the central path setting forth that sense of place required for a memorial plaza placed along a major passageway. Additionally, to the top right of the graphic, a kiosk which would display names and history of Silver Taps in the main gathering space is represented.

Kiosk Day Time Perspective



Presentation Notes

A full shot of the main gathering space and memorial to Silver Taps is displayed here. On the end caps of the circular seatwall that frames the space, plaques of bronze with words of consolation and remembrance cut into the surface help instill the importance of this place.

Kiosk Night Time Perspective



Presentation Notes

At night, the main gathering space will have several lighting features, including 21 lights on the memorial which face each cardinal direction but the east, because the sun will never rise again on those who have passed. Behind the cut plaques on the end caps, backlighting will illuminate the words of consolation even in dark hours.

The Void

Our main memorial sculpture is meant to be a void space.

This sculpture will represent the void left in the student body and Aggie Family by students who have passed.

As students, families, and visitors see this sculpture their thoughts will unite around those who have passed away and their families.

Presentation Notes

The Traditions Plaza will pay respect to Silver Taps with symbols placed throughout in a manner of reverence and reflection, a kiosk detailing the names of those who have passed and the history of Silver Taps, a plaque displaying Fish Coward's letter along the outside of the private seated planter, and the memorial discussed here in the main central space.



Traditions Plaza

Team 3:
Kourtney Gonzalez
Francisca Yanez
Dennis Zhu
Claire Gaughan

MILITARY WALK

Goals

- **An area full of traditions**
- **Create a reflective space**
- **Capture the essence and feelings of Silver Taps**
- **Maintain functionality of space for students**
- **Keep the essence of the main axis**
- **Maintain a sense of unity with the surrounding context**



Existing Conditions

Central Axis

The central axis that connects the Albrighton Tower to the Academic Building is a prominent display in the design in order to display the importance of being connected to the campus and to one another as Aggies. The graphic on the far left labeled “Central Axis” displays the axis on the dashed red line beginning from the Administration Building to Academic Plaza to the Albrighton Bell Tower. The highlighted yellow area is proposed location of Traditions Plaza.

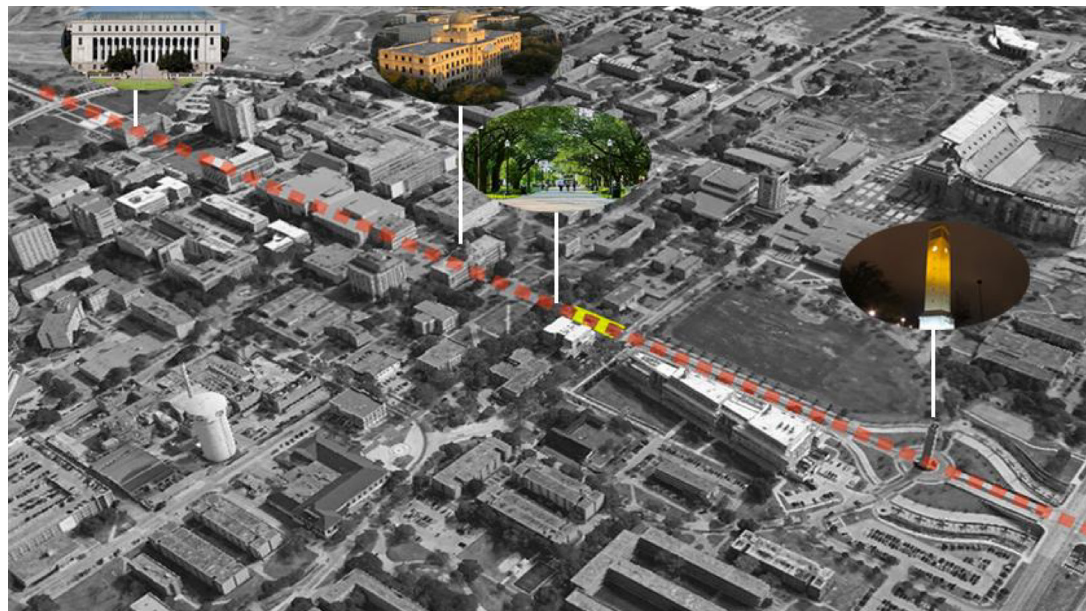
Circulation

Circulation of the existing space is very high in traffic during the day and especially between classes. The design keeps the main axis of the plaza open in order to accompany traffic between classes and for work service to access. The openness also allows pedestrians and tours to keep the beautiful view of academic plaza and the Albrighton Bell Tower. The middle image titled “Circulation/Transportation” displays multiple flows of traffic. The red represents vehicular traffic, yellow represents the bus stops and circulation, and finally orange shows the important pedestrian flow in the space. In order to allow people to travel efficiently we kept this space open while creating curvilinear private seating areas along the edges for those who want to reflect and learn about the Aggie Traditions.

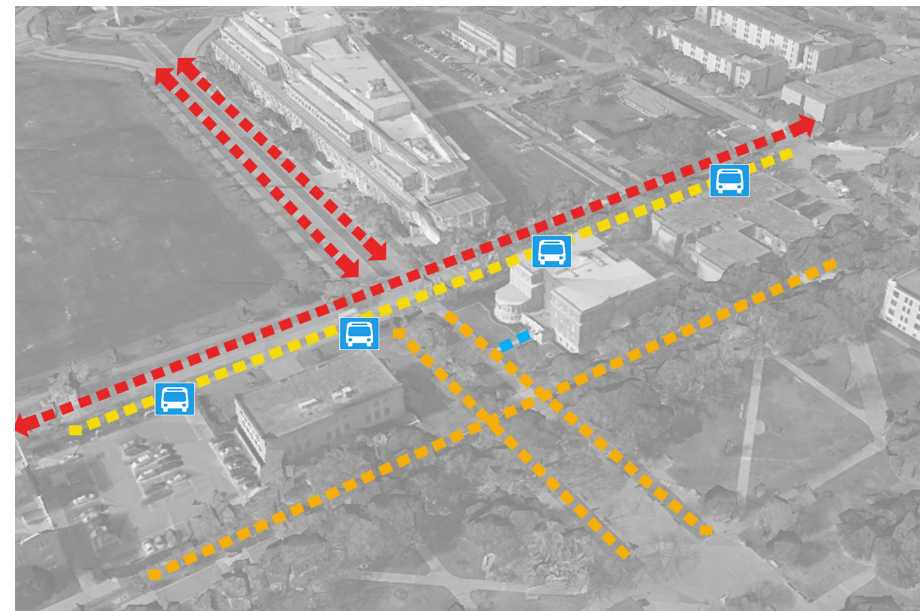
Existing Vegetation

Existing Vegetation is displayed on the far right of the page. All the existing trees and beds of cool season annuals were kept which are indicated as the darker and lighter green areas. The yellow spaces were existing rose-bed planters that we decided to remove and add planters along the edges near the private seating spaces.

Central Axis



Circulation/Transportation

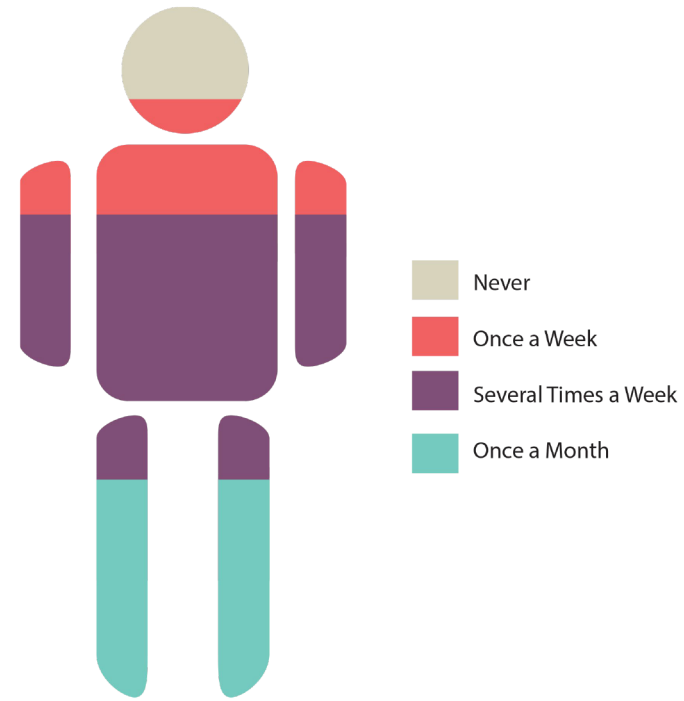


Existing Vegetation

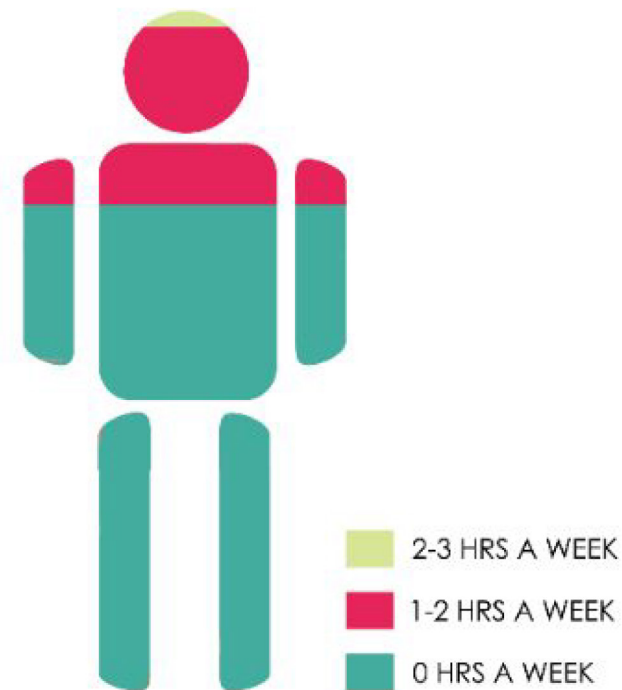


Survey Analysis

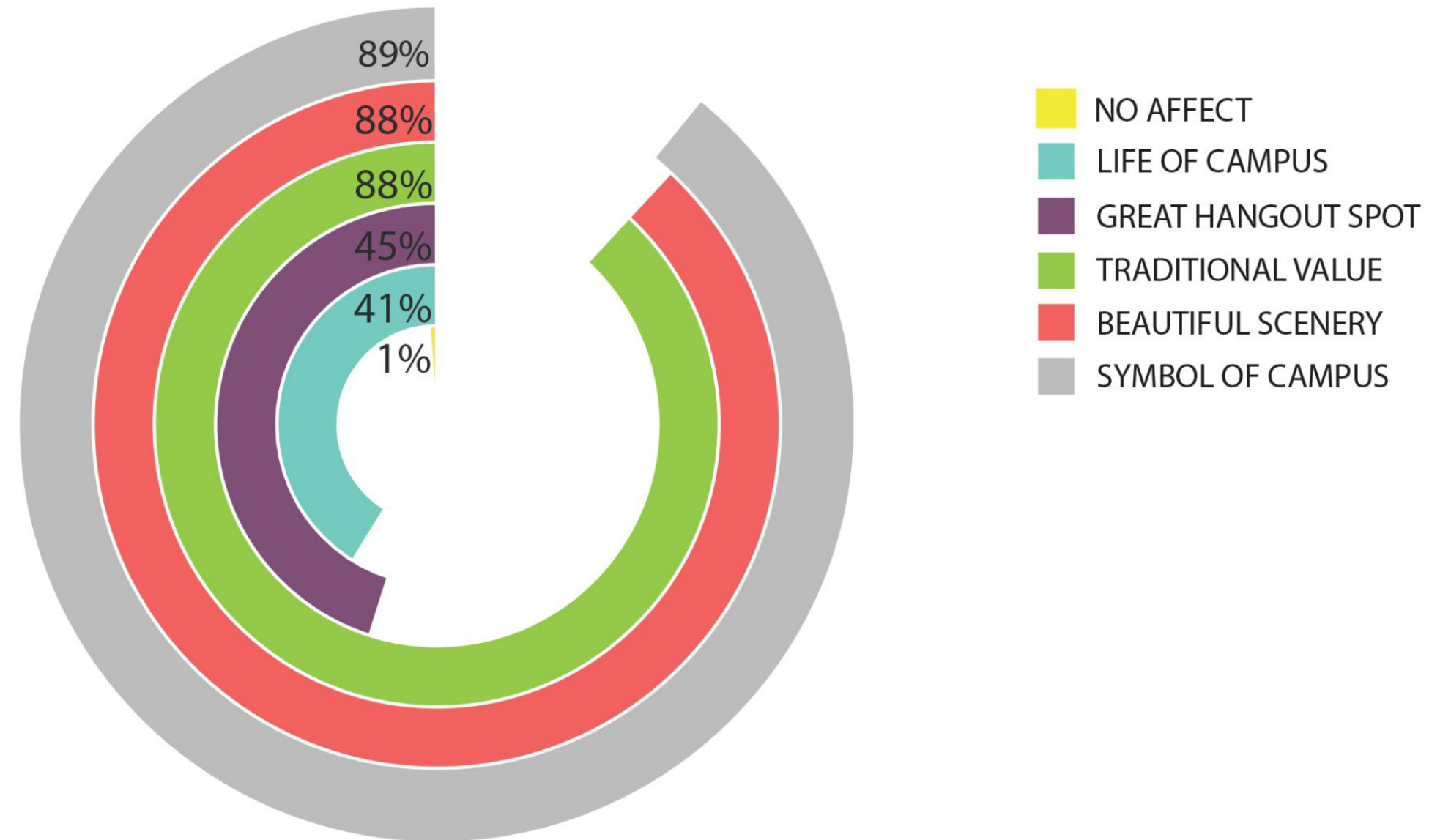
How often do you pass through Traditions Plaza?



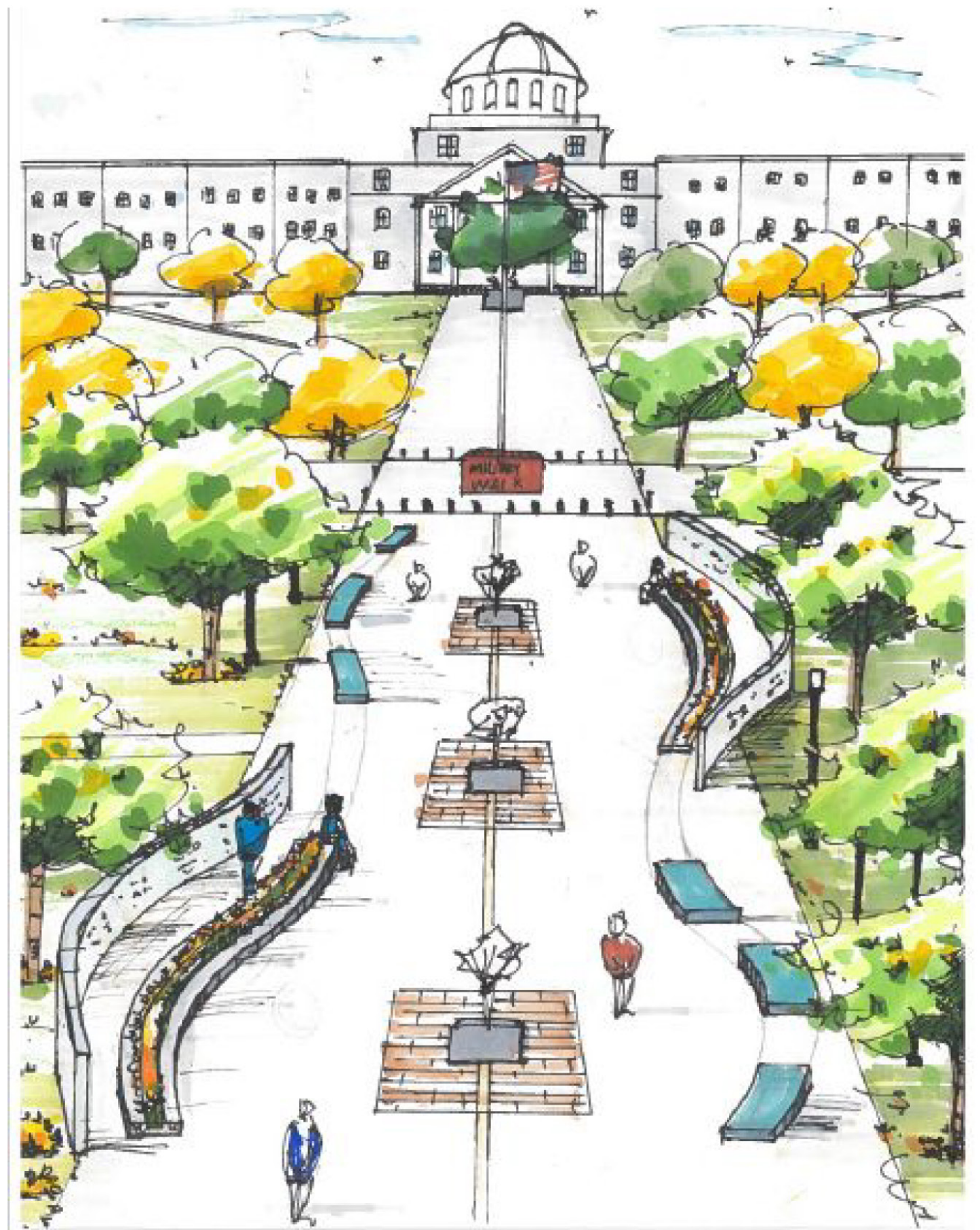
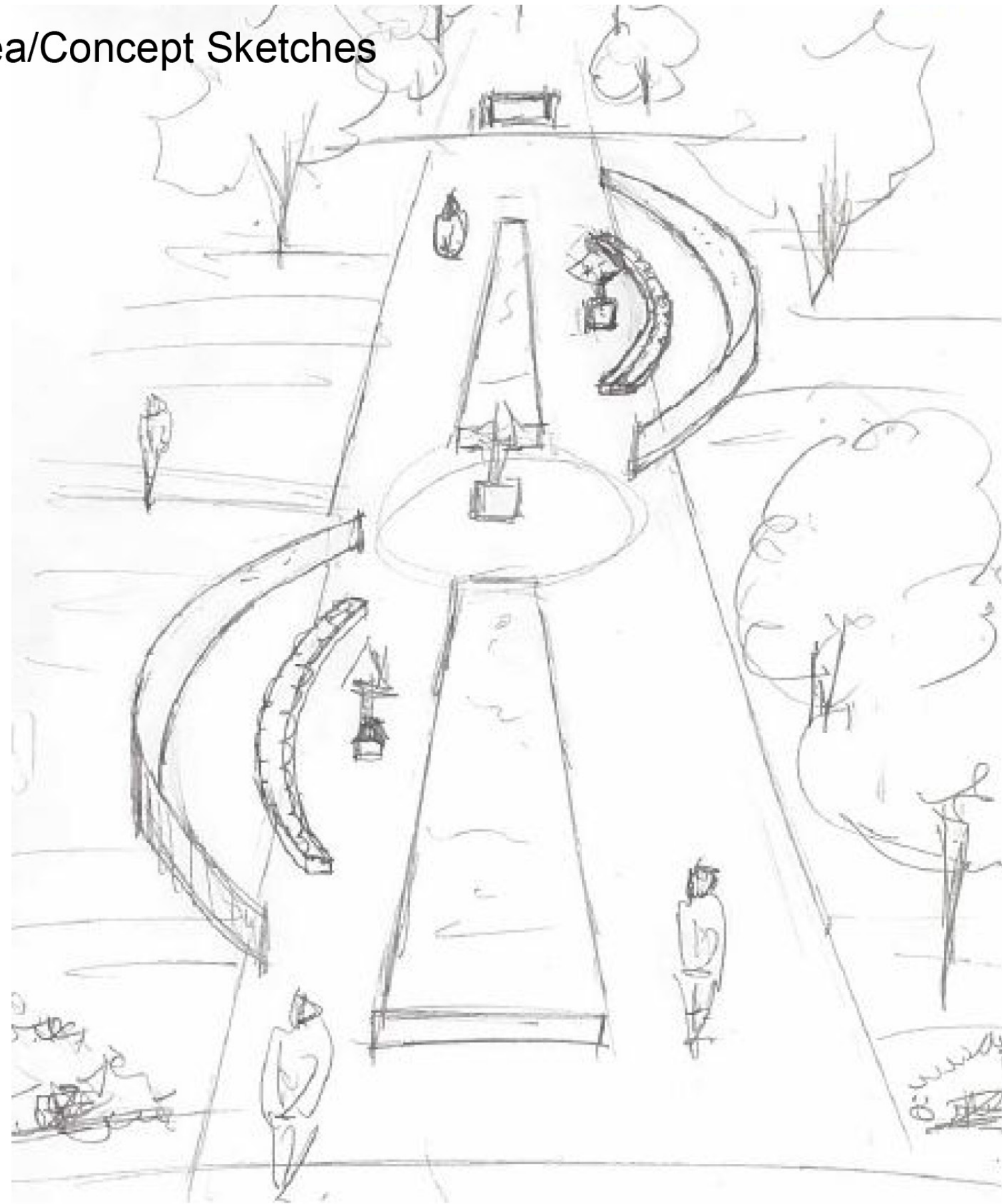
How often do you lounge at Academic Plaza?



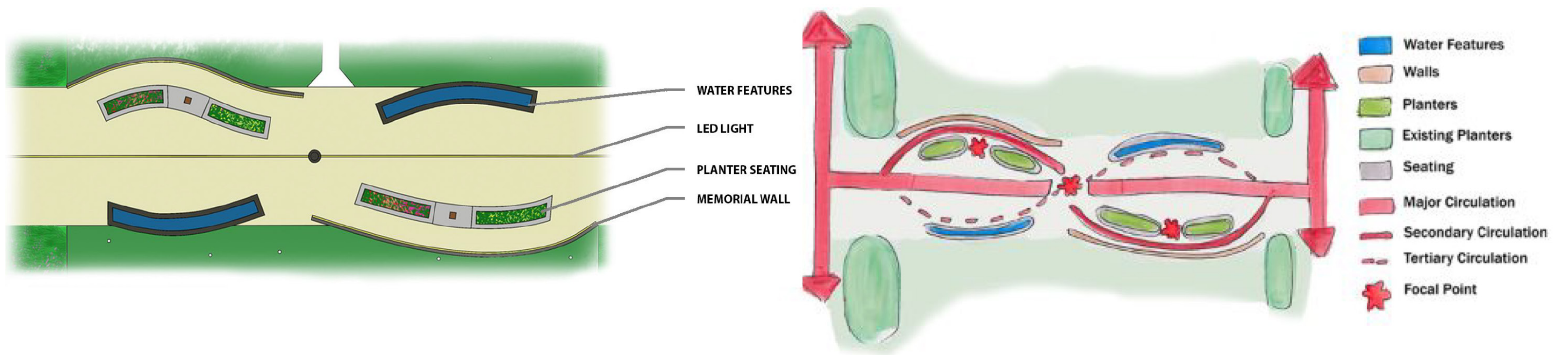
What do you think of Academic Plaza and Military Walk?



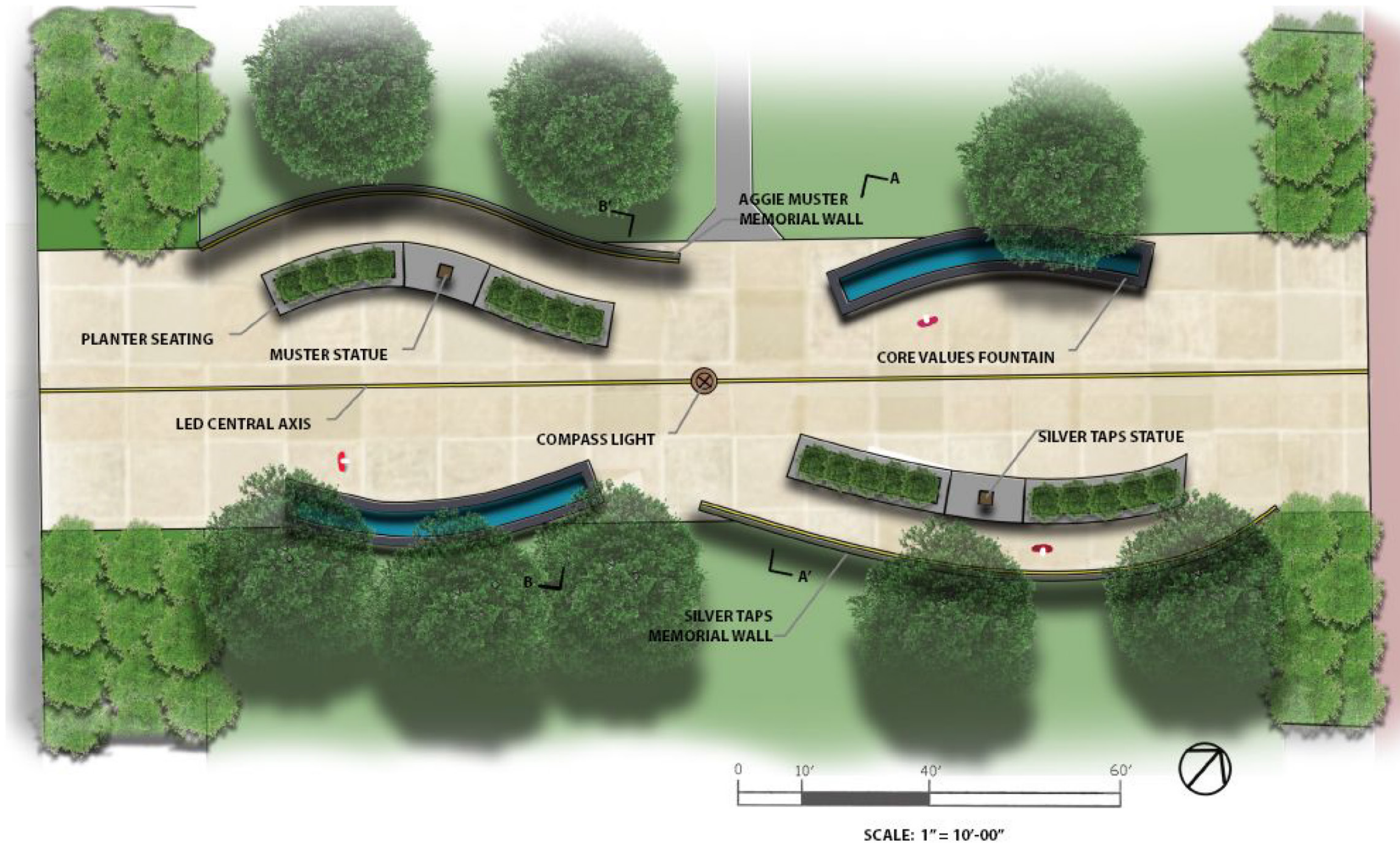
Idea/Concept Sketches



Final Design - Bubble Diagram



Final Design - Site Plan



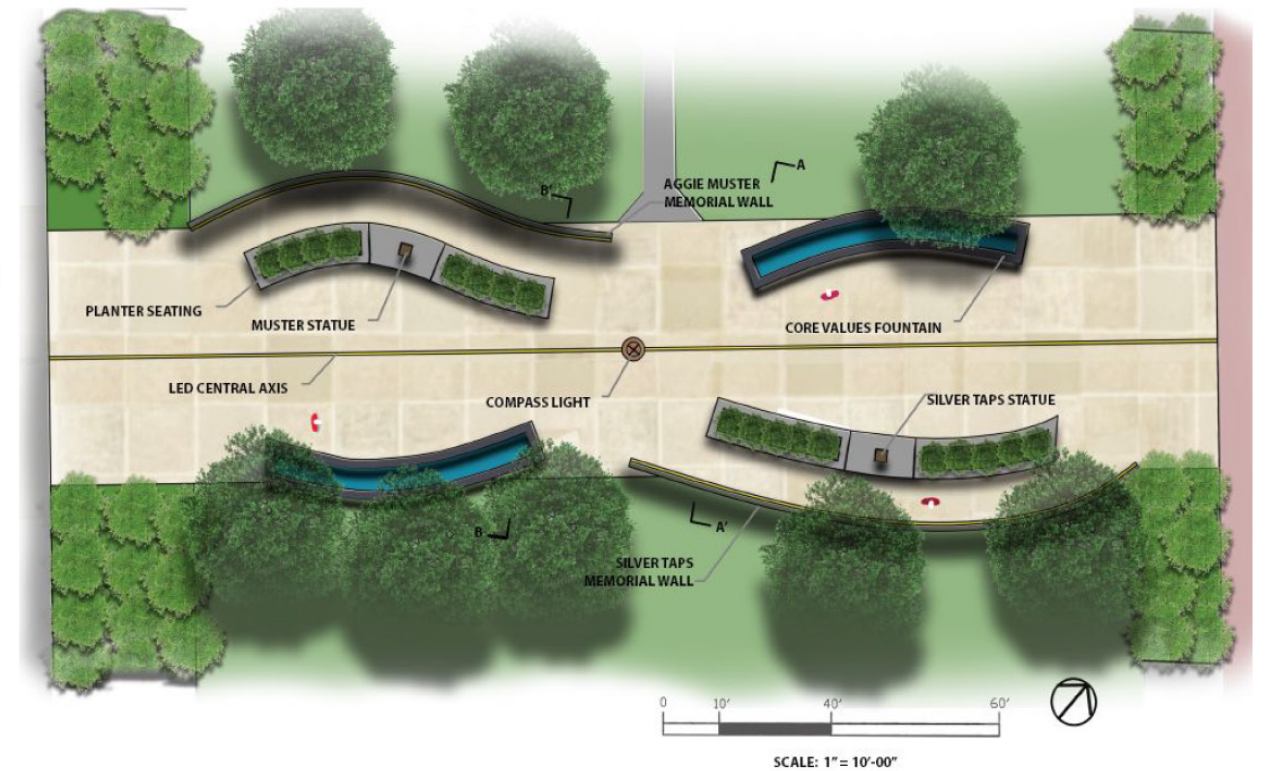
Materials & Symbolism

- Symbolism of form in our design:
 - Curvilinear Wall Forms - Flow of Spirit, Cycle of Tradition, Eternity
 - Segmented Six Fountains - Six Aggie Core Values
 - Grey/Blue Fountains: Formality, Loyalty, Calmness, Reflection, Life
- Water: Healing, Cleansing, Purity, Renewal, Change, Eternity, Cycle, Life

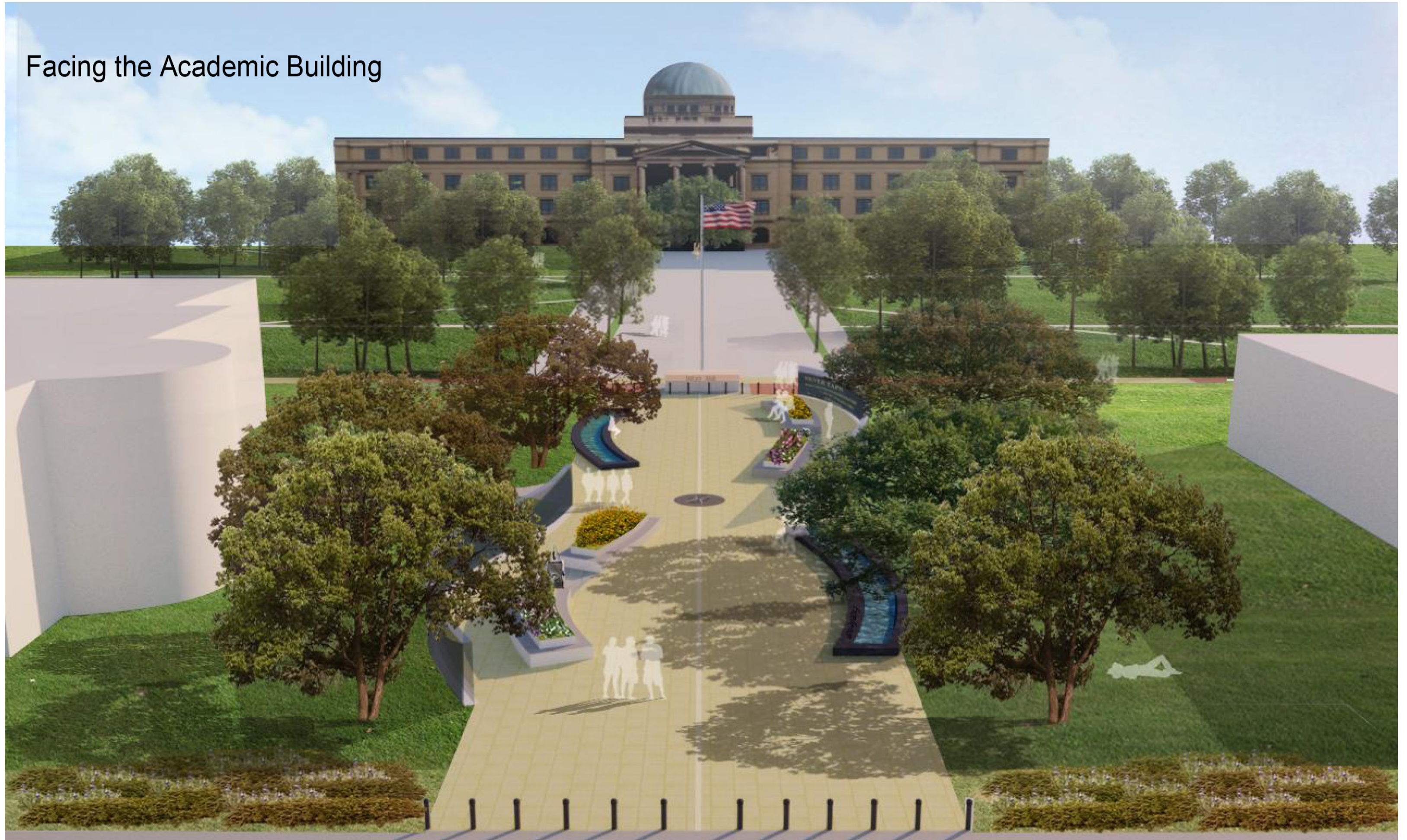
- Wall: Story, Memorial, Solemn, Reflection



- Light/Glass: Hope, Life, 12th man



Facing the Academic Building



Final Design - Section Perspectives



CORE VALUES FOUNTAIN

CENTRAL LED AXIS

PLANTER SEATING

SILVER TAPS MEMORIAL WALL

Final Design - Section Perspectives



CORE VALUES FOUNTAIN

CENTRAL LED AXIS

PLANTER SEATING

MUSTER MEMORIAL WALL



SILVER TAPS

The first Silver Taps at A&M was held for a graduate of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station who passed away while on duty at A&M. The first Silver Taps was held for a graduate of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station who passed away while on duty at A&M.

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Fish Cowards Letter

One of Texas A&M's most honored traditions is Silver Taps. Silver Taps is held for an undergraduate student who passes away while enrolled at A&M. The first Tuesday of the month when a student has passed away the previous month.

The first Silver Taps was held in 1898 and honored Lawrence Sullivan Ross, the first president of A&M College. Silver Taps is currently held in the month of May. On the day of Silver Taps, a small card with the deceased student's name, class, and major is placed as a notice at the base of the academic flagpole. In addition...





SILVER TAPS

By the impact Texas A&M's most honored traditions is Silver Taps. Silver Taps is held for a graduate or under-graduate student who passes away while enrolled at A&M. This final tribute is held on the first Tuesday of the month when a student has passed away the previous month.

The first Silver Taps was held in 1898 and honored Lawrence Sullivan Ross, the former governor of Texas and president of A&M College. Silver Taps is currently held in the Academic Plaza. On the day of Silver Taps, a small card with the deceased student's name, class, major, and date of death is placed as a notice at the base of the academic flagpole. In addition to the memorial, the band plays taps at the base of the academic flagpole. In addition to the memorial, the band plays taps at the base of the academic flagpole. In addition to the memorial, the band plays taps at the base of the academic flagpole.

Fish Cowards Letter

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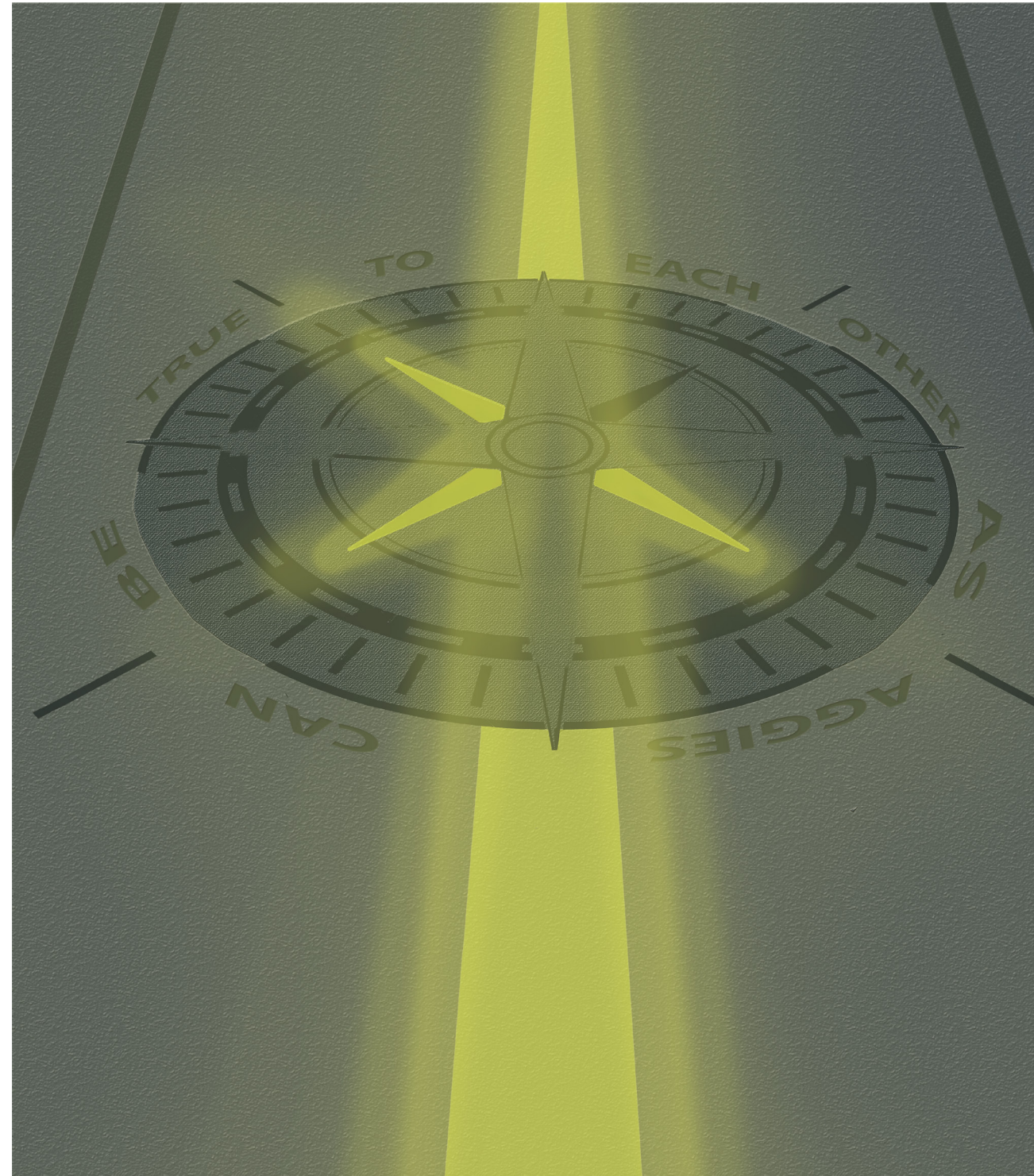
The first Silver Taps was held in 1898 and honored Lawrence Sullivan Ross, the former governor of Texas and president of A&M College. Silver Taps is currently held in the Academic Plaza. On the day of Silver Taps, a small card with the deceased student's name, class, major, and date of death is placed as a notice at the base of the academic flagpole. In addition to the memorial, the band plays taps at the base of the academic flagpole. In addition to the memorial, the band plays taps at the base of the academic flagpole.





Site Detail- Compass Light

The center of central axis LED light is a compass with the words “True To Each Other As Aggies Can Be...” around the edges. The three lights represent North, West, and South for the directions that bugle players play the “Silver Taps” song. The East is darkened in representation of how the sun will never rise on that Aggie again. The East direction also points toward the proposed Silver Taps Memorial Wall. This shows how despite that the sun will never rise on that Aggie again we still honor them through this tradition. The quote around the compass is another representation of how true we are to one another and are always connected as an Aggie Family.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

GROUP MEMBERS / CONTRIBUTIONS:

Kourtney Gonzalez: Section Perspectives, Design, Light Perspective Detail, and Poster Layout

Claire Gaughan: Site Plan, Design, and Description

Dennis Zhu: Perspectives, Design, and Site Analysis

Francisca Yanez: Bubble Diagram, Design, Site Analysis, Concept Diagram, Poster Layout, and Site Plan

Team 4

Traditions Plaza Proposal

...

Claudia Pool, Kevin Steen, Laura Ruiz, Maritza Sanchez

Claudia Opening- Welcome, thank you all for coming. As a Quick Run through site analysis ,the process ,and conclusion. We hope to have encaptured the class of 69s inspiration and passion within this design. Thank you.

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Posters

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Traditions Plaza

TEAM 4 / LAND 319 / SPRING 2016

Description

Located between Academic Plaza and the Albritton Bell Tower is the current site names "Traditions Plaza". The Texas A&M graduating class of '69 has allowed current third years students in LAND 319 to assemble a Landscape Design. This proposed design of Traditions Plaza is meant to convey the beauty and sacredness that is Texas A&M Silver Taps. Through the blending of personal spaces, program, and above all symbolism; the proposed site should educate our student body, as well as the visitors of Texas A&M. They should walk away with a better understanding of what it means to be a part of the Aggie Family and how the traditions were created.

The site is an abstract reenactment of the Silver Taps ceremony. 21 Guns approach the center of the site, and pass through seating that's supporting walls that display the history of Silver Taps and Aggie Muster. In the Center of the site, at 10:30 the Ross Volunteers fire three rifle volleys: once to the north, the south, and the west. Because the Sun will never rise on that Aggie again, the east displays Don Coward's Letter. In the west there is a rock that has been carved to hold a bird fountain. This is the new journey that we all face, in life and passing; the start of life and perseverance. Two monuments have been relocated into the site that resemble Aggie Muster and Silver Taps. In closing the site changes to explain Muster, this is framed with seven large candle columns resembling the light of the aggie family whom will always be with the fallen Aggies and their families to answer "here".

Materials would include the same dark material found framing the seal between the site and Academic Plaza. This is meant to create the seriousness within the space that blends well with the surroundings.

Survey Results

What do you think of Academic Plaza and Military Walk?

What traditions have you participated in at Texas A&M?

Concept Diagram

Site Analysis

Site Plan

SCALE: 1" = 10'

GROUP MEMBERS / CONTRIBUTIONS:
 Claudia Pool: Perspectives, Presentation, Sketch Up Run Through
 Laura Ruiz: AutoCAD Base, Section Elevations, Poster Layout
 Maritza Sanchez: Sketch Up Base, Site Plan, Plantings
 Kevin Steen: Site Analysis

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Traditions Plaza

TEAM 4 / LAND 319 / SPRING 2016

Section Elevations

SCALE: 1" = 10'

Perspectives Description

Perspective 1 - Sun Frame - Four Sun Frames have been placed as the main focal point. Each frame faces a different cardinal direction. The east frame Displays Don Coward's Letter. Standing within the frames should cause a heaviness that is very similar to the feeling one gets during Silver Taps.

Perspective 2 - Muster Monument - This site will be very similar to the Silver Taps monument reflected across the site. It is a private area meant for reflection and privacy while explaining a deeper meaning.

Perspective 3 - 21 Guns - Here you will note 21 angular pillars. These are meant to represent the Ross Volunteer Company. The structures are symbolic of the structural strength and extreme presence they hold within the ceremony.

Perspective 4 - Candle Columns - In reference to Aggie Muster, these candles are symbols of the fire that burns in each one of us, and the flame we will hold for aggies past.

Perspectives

Perspective 1 - Sun Frame

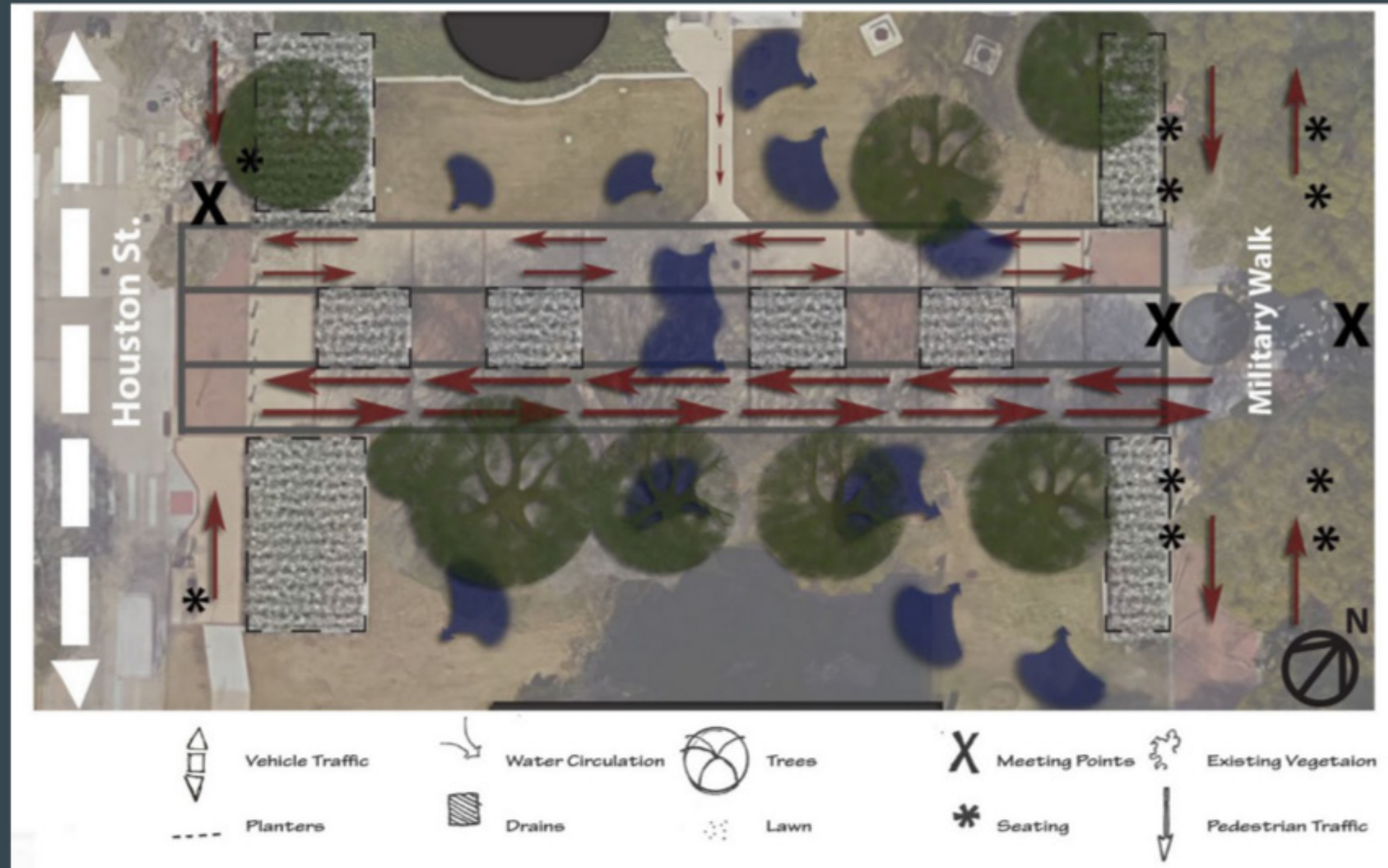
Perspective 2 - Muster Monument

Perspective 3 - 21 Guns

Perspective 4 - Candle Columns

GROUP MEMBERS / CONTRIBUTIONS:
 Claudia Pool: Perspectives, Presentation, Sketch Up Run Through
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 Kevin Steen: Site Analysis

Site Analysis



Steen's Talking Points 2-6

Site Analysis- The existing site is well drained already so we had very little focus on fixing any drainage problems. Seating on the site is completely absent, however, there is a moderate amount of seating around the site. The lack of seating was one of the issues with the site we addressed. Meeting points are also absent on the site, but prevalent in the surrounding area. We also addressed this issue with our design. The materials on the site are similar to the surrounding area. So the site would blend well into the surrounding space. Traffic on the site is heavily dense on the southern walkway.

Traffic Analysis

Vehicle Traffic

Pedestrian Traffic Between
Classes and Bus Stops

Common Pedestrian Traffic



Steen's Talking Points 2-6 Traffic also increases in between class periods and when bus stops occur. We maintained adequate space to accommodate the traffic in these instances, as well as taking into account when the Corps marches through the site during reviews.

Survey

A Survey was conducted to provide insight into the minds of the larger student body. Our goal was to find out what opinion they had of Silver Taps and Traditions Plaza.

- ☐ 102 Students Responded
- ☐ 5 Multiple Choice, 1 Free Response

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Silver Taps Memorial

Howdy Ags! Currently student designs are being assembled involving a project to build a Silver Taps Memorial in front of Academic Plaza. We would appreciate if you answered all questions that apply to you and your personal experience with both of these topics.

* Required

Texas A&M Military Walk



How often a week do you pass through Academic Plaza? *

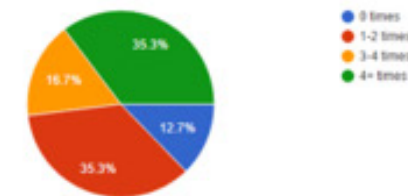
- 0 times
- 1-2 times
- 3-4 times

Survey- We conducted a survey in order to provide insight into the minds of the larger student body. Our goal was to find out what opinion they had of Silver Taps and Traditions Plaza. The survey consisted of five multiple choice questions as well as one free response question, we had 102 students respond to our survey.

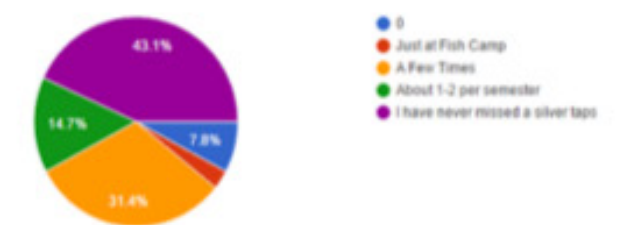
Results

- Over 70% pass through the site 1-2 times a week.
- Students recognize Academic Plaza and Military Walk as Symbols on Campus with Traditional Value
- 92% Answered that they have attended Silver Taps
- 43.1 % Answered to never having missed a Silver Taps

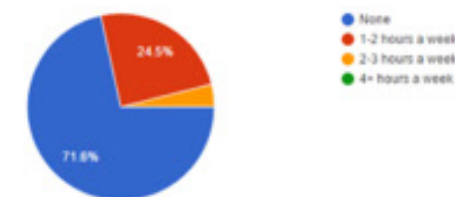
How often a week do you pass through Academic Plaza? (102 responses)



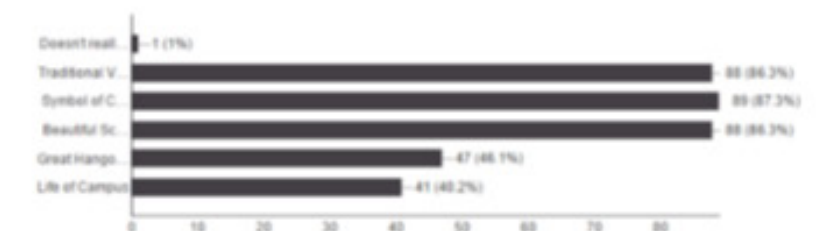
How many times have you attended silver taps? (102 responses)



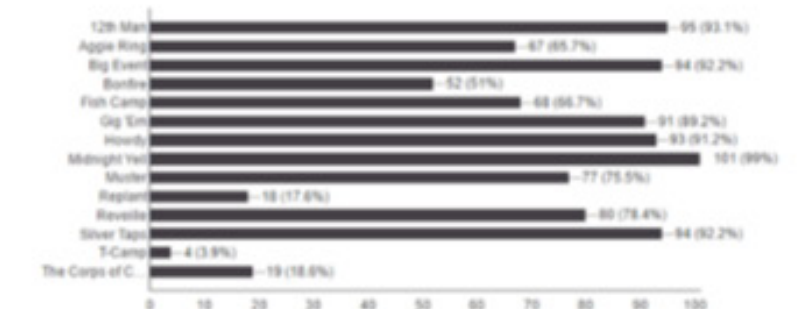
How often do you lounge at Academic Plaza? (102 responses)



What do you think of Academic Plaza and Military Walk? (Check all that apply) (102 responses)



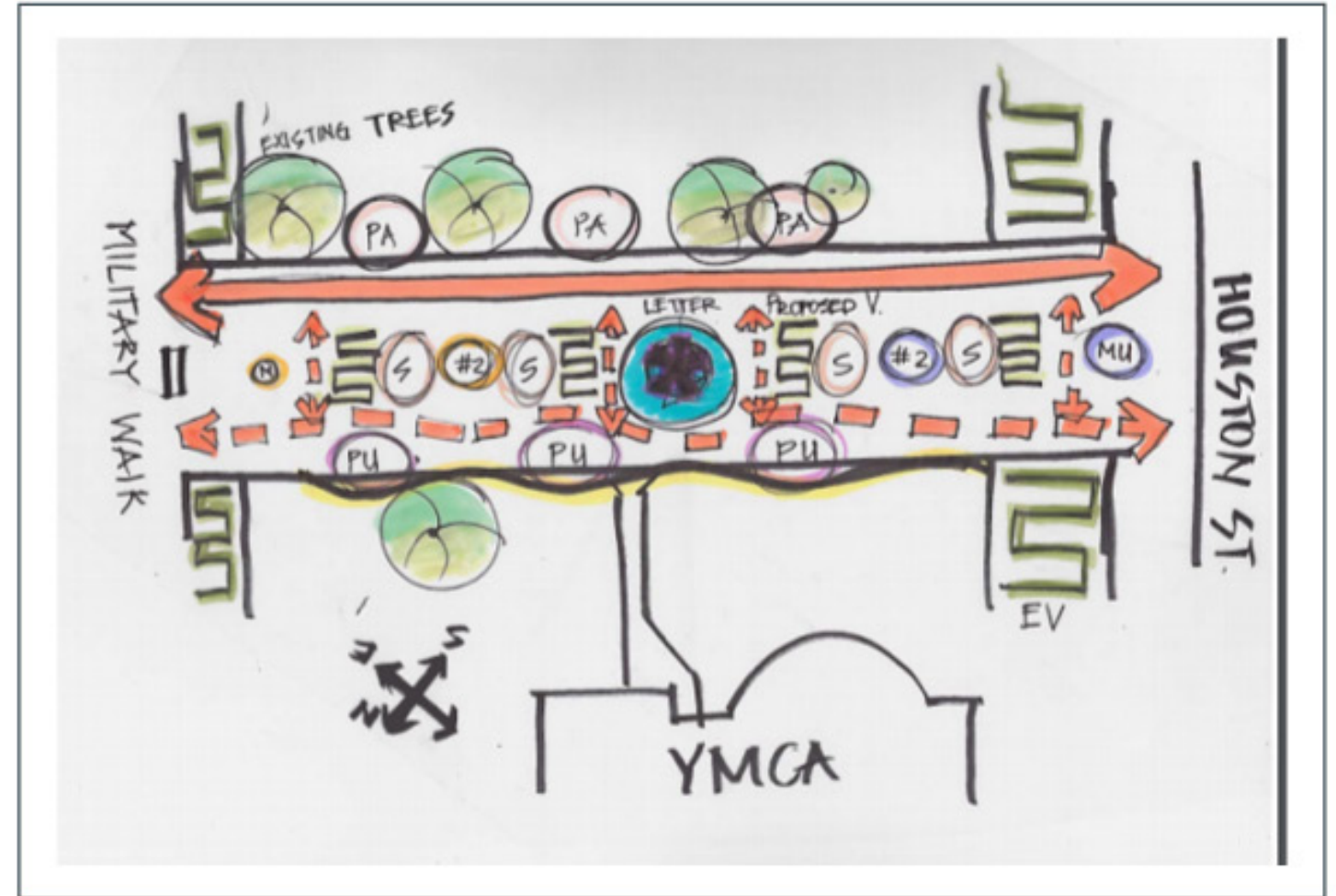
What traditions have you participated in at Texas A&M? (Check all that apply) (102 responses)



Free Response- “Have you been directly affected by Silver Taps?”

The results of our survey showed that over 70% of students pass through the site 1-2 times a week. We also found students recognized Academic Plaza and Military Walk as symbols on Campus with traditional value 92% answered that they have attended Silver Taps and 43.1% answered that they have never missed a Silver Taps. Our free response question was “Have you been directly affected by Silver Taps?” The majority of responders answered that they have been directly affected by Silver Taps, and many of these people provided us with personal stories of how this tradition has affected them. This survey helped us see that while Silver Taps is a very important tradition for the student body as a whole, it also showed us just how personal this tradition is for individuals. We thought this was a very important point to convey in our design.

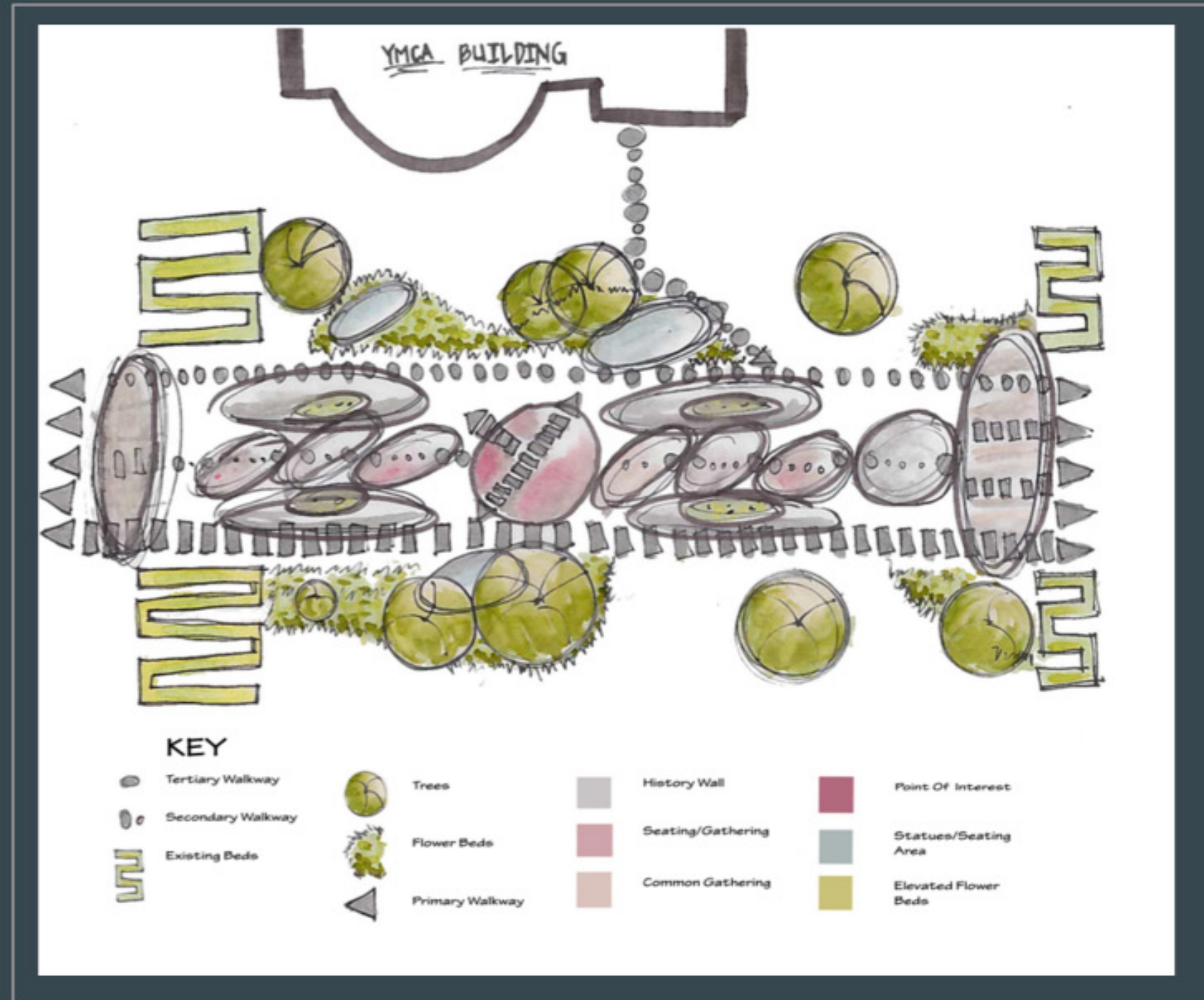
The Design Process



Goals:

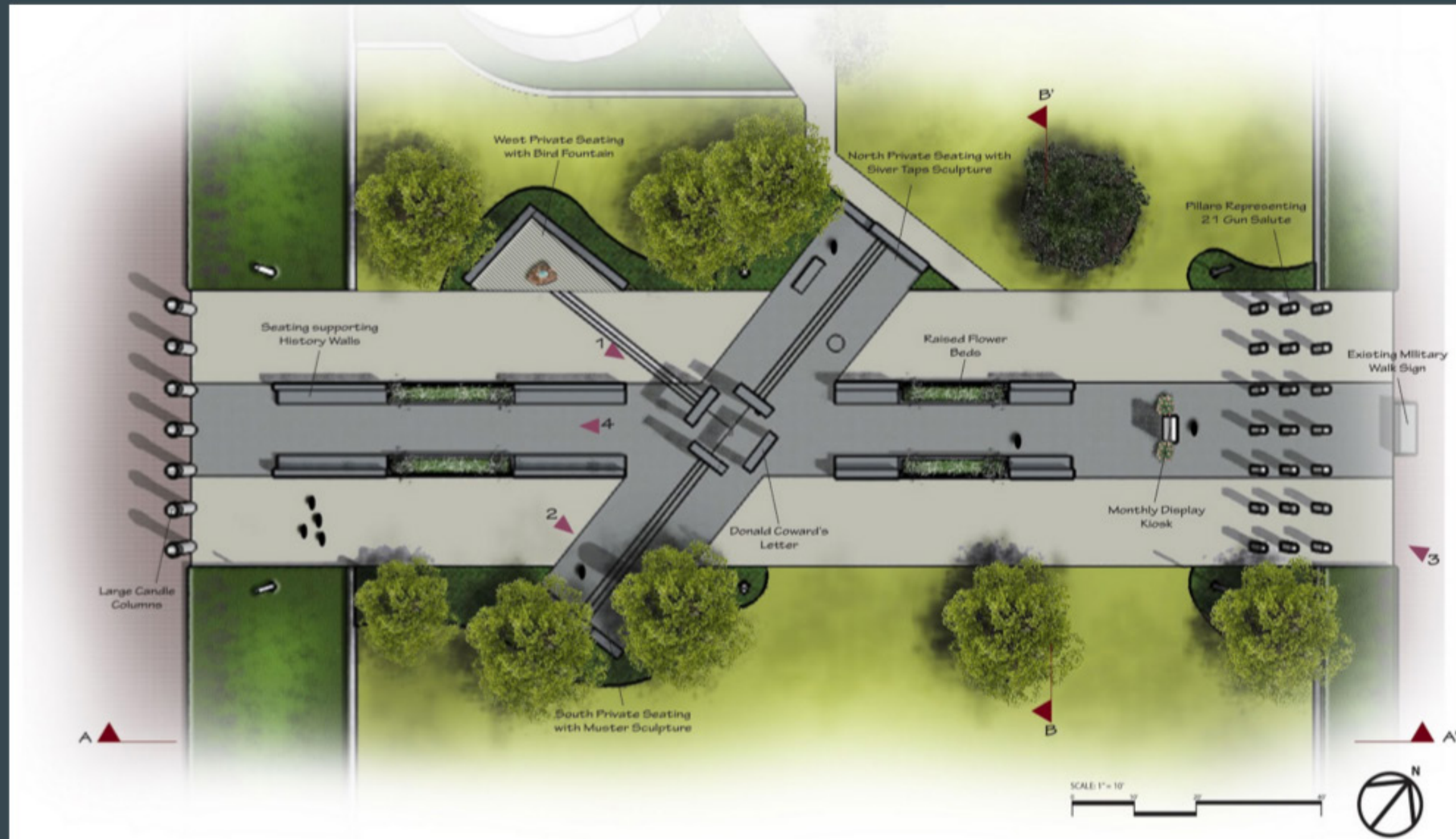
- Capturing the Moment
- Balance within the Space
- Convey the message

Concept Diagram



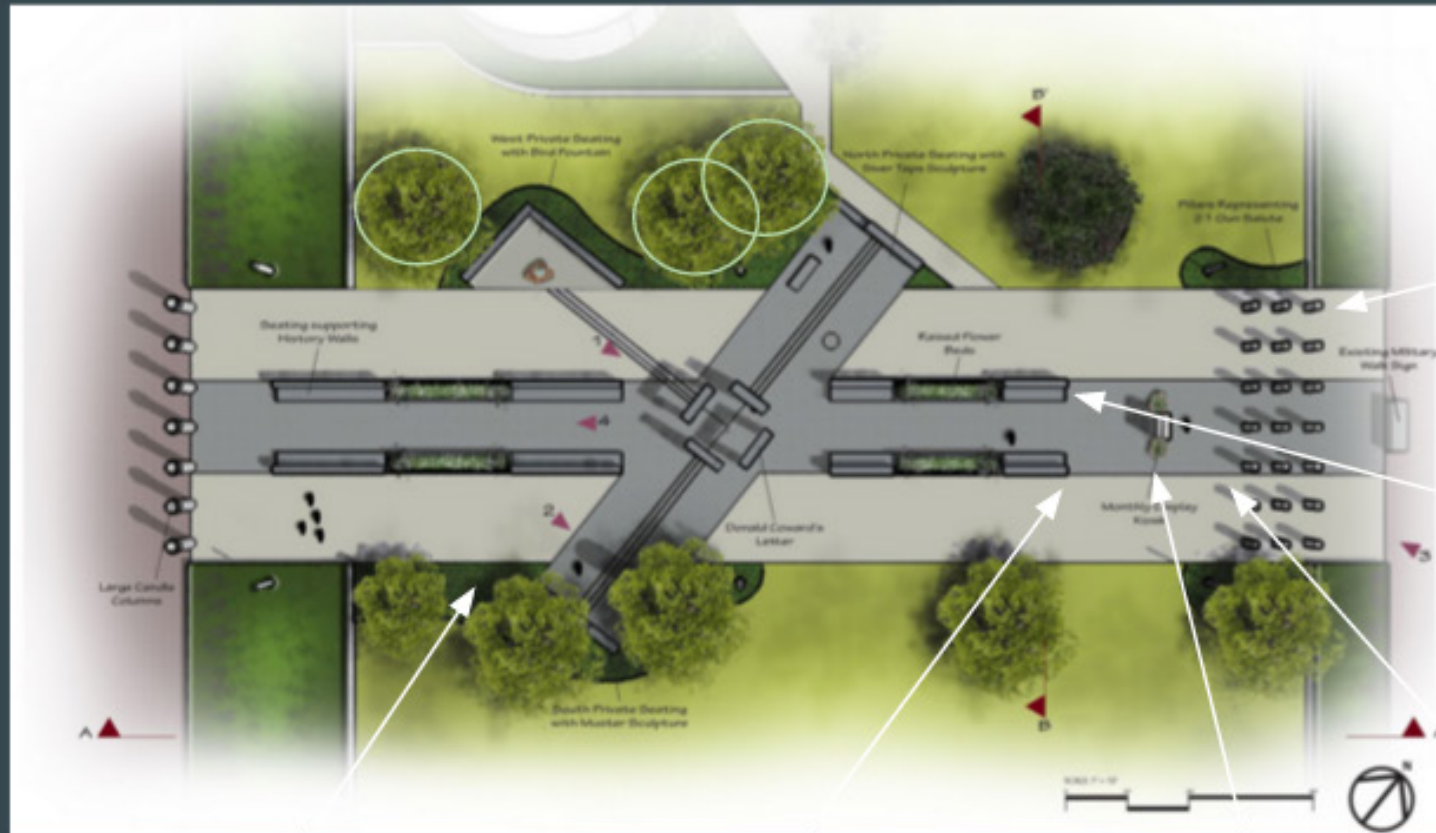
Concept Diagram- as you can see on the diagram we have created gathering spaces and intimate spaces. We also wanted to add more green spaces to bring life to the site. There are also 3 areas of traffic flow the one on the southern walkway being the most used and the other 2 being less used. Lastly the focal point has coming in from all directions except the east.

Site Plan: Traditions Plaza



Site Plan- We chose to use the same material as what exists on the A&M Seal. This allows the space to match the surroundings as well as continuing the seriousness we wanted present within the site. 21 Gun Pillars- These representative of 21 Ross Volunteers approaching the silver taps ceremony. Kiosk- This is a monthly display of names of those whom have passed. History/seating Walls- to divide the space we displayed both Silver Taps and Aggie Muster to inform students and visitors about the establishment of these traditions. Sun Frame - As the main focal point of the site, this area is meant to convey the series of emotions that one experiences while attending a Silver Taps. The lines on the ground plane are representative of the three volleys shot in every direction except for the east. Silver Taps, Muster Monuments- these areas frame each monument done by Rodney C. Hill that are a more intimate space. In the West we have placed a private seating area symbolic of the future. Candle Columns- these are located on the south west end of the site plan. These symbolize the candles that are held during Aggie Muster.

Site details and Plantings



On here steel was incorporated into the design to represent the candles at Aggie Muster. It also helps envision the ceremony.

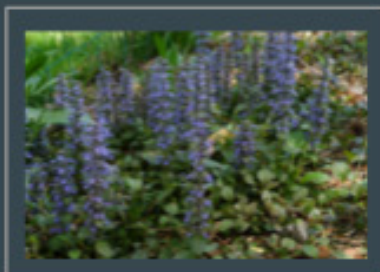


Dark granite was chosen to represent the Sun Frames and the emotions that are being portrayed through this. It will help understand one's emotions.

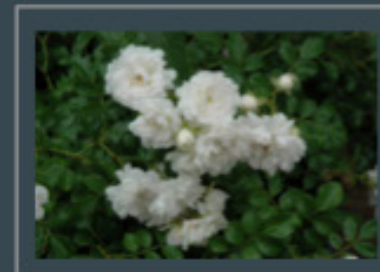


A darker concrete and a lighter concrete was chosen to blend in with the other materials around campus. It was used to get a sense of emotion and power.

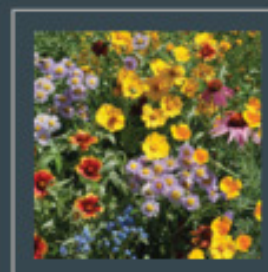
Ajuga reptans
Carpet Bugleweed



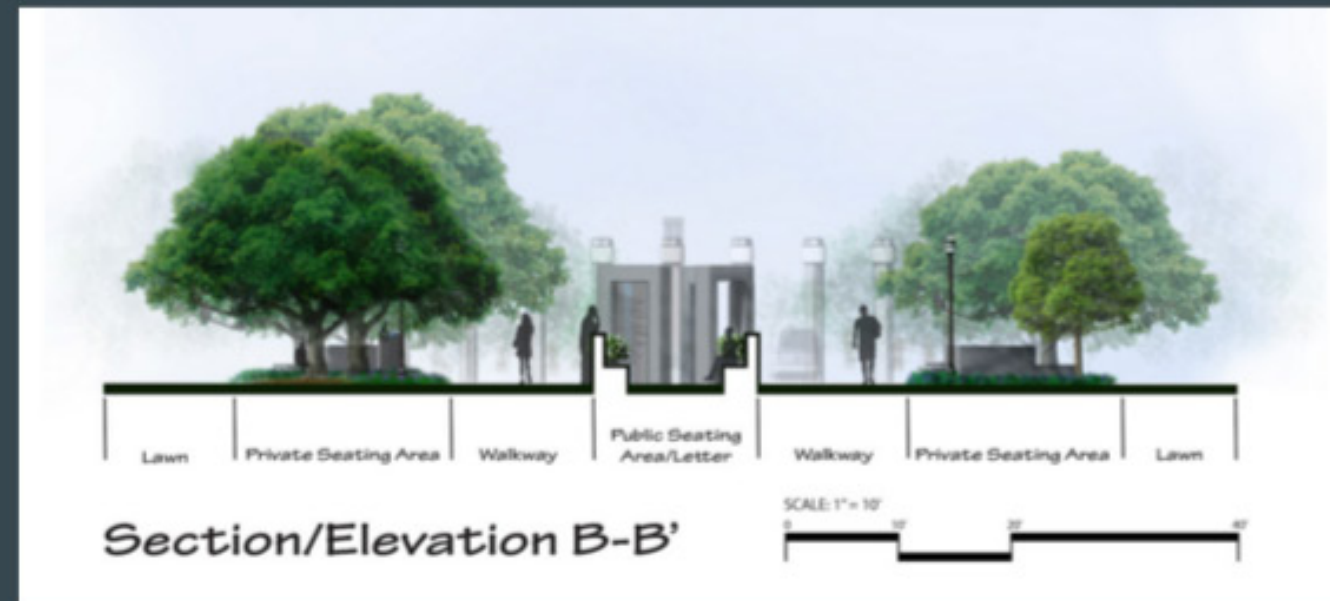
Rosa hybrida 'Drift'
White Drift rose



Seasonal Mix



Section Elevations



Laura (10-14) The section elevations give a sense of scale of the structures proposed and a sense of space throughout the whole site. Section Elevation A: As you walk from any of the two entrances, you'll encounter either the candle. Along the walkways, you'll notice short walls displaying the history of Silver, The benchesOnce you've approached the heart of the site you'll see the Sun Frames facing columns or the rectilinear pillars that serve as a threshold Taps and Aggie Muster. each cardinal point. The Sun frames allow you to walk through them except for the East frame which displays Donald Coward's Letter. Section Elevation B: Shows how the canopy of the trees and the vegetation help provide the north and south private areas a more secluded and serene space.

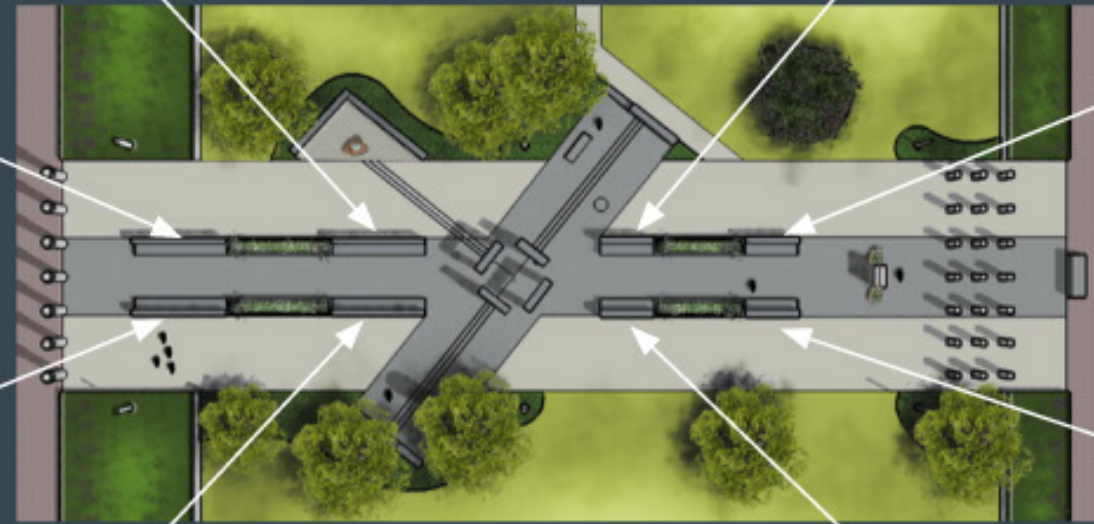
History Walls

1912- 1918:
 Within the following years, Reed Wipprecht '16 recalled Silver Taps being held at Goodwin Hall from 1912 until 1918.

January 5, 1898:
 Silver Taps it is believed was first held in 1898 for beloved President Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross at his grave in Waco. It is one of the greatest of all college traditions we have today.
 "Yes, I can see from where I stand; I know how they feel. Their Feelings cannot be put into words, but you know within every heart there is a prayer for their fellow Aggie" - Walker Kerr '53, *From the Eyes of Sul Ross*

June 26, 1883:
 Aggie Muster originated as Aggies gathered together on June 26, 1883 to live over again their college days, the victories and defeats won and lost upon the drill field and classroom. Eventually the annual gathering evolved into a celebration of Texas Independence on San Jacinto Day - April 21st. These early meetings included field games and banquets for Aggies to reflect and celebrate their memories of Aggieland. "Let every alumni answer a roll call" wrote the former students. It was not until 1922, however, that April 21 became the official day of events for all Aggies, thus, the annual tradition of Muster was born. The March 1923 Texas Aggie urged, "If there is an A&M man in one-hundred miles of you, you are expected to get together, eat a little, and live over the days you spent at the A&M College of Texas."

May 1898:
 From the remembrance of J. Kyle (former Dean of Agriculture), Silver Taps was sounded in front of the Old Main Building regularly. Until later in May of 1911, when the Old Main Building was destroyed in a fire.



2000:
 In 2000 the Traditions Council began adding a more personal touch by placing a box at the Academic Plaza at the base of the Flag pole for students, faculty and friends to leave notes and cards for Family following the ceremony.

1955-1973:
 From 1955 to 1973 at 10:15 p.m., chimes would send strains of hymns into the quiet of the night to signal the start of a Silver Taps Ceremony. Chimes resumed in 1975 following the renovation of the MSC. From 1984 to today music is played from the 49 bell Albritton Carillon tower to signal the start of the ceremony.

1930:
 Band Director Col. R.J. Dunn wrote the special melody of Silver Taps that is played at the Dome of the Academic Building to this day by six buglers. At first only two trumpets played Silver Taps, and gradually the number increased to the present number of six harmonious trumpets. There are actually eight members with six who play, plus an alternate

1918
 In the year 1918 the statue of Sul Ross was erected to honor A&M's past president and Silver Taps was moved and remains at the present site that is Academic Plaza today.
1919/1920:
 After the completion of the new Old Main and renamed Academic Building, Nestor McGinnis '08 remembers silver taps being held around Sul Ross Statue. In the 1920's the flag at the Academic Building was first flown at half to signal the day of the "Taps" ceremony.

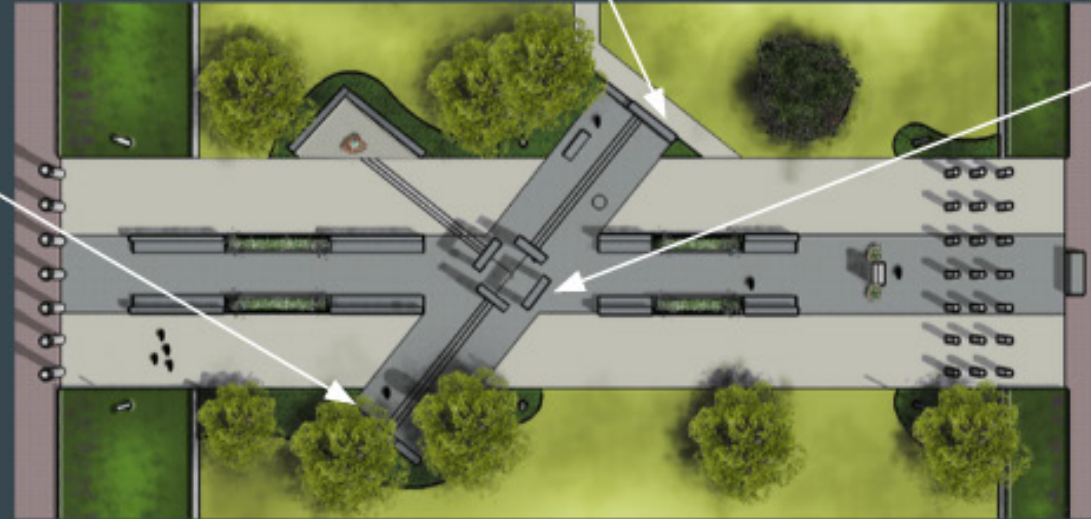
History Walls: The north walls will display history of Silver Taps, and the South walls will contain Aggie Muster. Both private seating areas will contain the relocated monuments as well as a wall. The East Sun Frame will hold the letter Donald Coward sent to his parents display history of Aggie Muster, both in chronological order from right to left from Academic Plaza to Bell tower) with a description of the Tradition each monument represents explaining his experience while attending a Silver Taps ceremony as a freshman at Texas A&M

Continued

Aggie Muster is a time-honored tradition at Texas A&M University which celebrates the camaraderie of the school while remembering the lives of Aggies who have passed. The "Roll Call for the Absent" commemorates Aggies, alumni and current students, who died the past year. Aggies light candles, and friends and families of Aggies who died that year answer "here" when the name of their loved one is "called".

Silver Taps
Silver Taps is a beautiful and sacred Aggie tradition as a final farewell to a deceased student. On the first Tuesday of each month notices are placed at the base of the flagpole in front of the Academic Building. Campus flags are at half-mast. The ritual begins around 10:00p.m. as students silently gather in front of the Academic Building, and Friends and family stand between the statue of Sul Ross and the front steps of the building. All lights in nearby buildings are turned out for the ceremony. The firing squad of the Ross Volunteer Company fires three rifle volleys of seven guns. And six buglers then play a special rendition of Silver Taps (Written in 1930 by Aggie Band Director Col. R.J Dunn) from the dome of the Academic Building. Following taps, all who have assembled depart in reverent silence.

Letter
A Texas Freshman, who attended Silver Taps in October of 1968, wrote this letter to his parents:
"Dear Mom and Dad,
"Right now it is 11:00 and Call to Quarters is over. I should be in bed, but there is something I have to tell you both first. I'm sitting here at my desk with tears in my eyes and thinking more about life, itself, than I have ever before.
"I'm not crying because of what I'm going through- but rather because I've experienced tonight what A&M is all about. Mother and Dad, we're one big family here and now I know what it means to be an Aggie. Tonight was Silver Taps.
"In case you don't know what it is, I'm going to tell you and you've got to listen. Anytime a student here loses his life- no matter how- on an assigned date soon afterwards we have what is called Silver Taps. Everyone gathers in front of the Academic Building, in front of which is a flag pole on which Silver Taps Notices are posted.
"No one says a word from the time we leave the dorms until the next morning. All is quiet and all the lights are turned off. Even lights on the coke machines are covered.
"At 10:30, when everyone is in place in front of the Academic Building, a firing team fires a 21-gun salute in honor of those who died. Then buglers play Silver Taps and it's over.
"Tonight I experienced one of the most solemn feelings I've ever had and feel so good inside. Mom, Dad, it was just like God, Himself, was there with us. I guess you're wishing I would grow up and quit carrying on like this over Silver Taps- but it was so, I can't ever tell you how it was, there's nothing else like it.
"Be careful and I love you both."
"D.C."
Three weeks after Don Coward wrote this letter to his parents, Silver Taps was held again. This time for Coward and two of his company C-1 friends who were killed in a Denton County automobile accident.

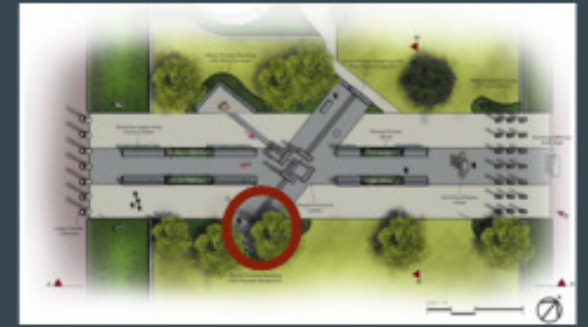


Day Perspective: 21 Guns



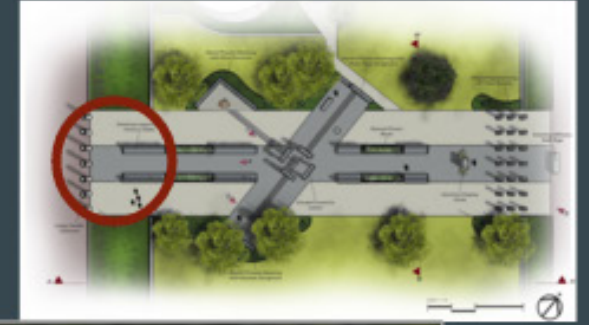
21 Guns Perspective: The 21 pillars representing the Ross Volunteers help divide the space. The purpose of these pillars are to make students slow down as they're walking to and to help everyone transition into the seriousness of the space. At night, the pillars will be light up from the base; this will create a soothing effect as well as provide a more safe and pleasing movement.

Day Perspective: Muster



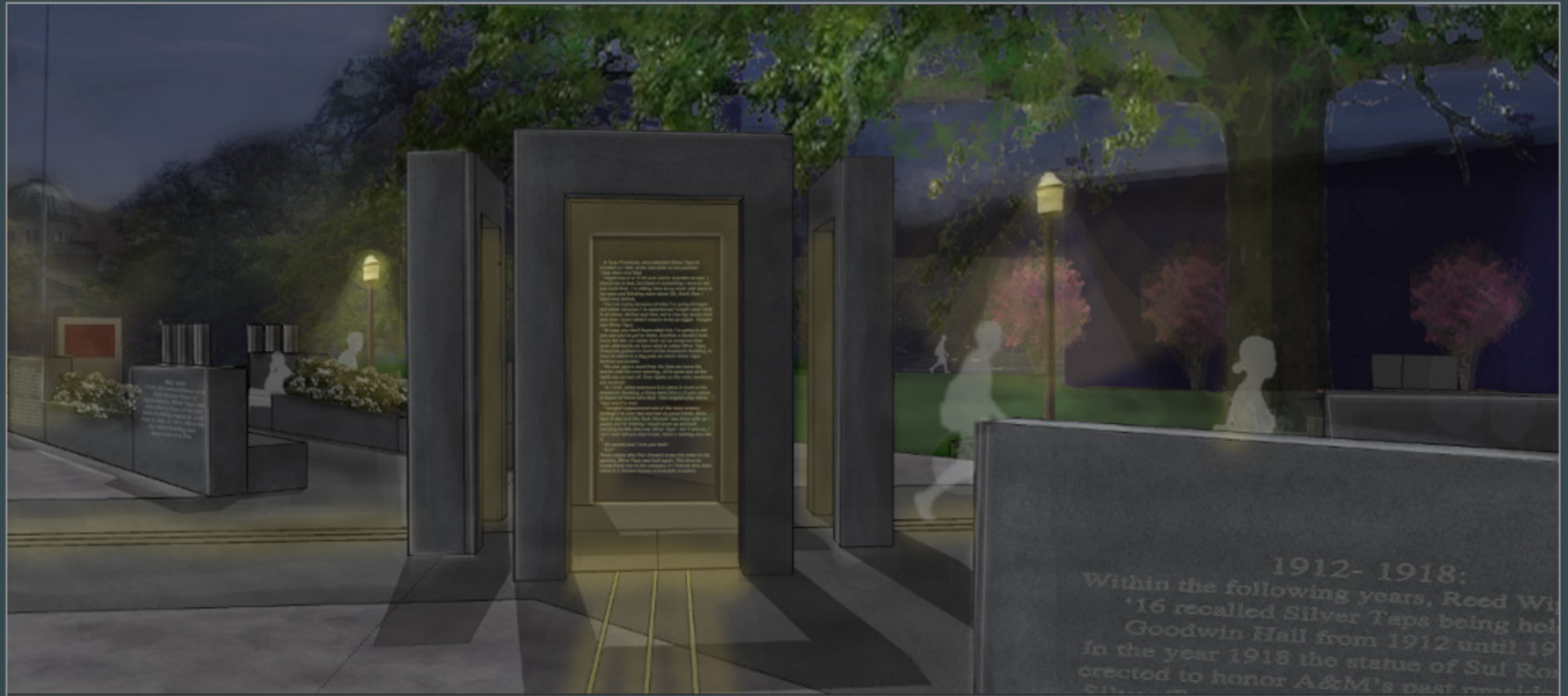
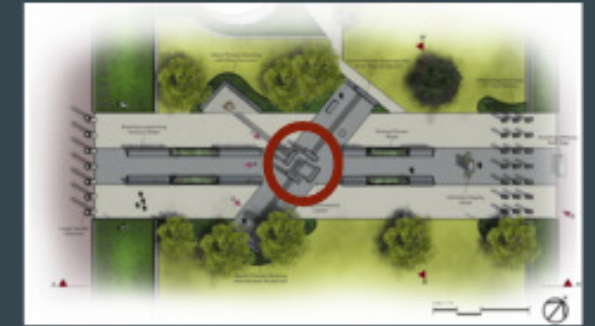
Muster Perspective: As mentioned before, the Muster monument will be relocated to the South seating area. During the day, people will use the space for relaxation while at night the strips of light will highlight the description of Aggie Muster Tradition; families of Aggies passed and all Aggies in general can use the space to sit and contemplate on....of life

Night Perspective: Candles



Claudia (15-end) Candle Columns: Representative of the candles held at Aggie Muster, Also display our history/seating walls looking towards the clock tower

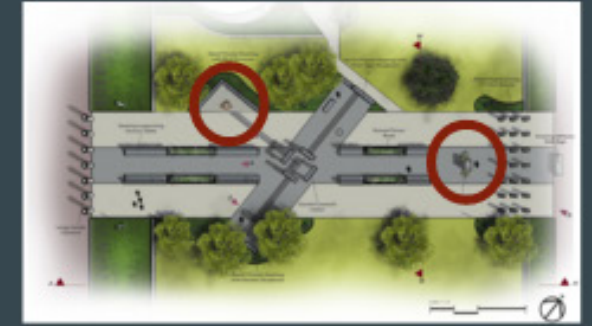
Night Perspective: Sun Frames



The Sun Frames: The main focal point of our site. Each one faces a different Cardinal Direction. You may pass through all except the eastern frame. Within the eastern frame is the displayed Don Coward's Letter. This is meant to be an uncomfortable overbearing space that allows students and visitors to gain perspective of this loss we mourn each ceremony. 3 Lights are laid in the ground, going in all directions except for the east to symbolize the three rifle volleys to the North, South, and West.

Day Perspective: West End

Day Perspective: Monthly Display Kiosk



“To those who’ve gone to heights unknown
With Silver Taps, he journeys on.”

The West Area: It is home to a Bird fountain placed within a bolder that displays the quote “To those who’ve gone to heights unknown with Silver Taps, he journeys on” by Mrs. Jeanette Hennigan. This symbolizes healing and the renewal of life. It is the western frontier of new beginning. The Kiosk- This is a display of monthly names of Aggies per that month Start Run Through of Skecth up/ 3D Rendering In closing, thanks again to the class of 69 and our professors from providing us with this opportunity. Thank you. who’ve gone to heights unknown with Silver Taps, he journeys on” by Mrs. Jeanette Hennigan.

Citations

- <http://www.roselandroses.com/images/whitedrift.jpg>
- https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/65/Ajuga_reptans_20070429_132711_1.jpg
- <http://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0562/4205/products/00091-Wildflower-BeeFeed-800.jpg?v=1443721393>
- <http://www.dallasnews.com/incoming/20120329-collegestation.jpg.ece/BINARY/w940/collegestation.jpg>
- <http://www.roomsbooking.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/9-11-Memorial-NYC.jpg>
- https://segd.org/sites/default/files/styles/galleryformatter_slide/public/4364100003.jpg?itok=L_x13U-7

Traditions Plaza

Team 5

Molly Morkovsky, Alaina Parker, Joseph Valdez



Design Goals

- Create a memorial plaza that educates students and visitors on the tradition of Silver Taps and Muster, while commemorating past and present students' lives.
- Create a space that allows for quiet reflective activity amidst a pedestrian corridor.
- Creating a design solution that is adaptable through time and leaves a legacy for future generations.

Inspirations

The below photos assisted in the inspiration for our design. They include reflective surfaces, unique letter displays, shallow reflective fountains, and radiating circles that represent the circle of life.



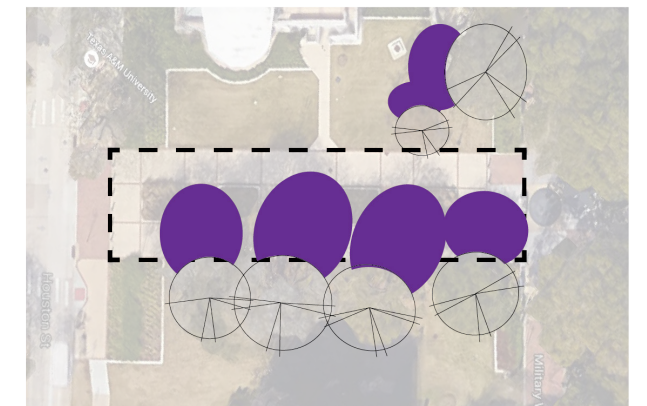
Site Analysis

- Noise area on street with vehicles passing
- Major entrance/access for A&M
- Lots of people walking through after getting off bus
- No shade whatsoever in the middle
- Tourist groups stop at the Military Walk side to look at the seal
- On the major axis of Texas A&M

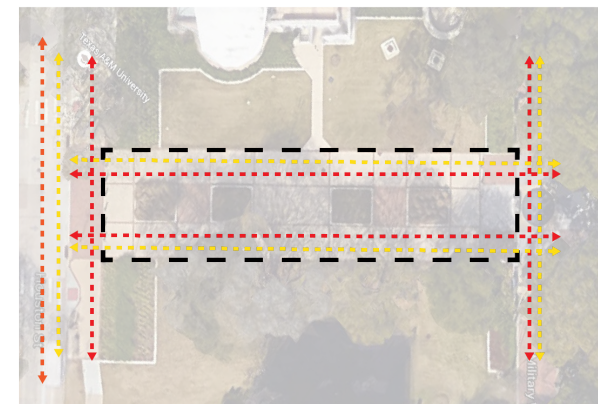
Existing Lighting



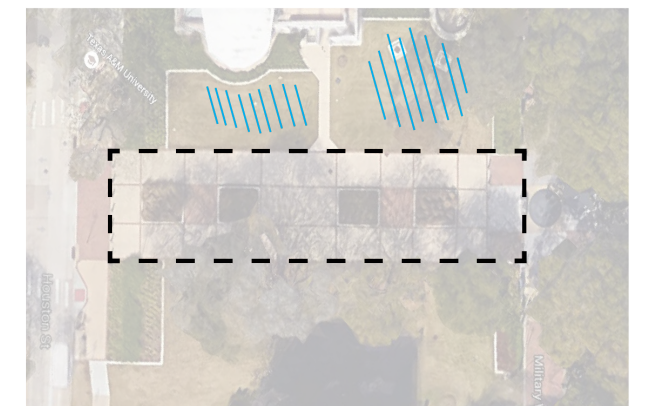
Shaded Areas



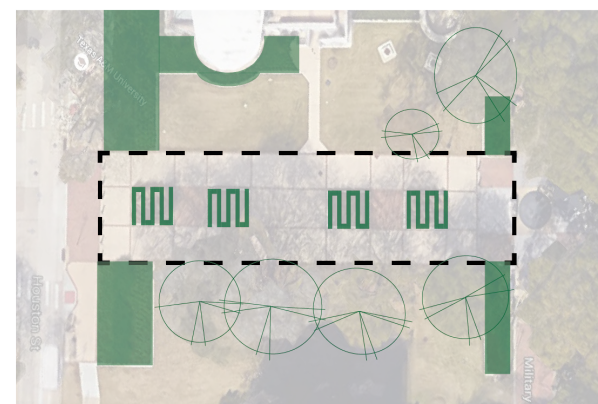
Site Circulation



Low Drainage Areas

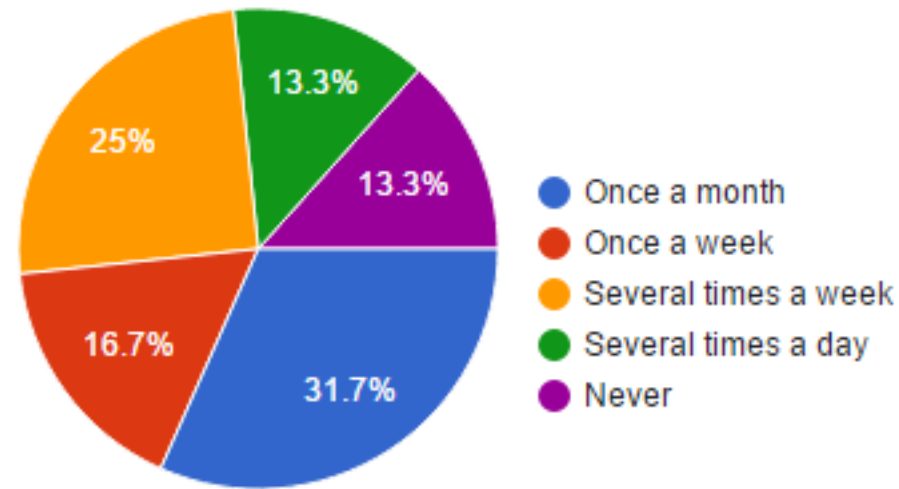


Existing Vegetation

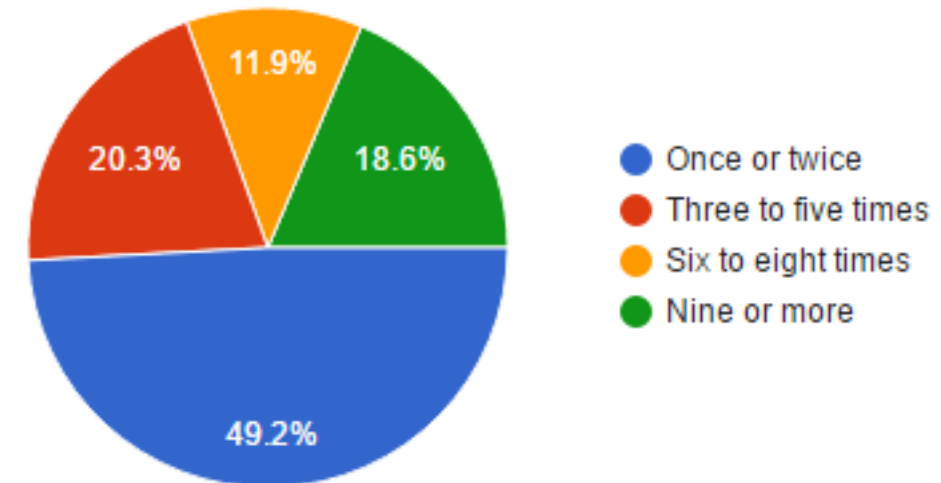


Student Body Survey Results

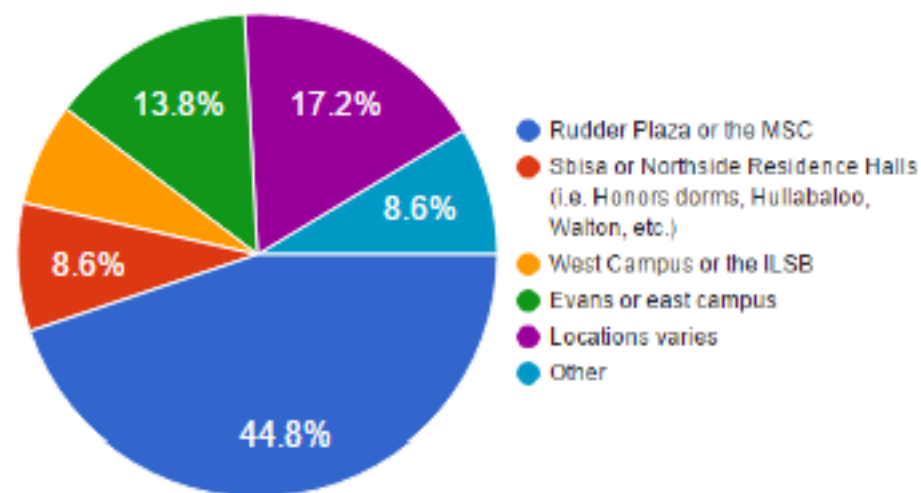
How often do you travel through this space?



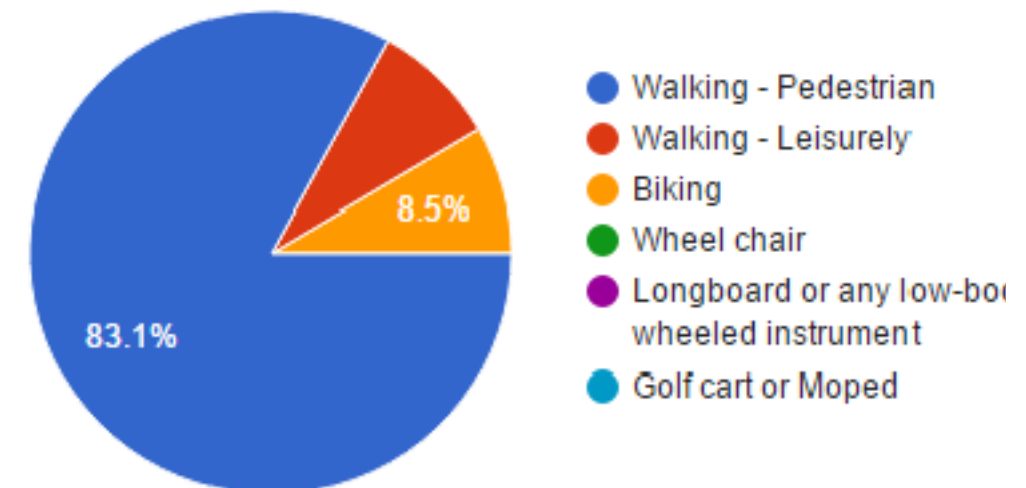
How many times have you participated in Silver Taps?



Where do you typically wait or come from prior to Silver Taps?

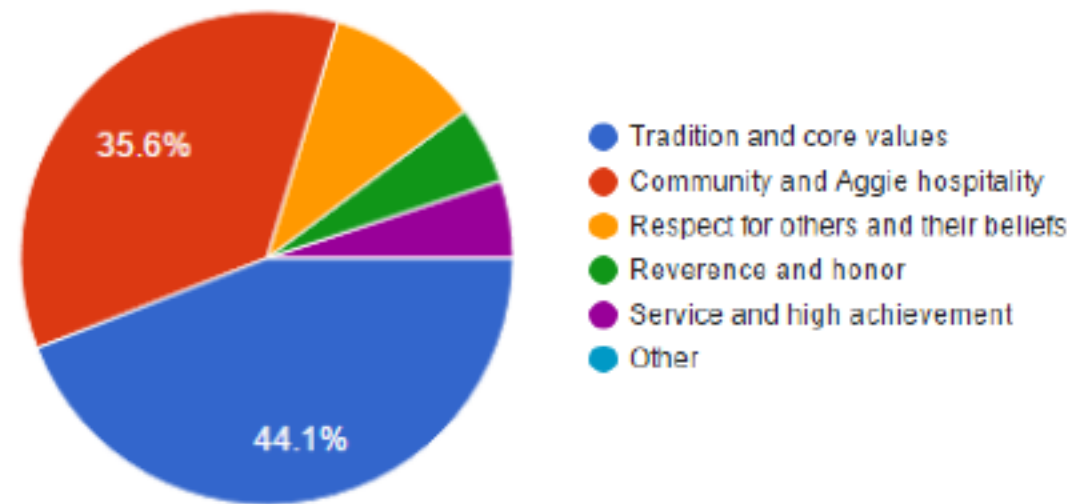


What mode of transportation do you use the most through this space?

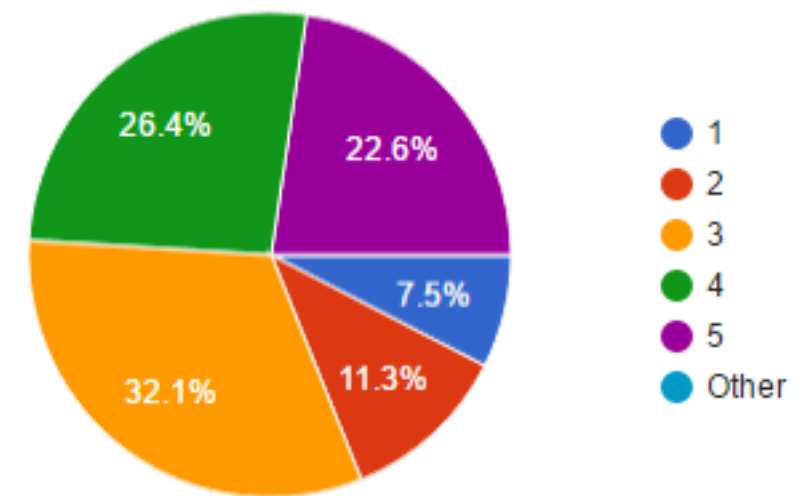


Student Body Survey Results

In your opinion, what is the strongest aspect of the Aggie Spirit?

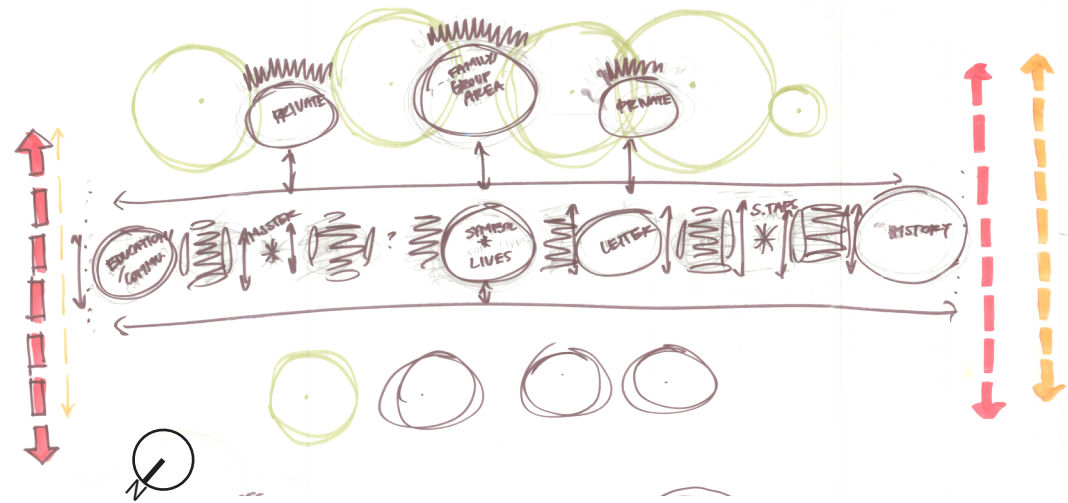


How knowledgeable would you consider yourself on the history & traditions associated with Silver Taps, on a scale of 1-5? (1 being the least, 5 being the most)



Design Process

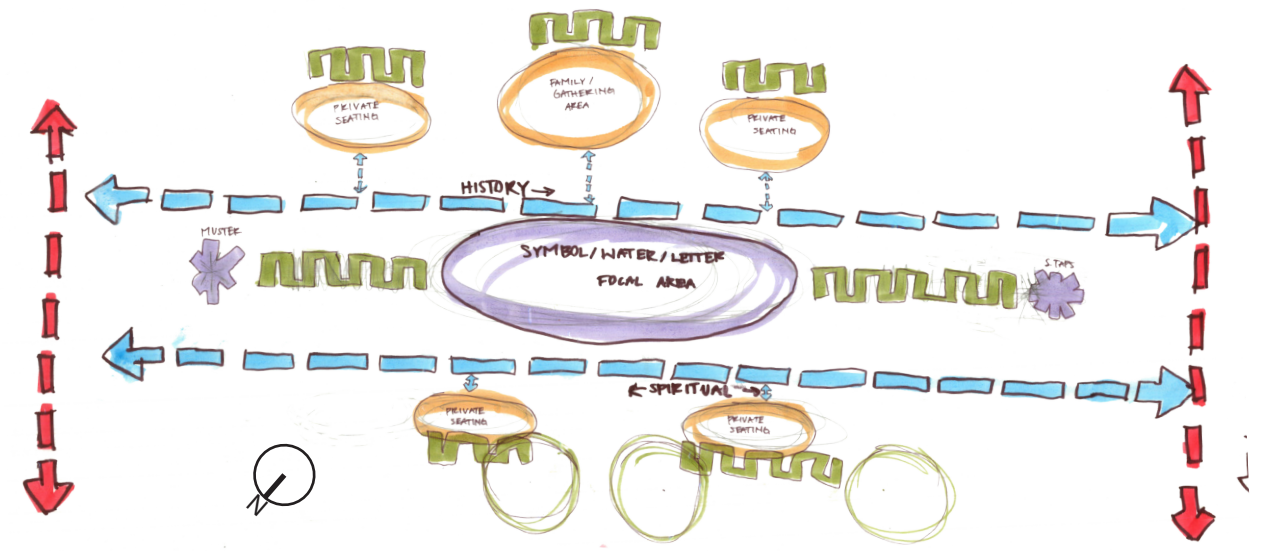
Iteration 1



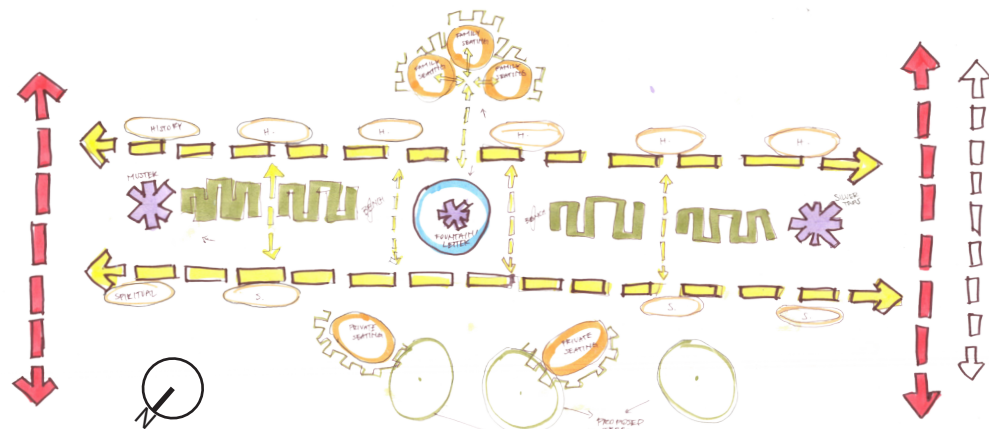
The following series of images represents one design process that our team went through while coming to a solution for Traditions Plaza. The image to the left is the first synthesis of all of our ideas. The main feature of this concept was to have people experience Silver Taps as they move throughout the site from South to North.

The image to the right is our second iteration of the previous concept. The main difference in this concept is that the history of Silver Taps has now turned into a walk, and resides on the Eastern side of the site. On the opposite side a spiritual walk was proposed to mirror the history walk.

Iteration 2

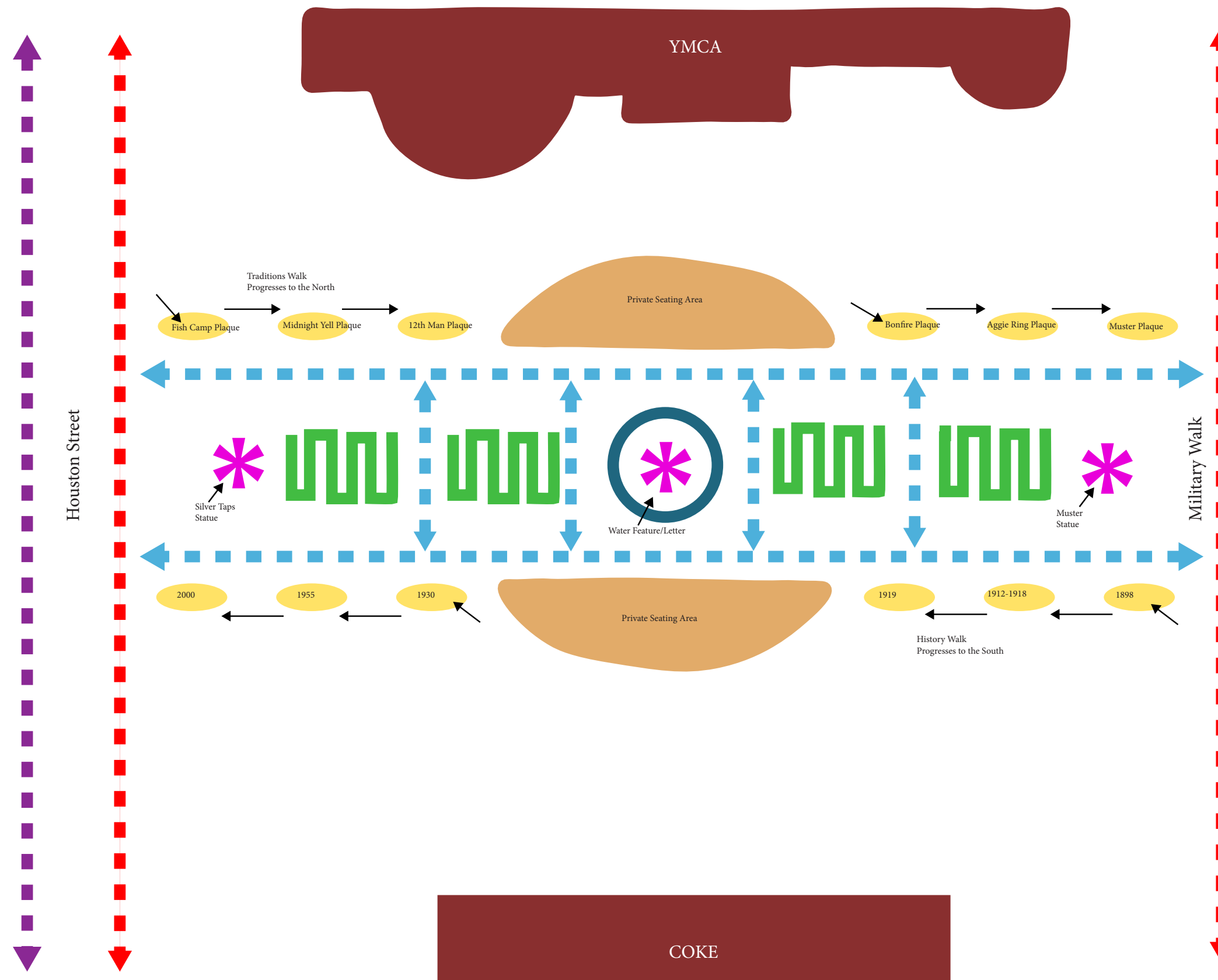


Iteration 3

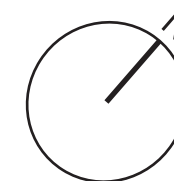


The image to the left is our third iteration of the previous concept. The seating areas have taken on more spatial definition and are centrally focused around the water feature. The number of history plaques and spiritual plaques have been defined. Pedestrian circulation throughout the site has also been refined to accommodate more traffic.

Conceptual Design



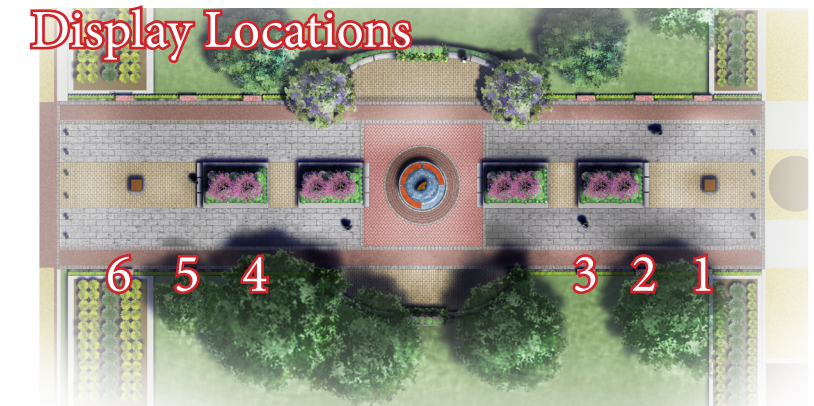
The image to the left represents the finalized design concept for Traditions Plaza. There are two walks that line the plaza, both are utilized to educate visitors and also slow pedestrian traffic. The Silver Taps and Muster statues are located on each end to attract people into the site. There are various planting beds throughout the plaza that will provide screening and seating. The central focus of the design is a memorial fountain that has Fish Coward's letter displayed to the North, West, and South. Off to the sides of the site there are two large seating areas that provide privacy for those who wish to reflect on Traditions Plaza without interruption.



Illustrative Site Plan

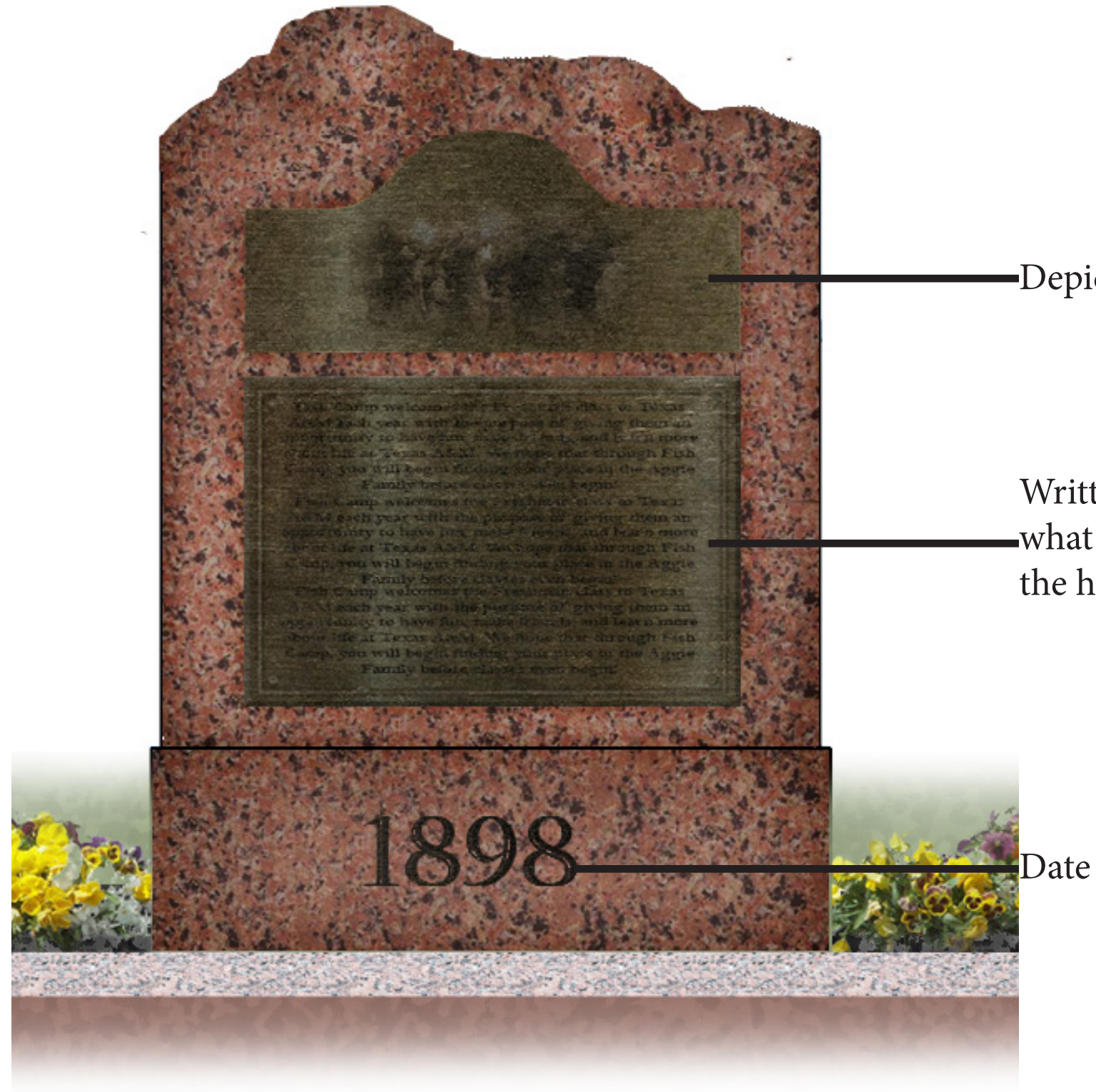


History Walk Stations



The history display is a polished rectangular pink granite with an unfinished natural top. It will feature a mural and written description of what happened during the displayed date on a bronzed plaque. The materials are intended to match those existing on Military Walk, and the display itself will be tall enough to read at eye-level for an average height individual. The below stations are the years that our group chose to display for the history of Silver Taps, these years would have the corresponding descriptions that the class of '69 provided. There will be six stations to represent the six trumpets that play Silver Taps the night of the ceremony

- Station 1: 1898
- Station 2 : 1912-1918
- Station 3 : 1919
- Station 4 : 1930
- Station 5 : 1955
- Station 6 : 2000

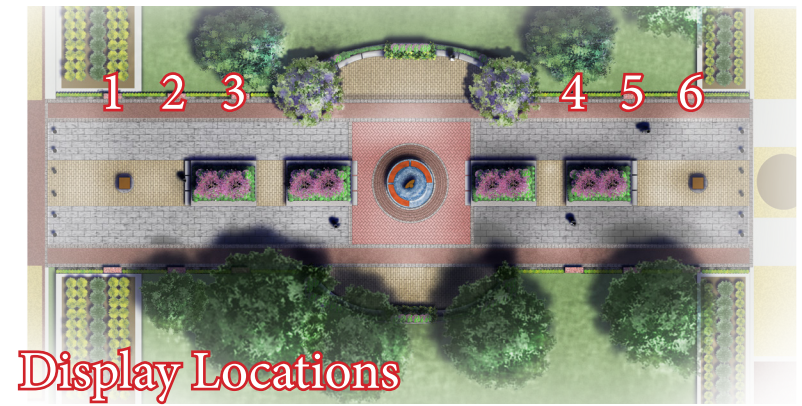
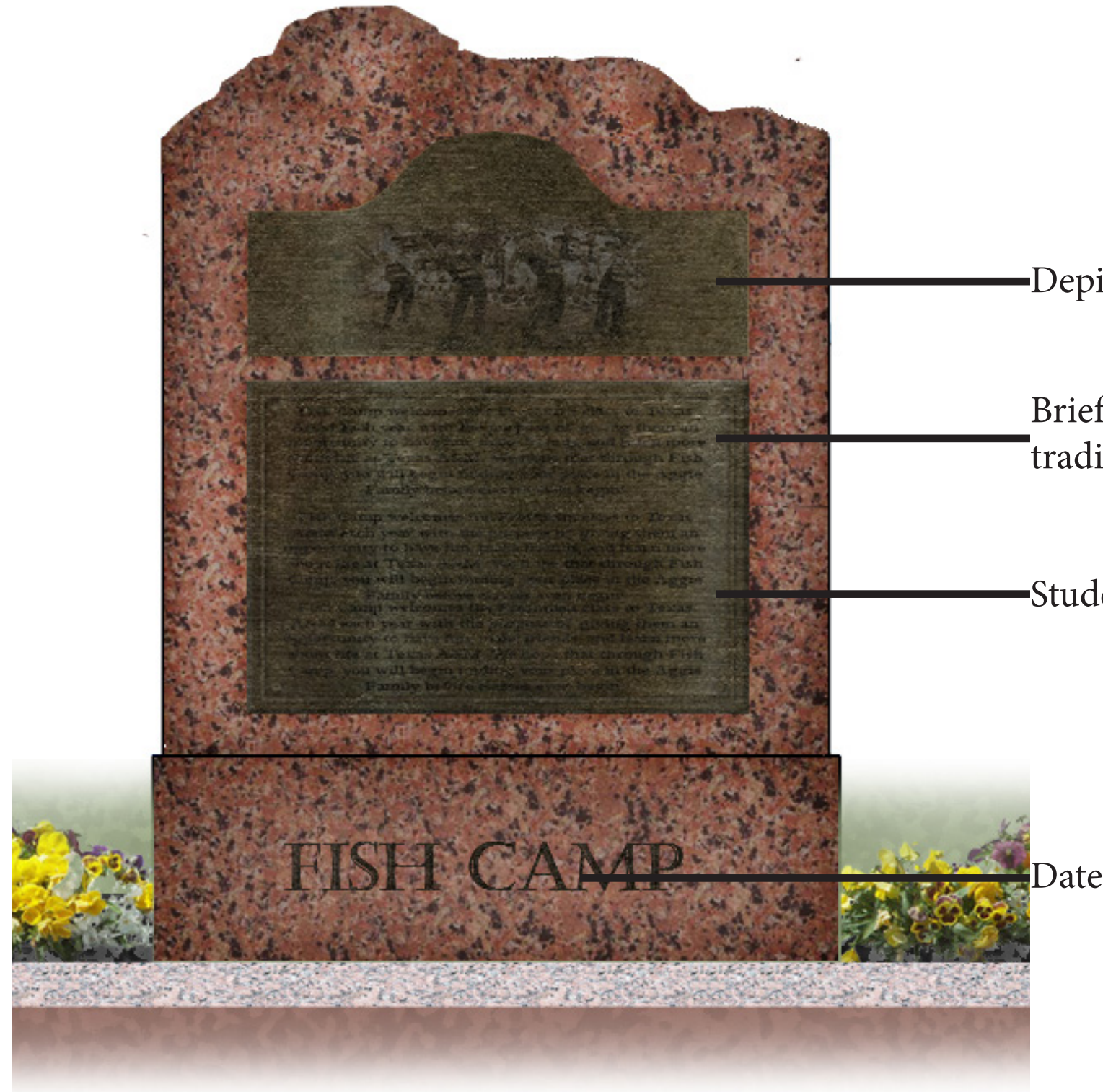


Depiction of event

Written description of what occurred during the historical year.

Date

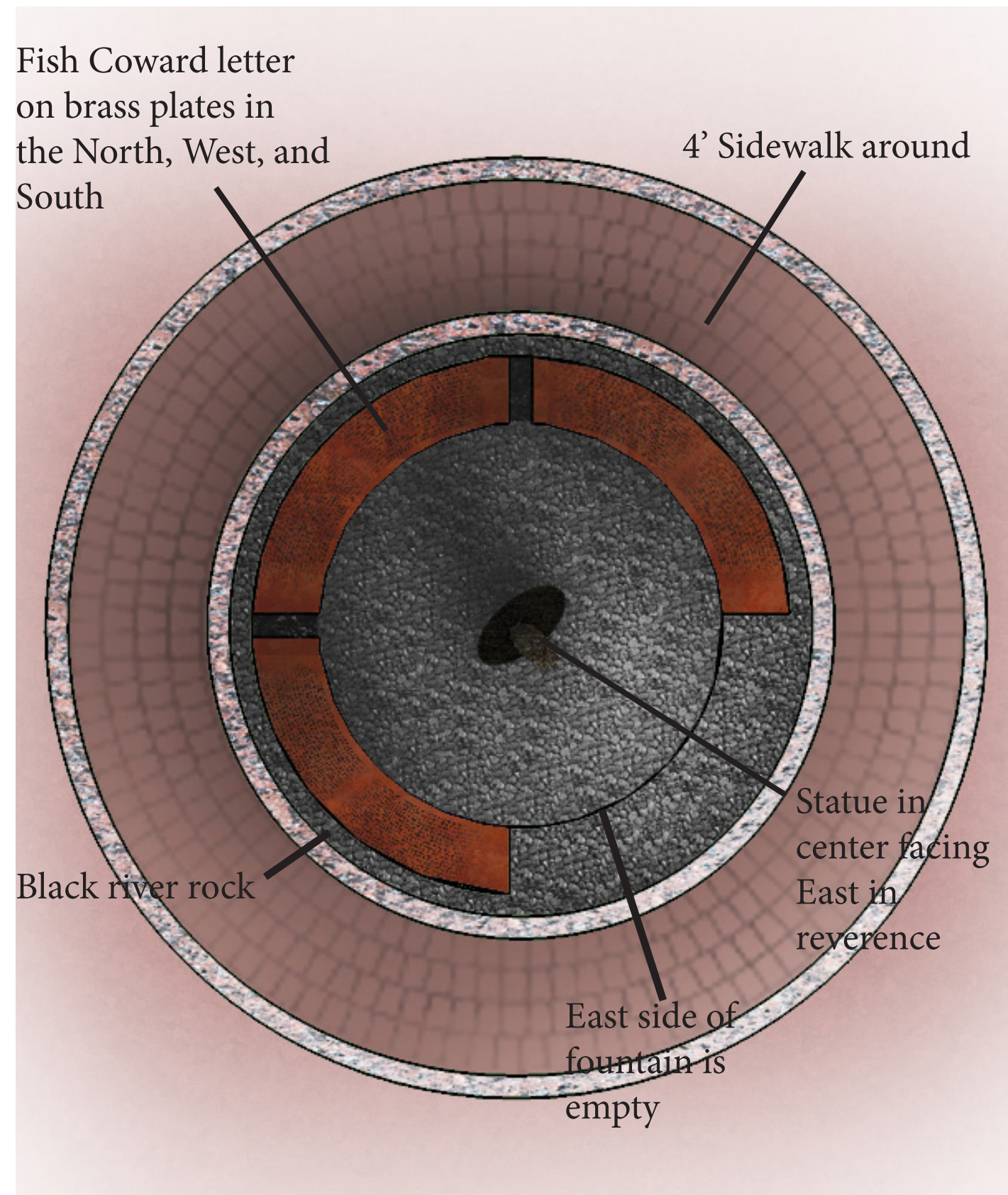
Traditions Stations



The tradition display is a polished rectangular pink granite with an unfinished natural top. It will feature a mural, a brief written description of what the tradition is, and letters from the former and current student body about their memories of the tradition. Our group chose the below traditions because we believe these are the traditions a student will experience in order to become an Aggie, beginning with Fish Camp and ending with Muster which goes beyond students' time at Texas A&M. There will be six displays to represent the six trumpet players who play Silver Taps at the ceremony.

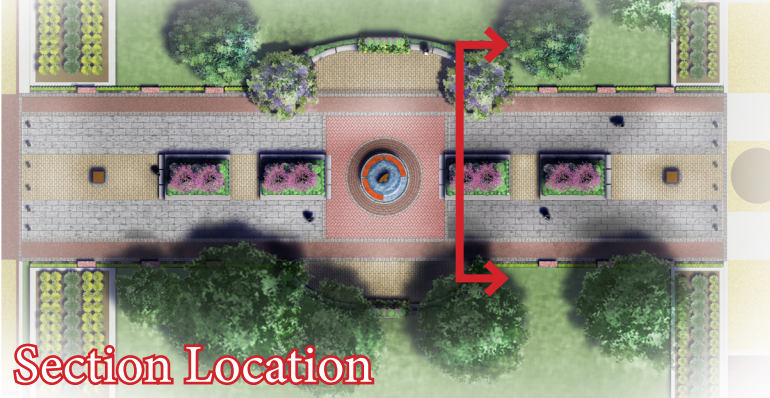
- Station 1: Fish Camp
- Station 2: Midnight Yell
- Station 3: 12th Man
- Station 4: Bonfire
- Station 5: Aggie Ring
- Station 6: Muster

Memorial Fountain

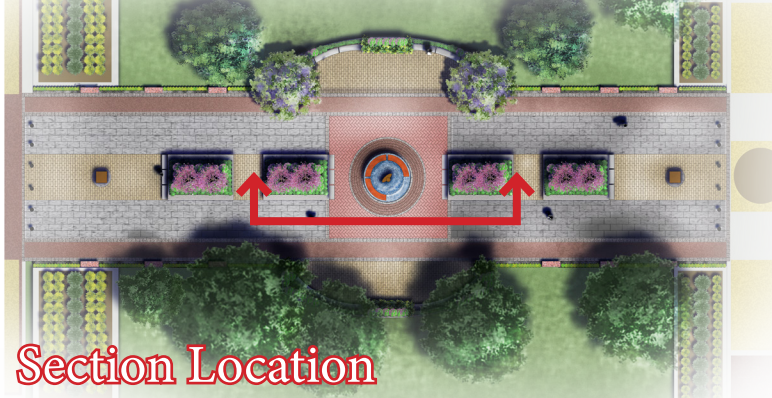


This image is a close up of the memorial fountain located in the center of the plaza. The fountain is intended to serve as a memorial for both Silver Taps and Muster. There is a sculpture of a figure with it's head bent in reverence towards the East, this figure represents the student body who experiences both Silver Taps and Muster and the emotion they experience. The Fish Coward letter is featured on top of brass plates that face the cardinal directions of North, West, and South with a void to the East. This is to symbolize how the trumpet players will play to the North, West, and South but never to the East as the passed Aggies will never experience another sunrise. The statue and fountain sit on black river rock, this river rock is also found on the edges of the plaza along the History and Traditions Walk. The black river rock is to represent all of the former, current, and future students who have or will loose their live. As the list will be evergrowing, each individual rock represents individual student lives. The fountain is designed from radiating circles, which represent the circle of life. The fountain itself is an incomplete circle, thus representing a life that is lost too soon.

Section A - A'



Section B - B'



Memorial Fountain Facing North



Night Lighting Muster Sculpture Facing West



History Walk Facing East



Night Lighting Memorial Fountain Facing West



Note: Only fountain lighting would remain during the Silver Taps ceremony.

Traditions Plaza

at

Texas A&M University

Land 319 • Team 6

Victor Hugo-Duron • Shawn Kerr • Vanessa Ngo

Contents



Objectives



Site Analysis



Design Process



Concept Diagram



Inspiration Photos



Proposed Site Plan



Section Elevation

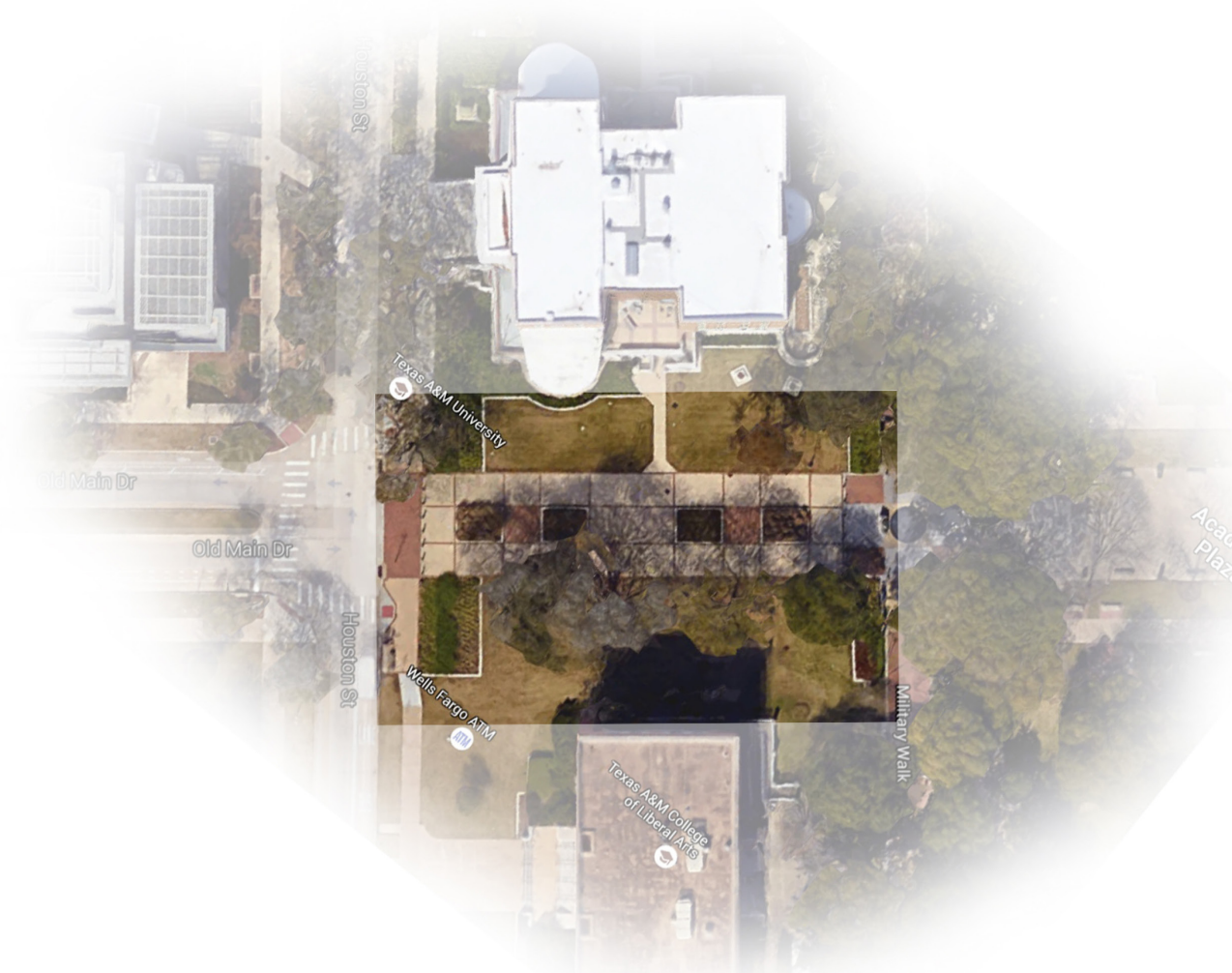


Perspective Renderings

Objectives

- Meet Class of '69s desires
- Accommodate the public
- Provide outdoor rooms (Private vs. Public)
- Incorporate campus materials and elements
- Provoke emotion
- Emphasize the importance of Silver Taps/Muster
- Educate the public on the tradition
- Respect and commemorate
- Provide a destination rather than a thorough-fair

Site Analysis



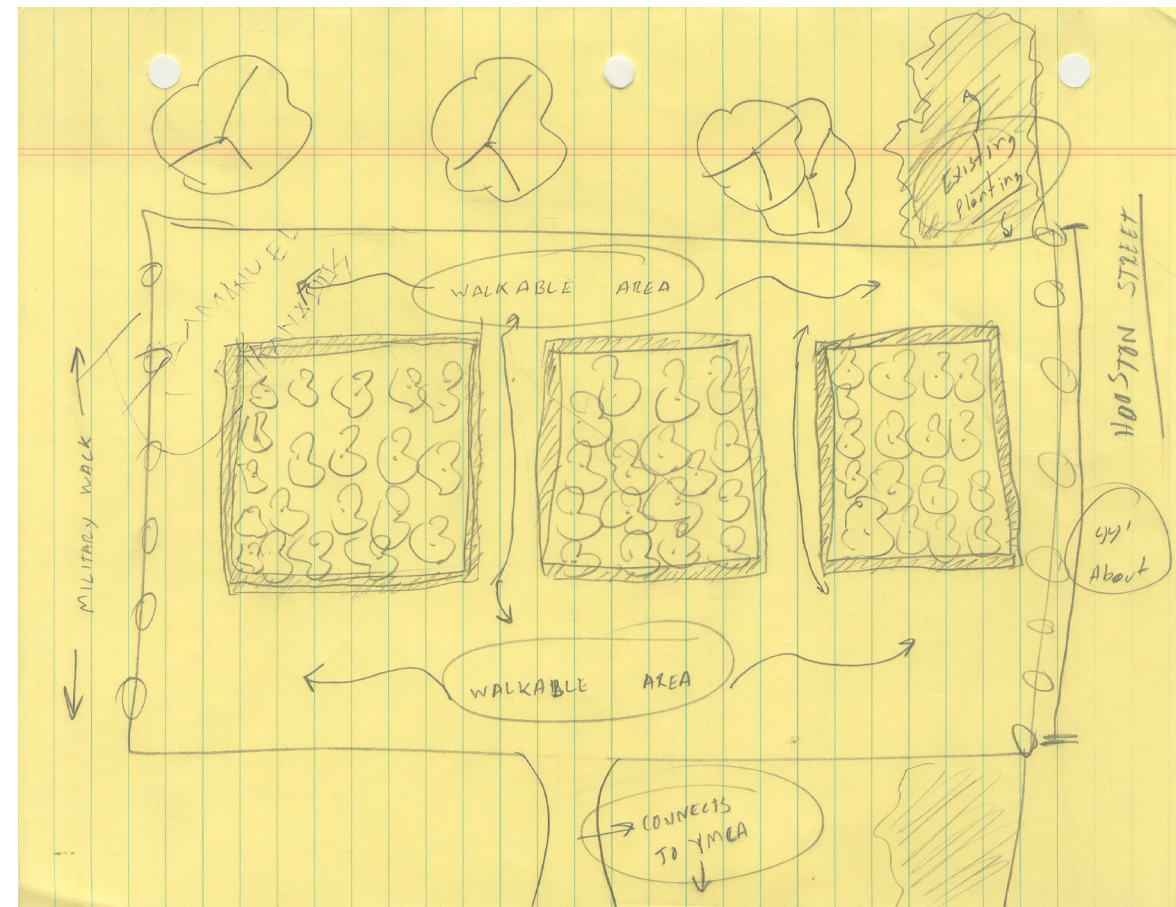
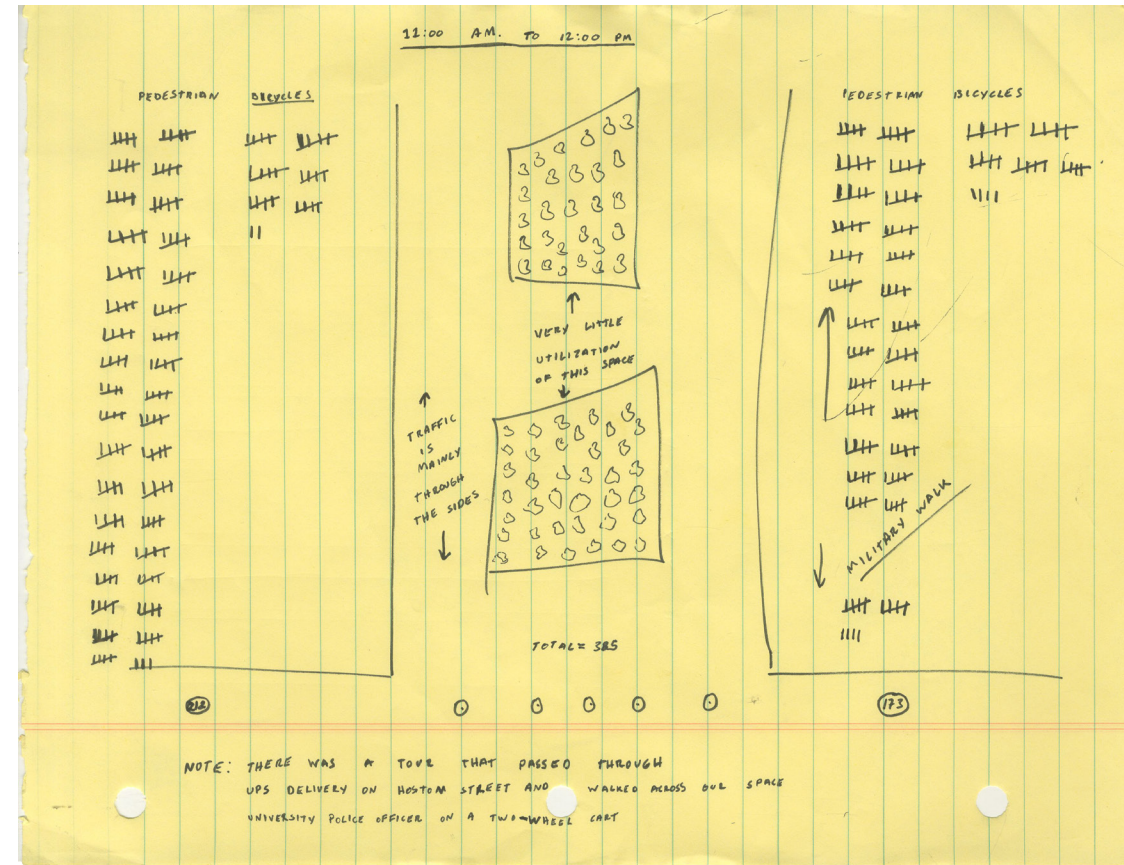
Site Context:

Located between the YMCA and Richard Coke Building, the site is primarily used as a thorough-fair. There is heavy vehicular traffic along Houston Street where students exit the bus stops, through the site, and using Military Walk as a central node.

Mature trees shade the SE end of the site while the large buildings cast a shadow during most of the day, which provides for a nice area to wait but it isn't used in that context.

The surrounding materials are mixed with old and new construction with special architectural features as well as clean and simple lines. The site consists of 60% green space and 40% hardscape.

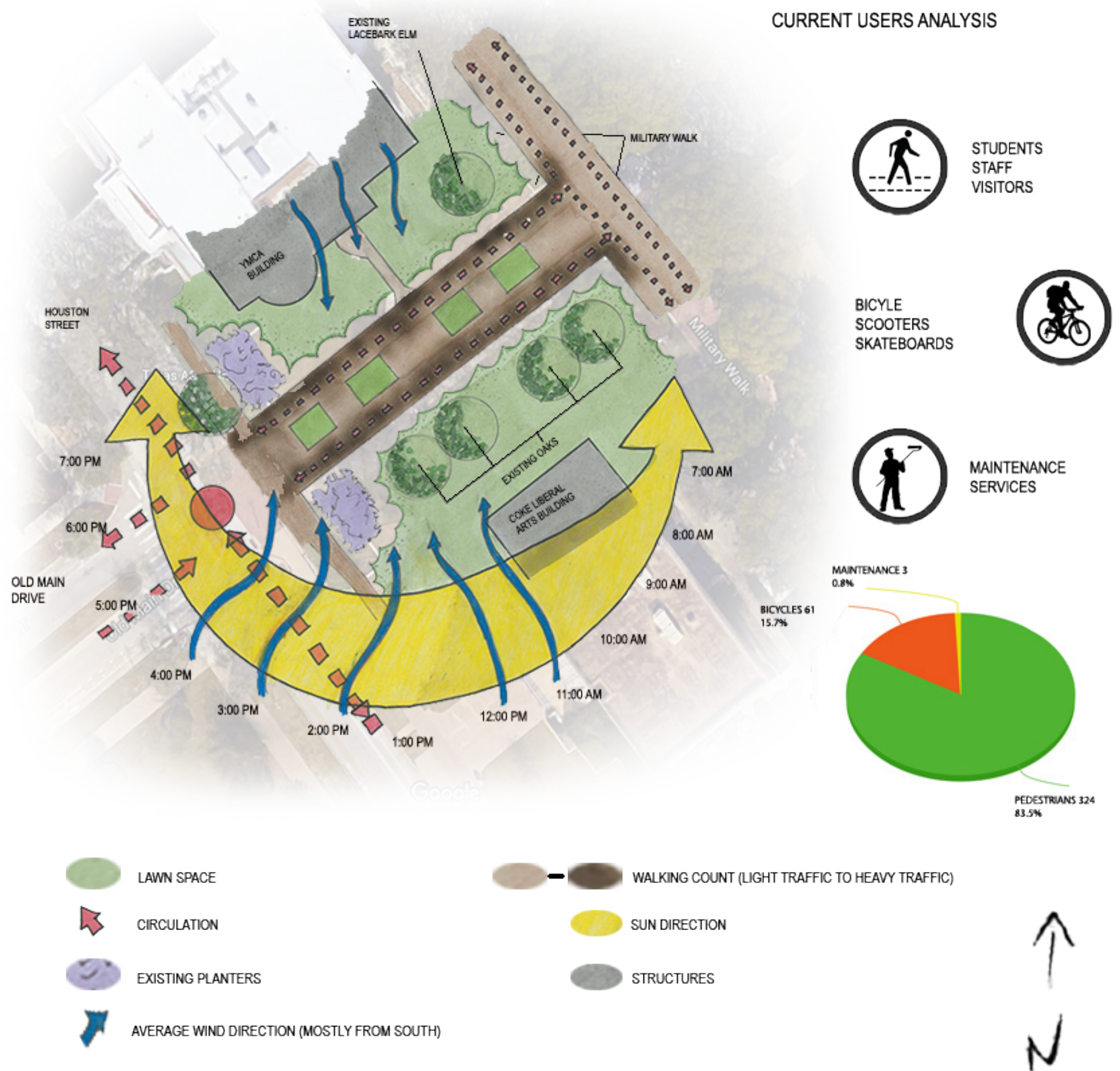
Team 6 sat and observed the site for an hour from 11:00 am -12:00 pm and documented the number of users who used the space, 395. It was concluded that the space was used as a thorough-fair.



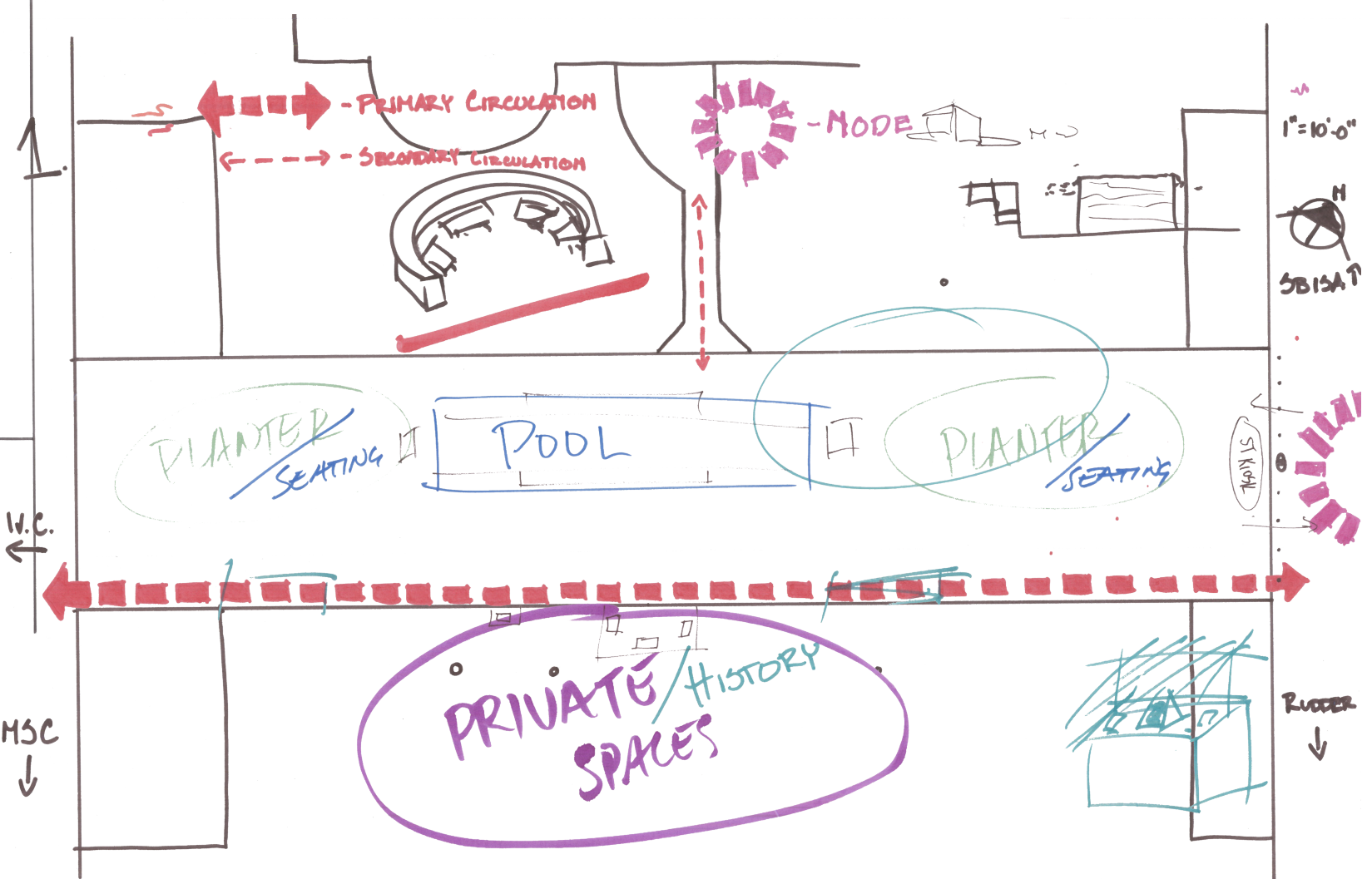
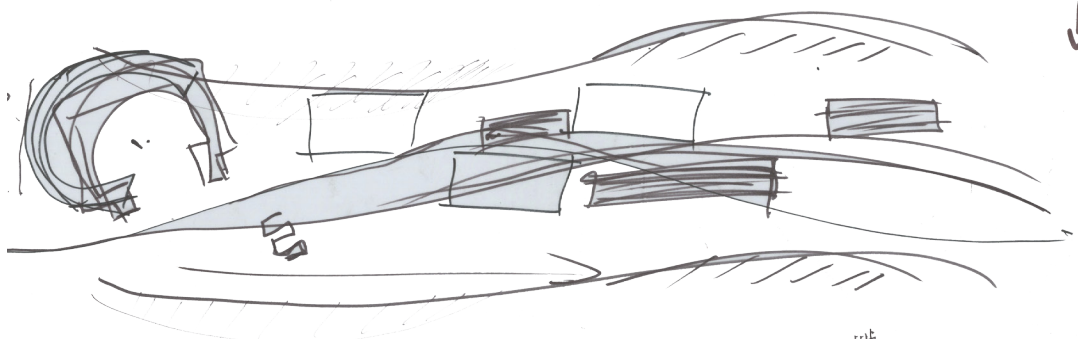
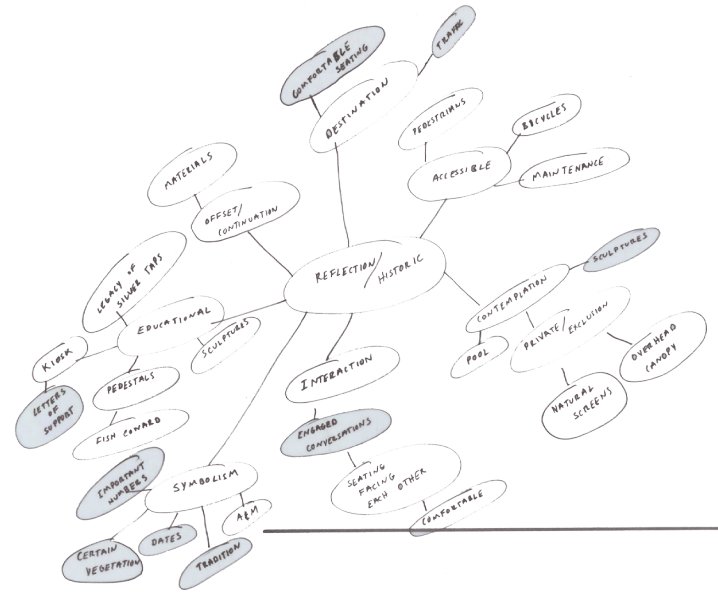
Current User Analysis:

Based on their observations, Team 6 produced a Current User Analysis diagram and concluded the following:

- The outskirts of the site had the heaviest pedestrian traffic, which is unfortunate because 60% of the space isn't used.
- The wind and sun patterns were also observed and pushed from the SE end toward the center of the site and provided for a comfortable area to experience.
- The green space was rarely used due to the lack of seating, wet soils beneath the tree canopies, and the grandeur of both buildings made it uncomfortable to step off of the hardscape and relax in the natural landscaped areas.



Design Process

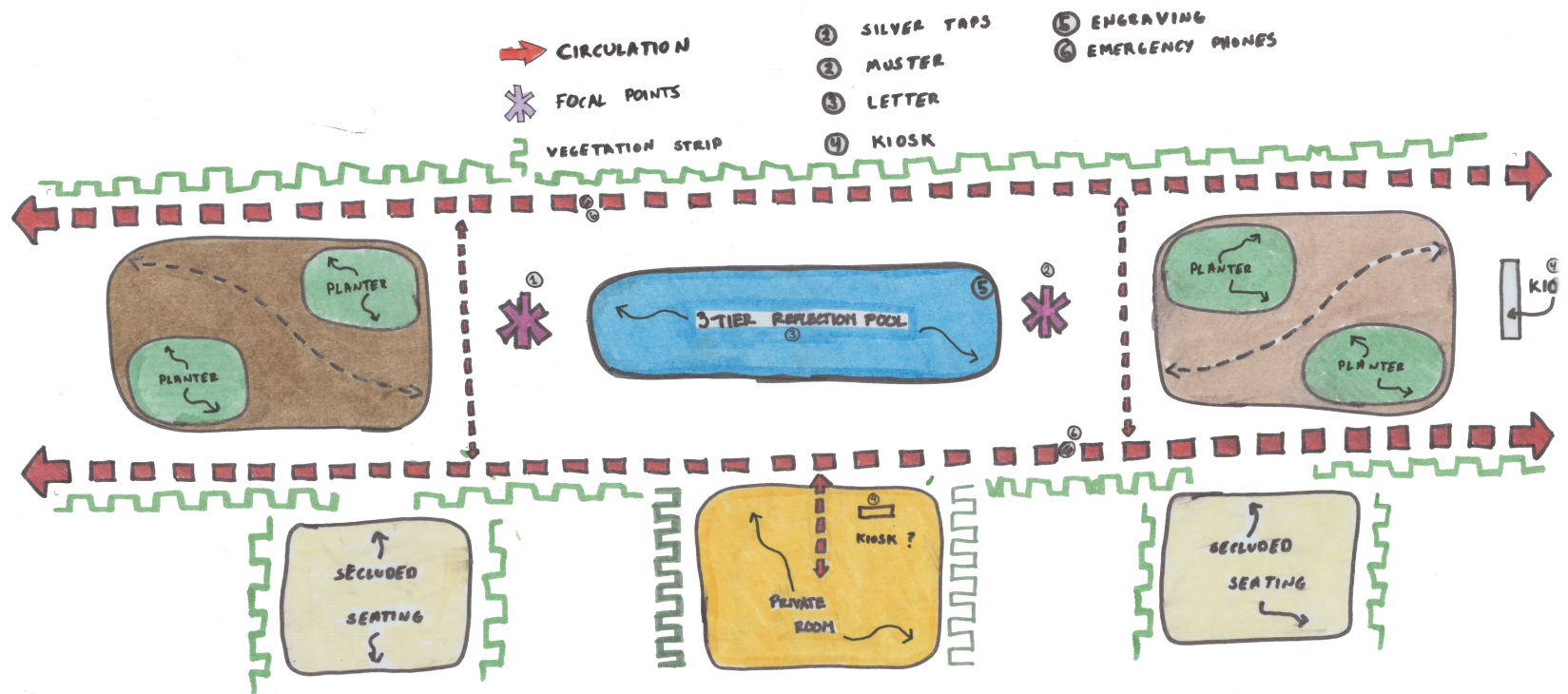


Process(es)

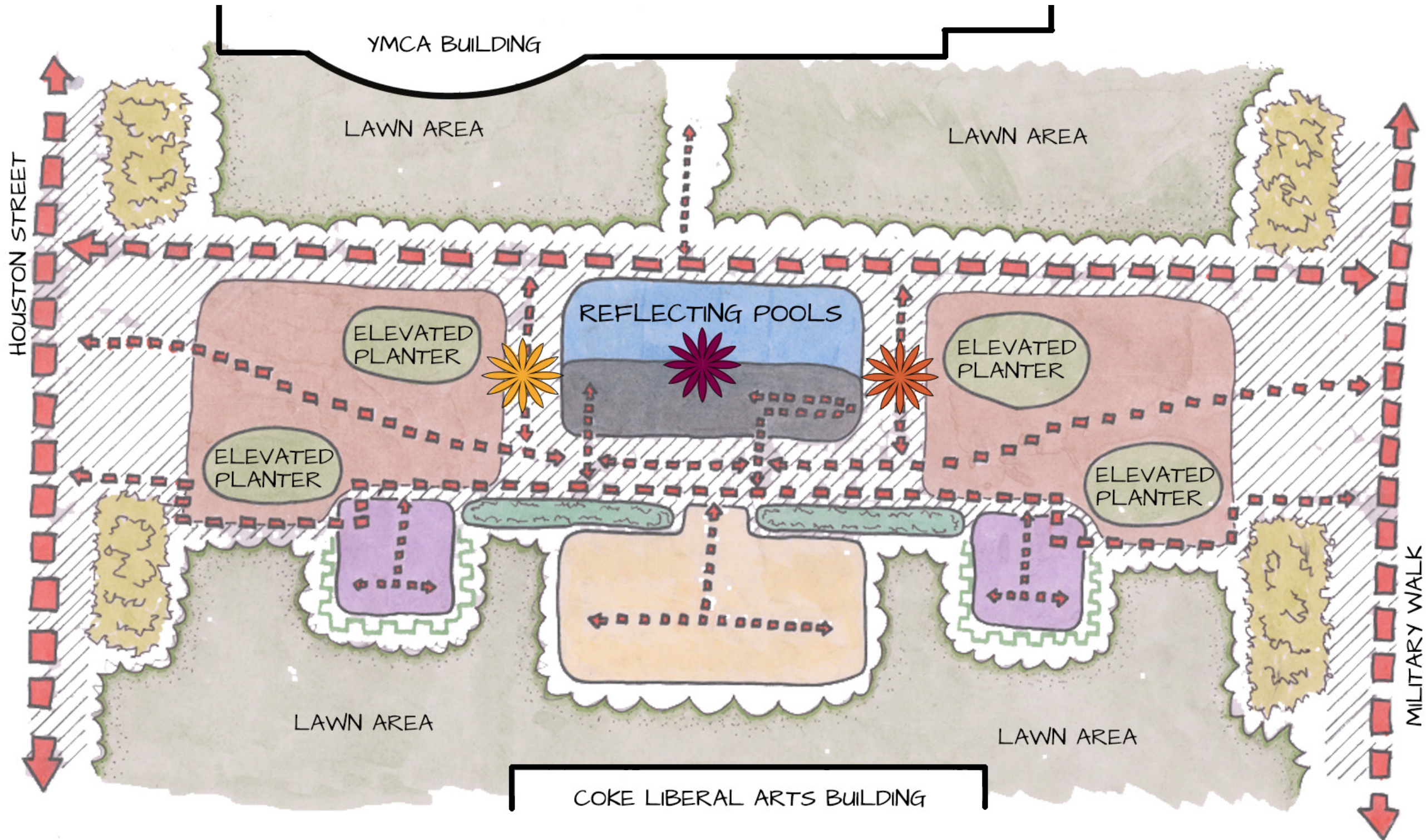
Each member produced a different concept, which provided for diverse solutions and later collaborated within the group as to what and why they chose to function the spaces as they did.

Each member provided a unique and reasonable concept, which made it very difficult and stretched the process to almost a week and a half. On a positive note, the students were able to justify, critically think, and consider sociological and physical aspects of the context, which expanded their knowledge within this profession.

Once agreed upon, the group moved forward and finalized that space and it's function.



Concept Diagram



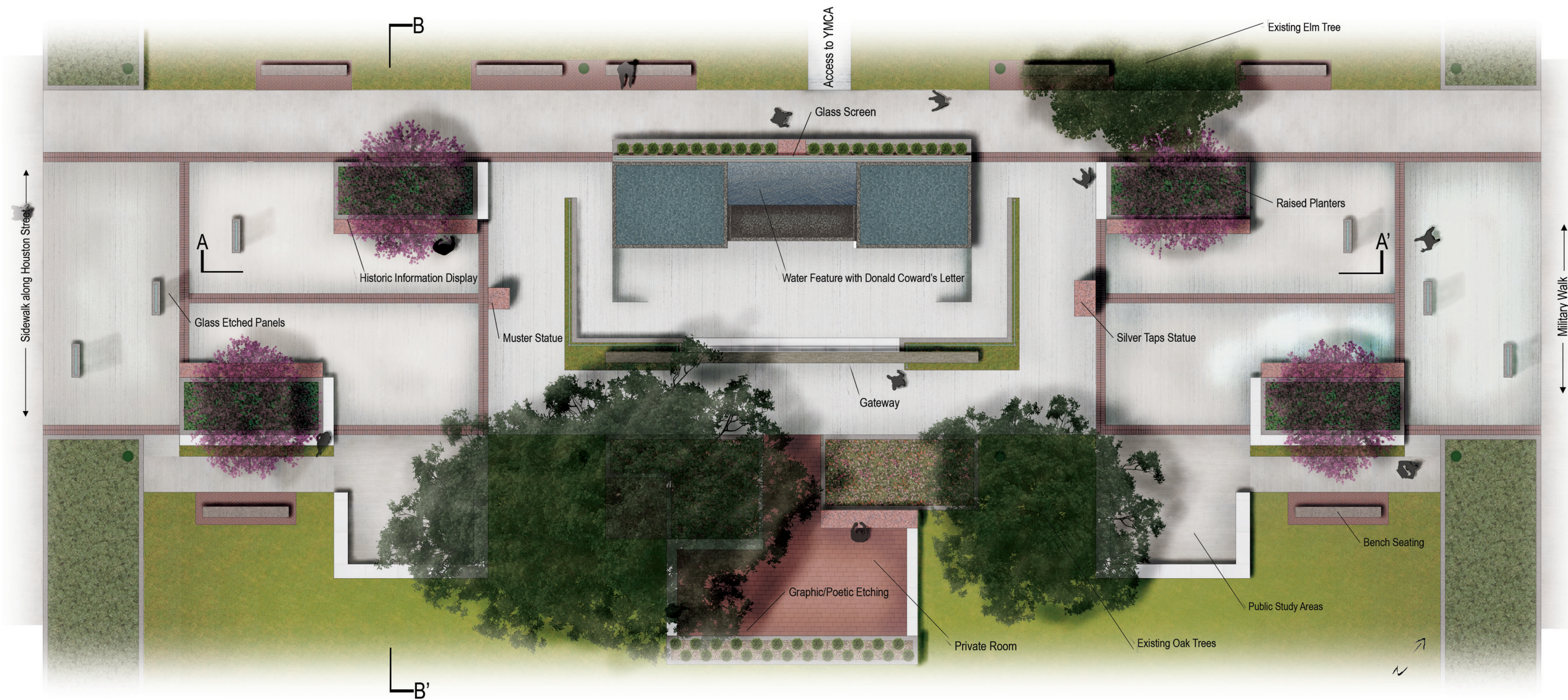
- CIRCULATION FLOW
- VEGETATIVE BUFFER
- SUNKEN AREA
- EXISTING PLANTERS
- VEGETATIVE BARRIER
- FISH COWARD'S LETTER
- MUSTER SCULPTURE
- SILVER TAPS SCULPTURE
- OUTDOOR HANGOUT ROOMS
- PRIVATE/CONTEMPLATIVE SPACE
- TRANSITION AREAS
- HISTORY WALK



Inspiration



Proposed Site Plan



Symbology of Materials

Entrances

Green Space- life, health, and wellness.

6 Glass Panels with Etching- 6 University Core Values; poems and graphics.

Dark Red Soldier Brick- Leadership and side by side brotherhood leading to Muster and Silver Taps statue.

Text on Face of Planters- never forget where you are, why you're there, and who they're there for.

Education Displays on Planters- history of the tradition to educate public.

4 Pink Flowering Trees- Cardinal Directions (N,S,E,W) and delicate space.

Text on Face of Planters- never forget where you are, why you're there, and who they're there for.

Fish Coward's Fountain

Cardinal Directions with East pool unable to retain water to represent the absence of the fallen Aggies.

Black Granite- Power and Stability.

Black Decomposed Granite in East Pool- although absence of water, there is still something there.

Frosted Glass Behind Fountain- time and silhouette of passerby resemble the connection to the Aggie Family.

Limestone Block with 12 Plantings on Each Side- 12th Man stands strong on both sides of Aggies.

Blue Up-lighting- Fish's presence from heaven.

Private Room

Small Gateway with White Light- heaven, purity, and fragility of space.

Yellow Plantings- Remembrance and commemoration (year round color).

Purple Plantings- nobility and cause (year round color).

Educational Kiosk- Silver Taps database for public accessibility and learning

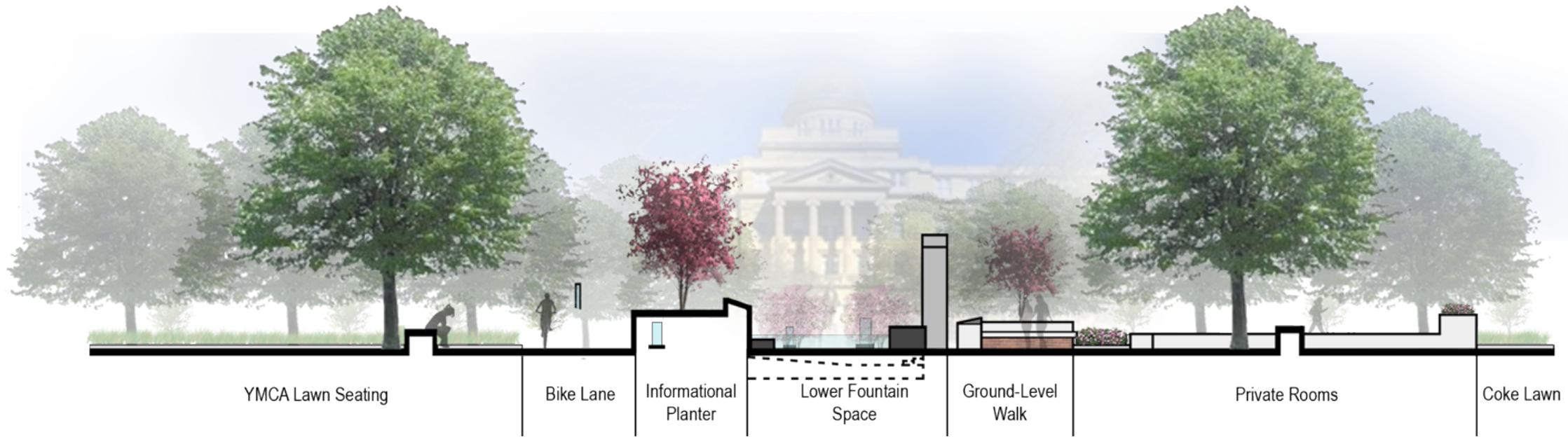
All Limestone-purity, special, and hierarchy of space with etching.

Section Elevations

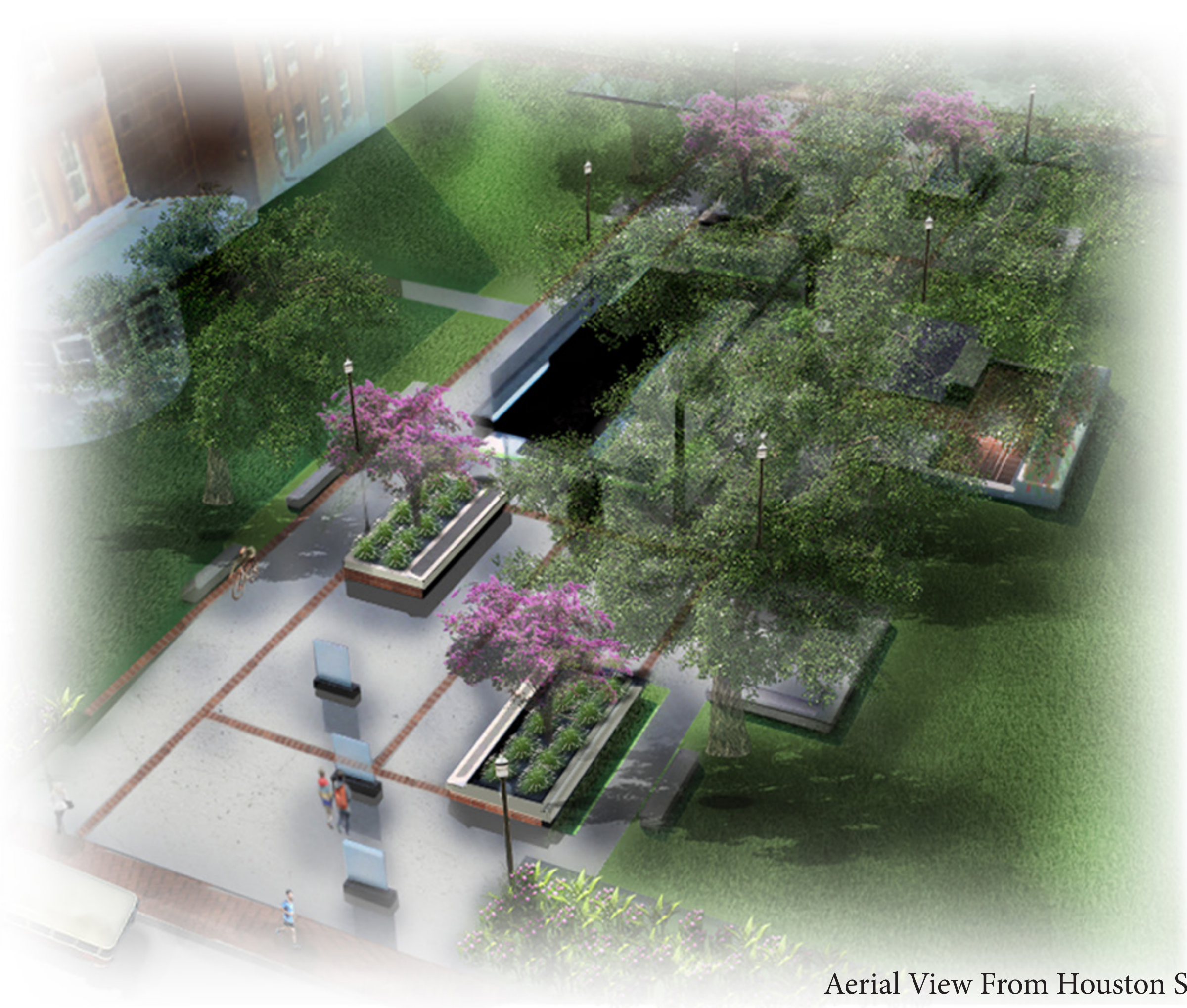
Section Elevation A-A'



Section Elevation B-B'



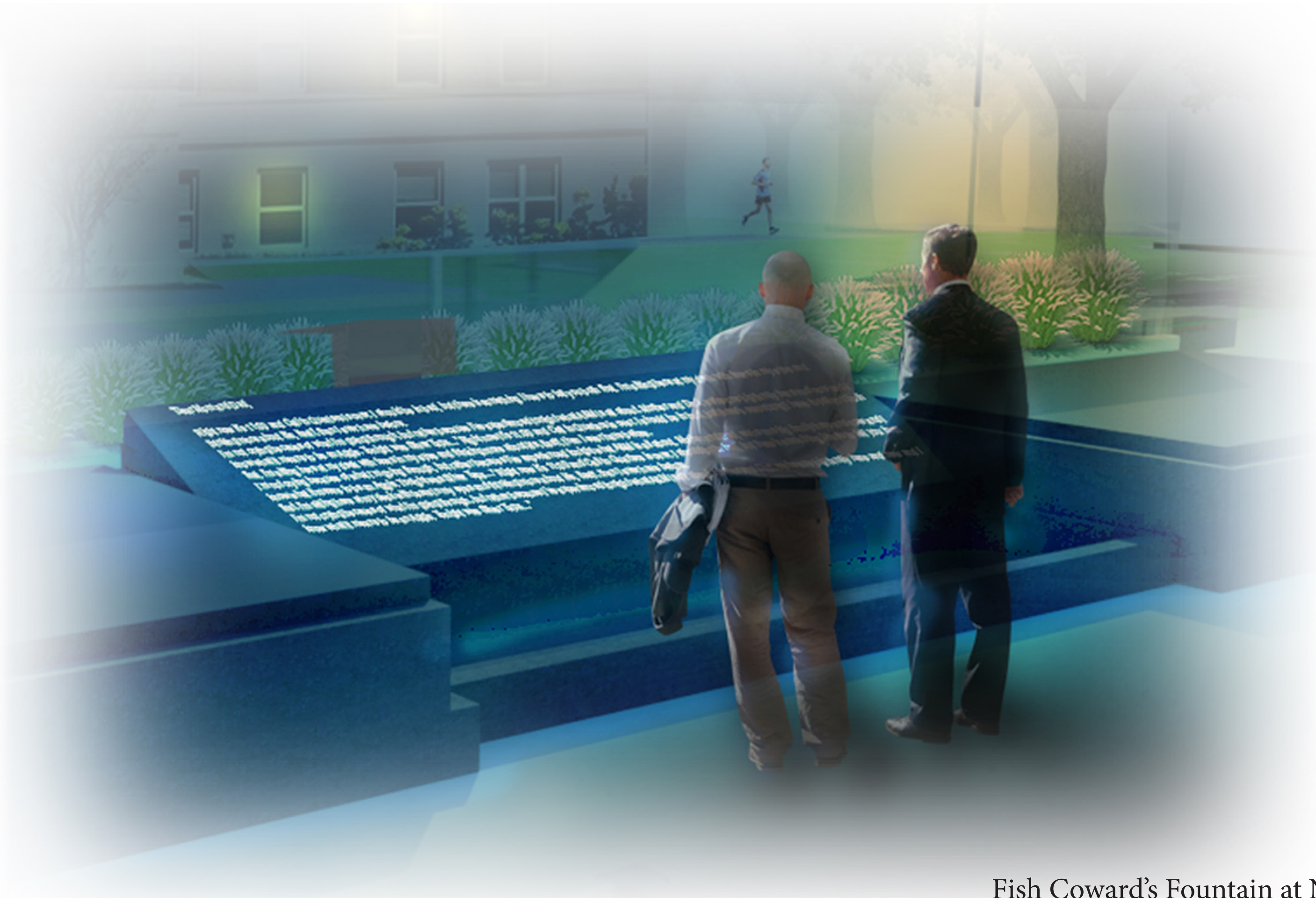
Perspective Renderings



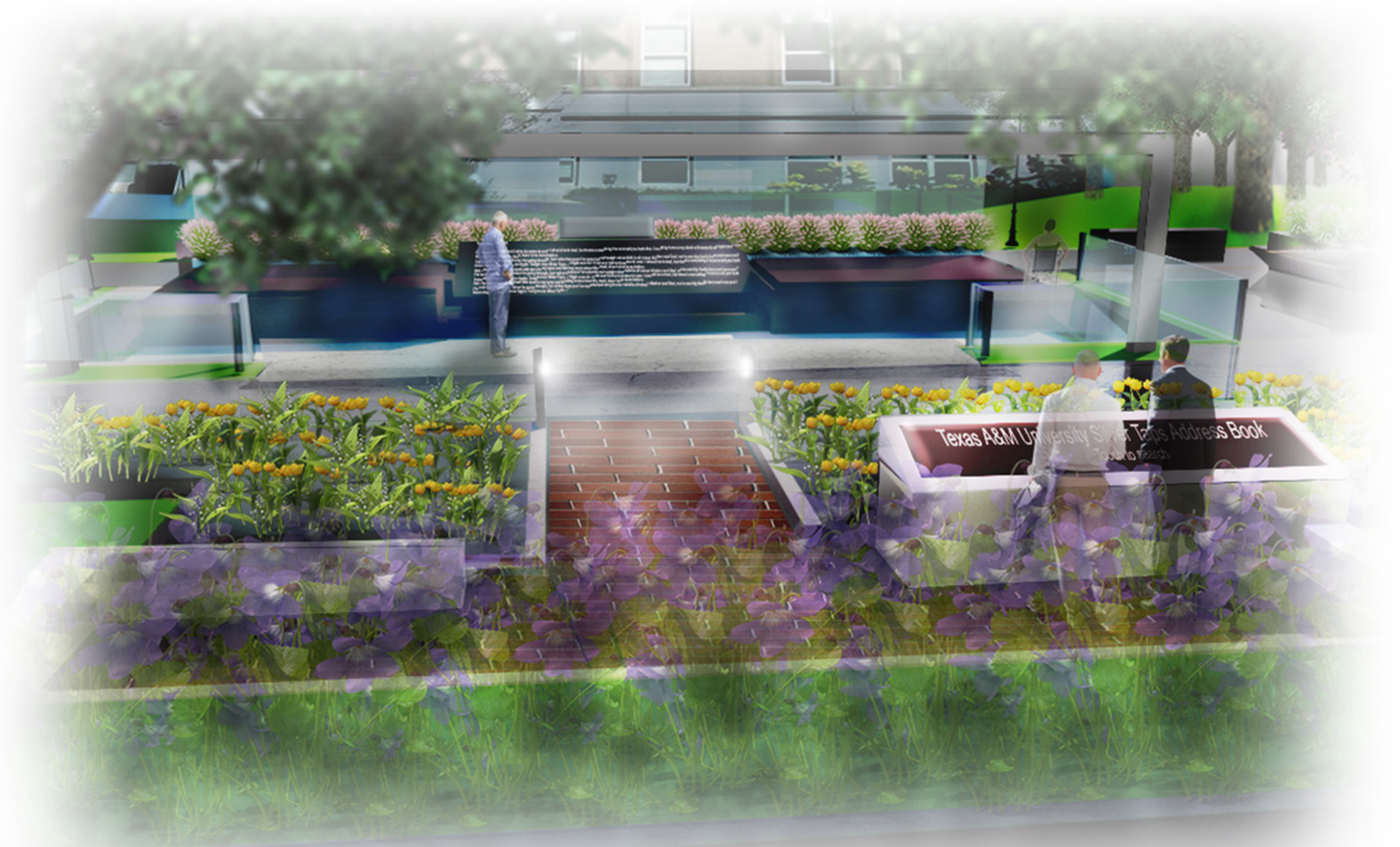
Aerial View From Houston Street



Public Seating by Houston Street



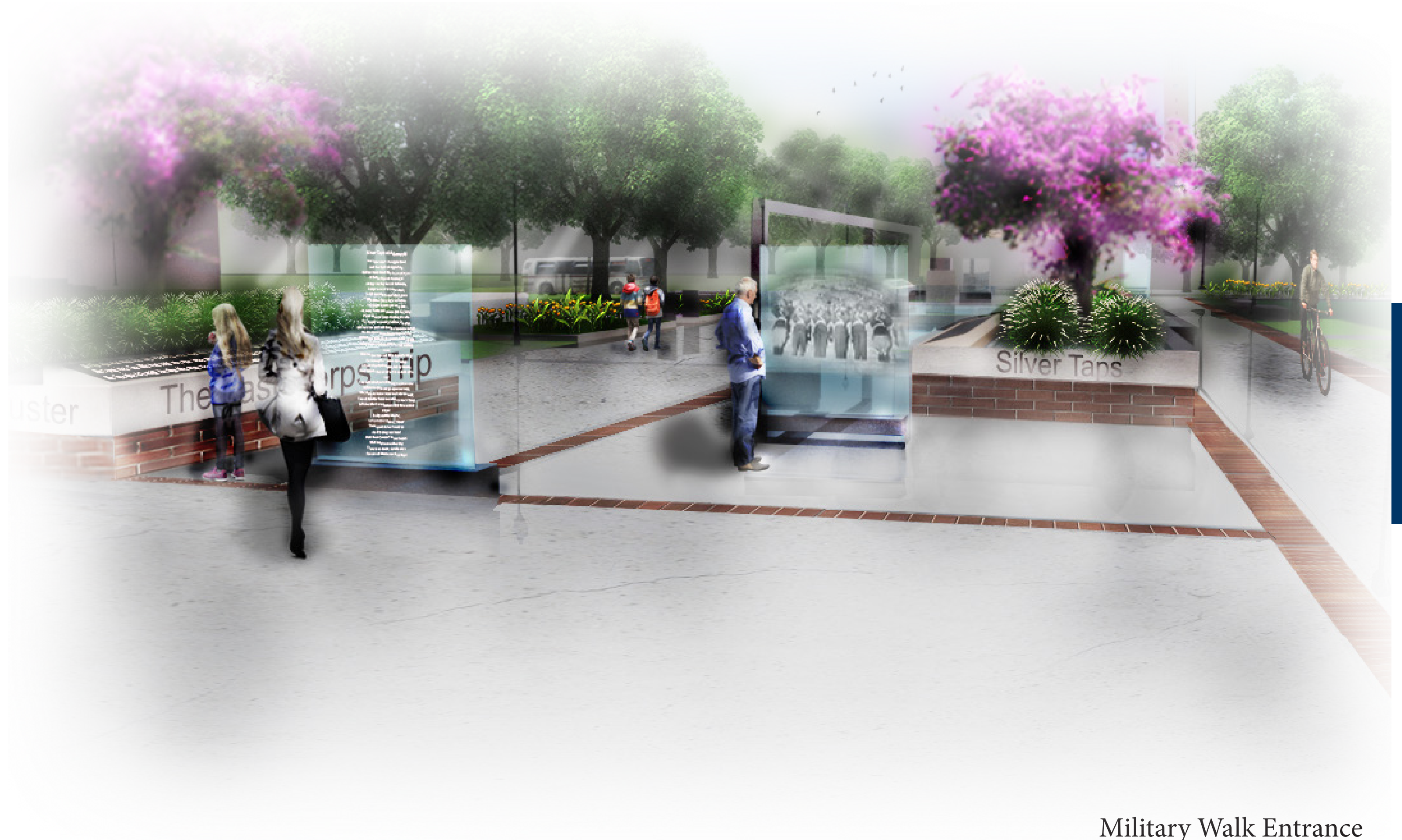
Fish Coward's Fountain at Night



Private Room from Coke Building



Private Room (Aerial)



Military Walk Entrance