

Library Garden – Phase 2 Verbatim Comments

Question 1 | What features of the design concept do you like?

#	Response
1.	It's pretty
2.	The increased seating and ability to get from Barber to Koerner efficiently and it looks like there will be a door to the Koerner library from the garden? If yes, that's great!
3.	Integration of native plants, stormwater/wetland, habitat to support biodiversity, consideration of safety, community space
4.	stormwater consideration
5.	Forest and the water feature, I also like that the space will still provide a space for contemplation.
6.	Attention to the natural landscape and indigenous plants; maintenance of the space as a tranquil sanctuary; connection to the planned research and dialogue centre; set-aside space of quiet contemplation
7.	Addition of a small building with courtyards, etc.
8.	I like the forest, and many small intimate spaces
9.	The informal meandering paths through a tranquil space. The opportunity to get rid of the ugly ramp down to the lower plaza in front of what used to be the Sedgewick Library.
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spaces for capturing sun - spaces for sitting/relaxing - walkways - stormwater wetland
11.	<p>The placement and form of the IRSHDC articulates the hierarchical gestures in the larger area well. The structural dialogue between IKB and the Koerner Library across the garden and Main Mall is one of the more impressive experiences on campus. The IRSHDC, with the clock tower, seems like it will frame this larger relationship well while contributing functionally to the bowl space.</p> <p>I like the idea of stormwater wetlands in general. I am curious about the intended hydrological dynamics of the design. What is the catchment surface area for the feature? Will the wetland, being in the bottom of a basin, have somewhere to drain to in regular operation and overflow in peak events? What are the infiltration capacities of a site that is already quite dug-down? If the vegetation is to be drought tolerant, is the wetland planned</p>

	to be ephemeral?
12.	You're trying to connect the clock tower plaza with the garden area and make the green space accessible, useful and inviting.
13.	I like that there is a focus on it not being a big spectacle and that it doesn't require de-greening the space. I like the large step/sitting space concept as well.
14.	Use of land is better than what is currently there. More places to study on a sunny day is nice by any means
15.	- I like the reflection of history in the plantings and Building materials - I like that storm water management is a visual feature of the site
16.	I love the idea of revitalizing this space. It has always seemed like a non-space at best and a barrier requiring circumnavigation at worst.
17.	Outdoor Classroom Natural Space
18.	the bowl and retaining the forest areas
19.	water feature stone steps up to Barber Centre Embracing of current deer path from Main Mall to Barber Centre (I think- hard to tell what the path will be made of - Hopefully not mud)

Question 2 – What features of the design concept do you not like and why?

#	Response
1.	That UBC is spending so much money on these 'beautification' projects while dramatically raising tuition prices and making no effort to provide affordable and available student housing.
2.	I would like to have a covered walkway between barber and koerner. We live in a rainy place. This is a no brainer.
3.	Absence of acknowledgement of being on unceded Musqueam territory, history of the land as Musqueam
4.	from the 3d renders, it seems like the diversity of planting will be very limited. More diversity and colour in plantings. Seems kind of bland.
5.	Not a huge fan of the removal of the exotics that are already in the space, but I understand the rationale behind it.
6.	maybe a bit more exposed than previously--given the significance of the space to the research and dialogue centre, maybe a bit more private?
7.	The retention of so much heavy bush. This is a central part of our campus and its so heavily forested, kind of acting to disconnect different areas in this central location.

8.	I dislike Koerner plaza, as I think this space could be better used for more forested area.
9.	<p>- so far I can't see any outstanding features that I dislike, although I am wondering if there will not be access to the exits/entrances on the bottom floors of Koerner?</p> <p>- I can't seem to find any wheelchair access</p>
10.	I would like to see a bit more detail on how the design can functionally sustain native, low-maintenance landscaping. For example, the stormwater channel is drawn as straight, coming down the slope of the bowl as fast as possible. Perhaps it could be made to reticulate around the bowl to slow it and possibly infiltrate, hydrating the slope vegetation, en-route to the wetland.
11.	You've created an amphitheater with the horrible back-end of the library cellar as your stage. I wish you could get the green space back to grade, but perhaps this isn't possible. As long as it is sunken, it will be a challenge to make the space appealing. It will always feel like a dark, cold, muddy pit.
12.	I like that the space is mostly untouched, and I feel like the beautiful space like that on campus is always slowly disappearing and being used to walk through.
13.	<p>Not sure about the wetland thing... I mean it would look nice but it looks kind of obstructive and was kind of hoping this would mean access to the lower floors of Koerner without having to walk all the way to the front door.</p> <p>I guess it's just a concern that while it would add to the atmosphere, it definitely takes up space that wouldn't be usable to students.</p>
14.	<p>- The concept shows a lot of Lawn grass</p> <p>- perhaps there can be a more innovative/ environmentally sound option for ground cover</p>
15.	I think the reduction in total greenspace is unfourtunate
16.	lack of connection with UBC Library should be integrated
17.	Sedgewick terrace is underutilized & little too asymterical
18.	<p>Unclear how much of the flora has been decided</p> <p>Please incorporate as much evergreen as possible + avoid anything that will be manicured via leafblowers</p> <p>Also-UBC appears to struggle with its water features -mostly fountains (e.g. Buck fountain / Piper Fountain) is this feature going to be maintainable/sustainable. Where might First Nations contributions (e.g. artwork) be incorporated?</p>

Question 3 – What changes to the design concept would you suggest? What do you think might be missing?

#	Response
1.	covered walkway to link the libraries for when the book you need is inevitably in the other library and it's December in Vancouver...

2.	Space for Indigenous art/stories to be part of landscape, space for growing food and/or Indigenous medicines, consultation with Musqueam and integration of Musqueam design concepts and art
3.	<p>will the bowl be dark? attention to dark areas.</p> <p>more colour and diversity. UBC is too obsessed with evergreens and concrete... and cheap wood.</p>
4.	A bit more privacy for visitors to the research and dialogue centre
5.	Removing some of the heavy bush and low bush, but retaining big trees. Including a building on the area to be used as a cafe/food building (with patio seating in the courtyard) as to attract more people to this area and act as a true communal area and space on campus.
6.	<p>I think you should incorporate:</p> <p>a) Native plants/ a First Nations garden</p> <p>b) Edible plants/ a student-run, accessible food garden. This could also be used for teaching. This would greatly enhance our campus!!</p>
7.	I very much hope that the former water feature (a lovely little stream with bridges) on the south side of the Library Garden will be brought back. At one time, that was the most enchanting and relaxing spot on campus. Please also retain the rare and beautiful trees. The Botanical signage that has appeared recently is a great innovation.
8.	- Wheelchair access down to the bowl/pit area, unless it is already there
9.	<p>My primary concern is around the Koerner Library's human contribution to the space:</p> <p>The visual indoor-outdoor interface of the library engages a few 1F/2F offices and study spaces with the garden. This would, of course, be built upon by the addition of the IRSHDC, the latter of which would serve as a destination for additional users. That said, I feel the space day-round animation could vastly be improved with minimal physical change. Currently the apparent design of the Koerner Library's interface with the garden has some unrealized activation potential: locked doors. Two double-doors opening to Sedgewick Terrace, which seem to have been intended as functional entrances to the library (more than fire exits) connect the common study space on the 2nd floor to the garden, remain restricted to staff and emergency use.</p> <p>Users, whose origin and destinations would otherwise bring them through the garden, are left to circumnavigate the space and cannot participate in it even in a transient capacity. I understand this is the agency of the library's operators who likely have good reason for doing so and this suggestion would require some reconfiguration of the indoor program of the space, but feel it would be well worth it. I would suggest that it be made high priority to involve the library and reconcile their operational concerns, likely including security, with the interest of best animating the new design of the garden.</p>
10.	1) You're focusing the attention of everyone in the space on the back of the library--better do something with it.

2)	Give people a WAY and a REASON to go to the garden DIRECTLY from main mall EASILY.
3)	Give people a reason--any reason--to go there in general, especially on a rainy day. Maybe put a cafe opposite the new cultural center and provide some covered seating. Otherwise it may be as desolate and sad as the fountain area in the back of the gss building. People will still have to go out of their way to go there. At least make it easy to pass through. It's a lot of steps. I think you need to do something clever at the back of the library--maybe with that horrible patio area below and east of main mall.
11.	N/A
12.	Would be super stoked if this would add lower access to Koerner library. Also in forest maybe small table-like parts to seating so you can have lunch with a friend.
13.	- Addition of Public Art - perhaps the design could be a stronger reflection of the FN history of UBC and can be more responsive to the activities of the new IRSHDC (besides seating)
14.	I hope there is a focus on native plants, although planing public fruit trees would be lovely
15.	- Accessibility still limited only VIA Elevator- Ramp outdoors essential - suggest making "PADS" in the garden allow that, terraces come into - spaces for classes to gather & study
16.	see above [lack of connection with UBC Library should be integrated] -free flow between Sedgewick and this space Connection betw/ I.Resid Schools Centre & Library
17.	Would be nice to be able to walk from IRSHDC to Buck Plaza still
18.	Where might First Nations contributions (e.g. artwork)be incorporated?

Question 4 – What comments do you have regarding the design principles?

#	Response
1.	fine
2.	Great principles and a good job executing them within the design.
3.	Excellent--no complaint.
4.	I do not believe that this central area of our campus should be used as a quiet space given its centrality in the middle of our campus, and because of its high potential to be a focal point of interaction.
5.	I agree with the design principles. In terms of functional ecology, I think having some sort of food forest/ garden in the space would be an excellent addition. Turn Koerner's plaza into a food forest, please :)
6.	They're great.
7.	I really appreciate sections 5-8. I think that history and memory are very important, and it ties well with working with the natural and functional ecology. I presume that it is fairly straightforward to plan a building and figure out where to build it (I know it's more

	complicated than that), but I appreciate the effort and thought into integrating the building with the space it will occupy, since there is a meaningful intention behind the creation of the building.
8.	I don't know what an IRSHDC is. I think the goals are good enough. I think the variety part should be better developed. You've created a lot of circulation and one big seating arena. Create more types of seating/gathering areas.
9.	I don't know that the walking routes need to necessarily be such a focus - but informal space is good. Students often form their own informal walking paths on campus, anyways.
10.	Most important I think are pedestrian routes, welcoming, safety and variety in that order.
11.	I like them
12.	I love it
13.	well done
14.	if they are supporting the working groups decision making- Fantastic

Question 5 – How do you feel the design principles are reflected in the design concept?

#	Response
1.	fine
2.	Yes
3.	Fully--this is a thoughtfully considered design that integrates principles of calmness, nature, and contemplation really nicely.
4.	The heavy bush does not act as an inviting area, given its dark nature and grunginess.
5.	I think there is not enough "nature" in the design concept. Too much concrete sitting area, not enough natural sitting/exploring/studying space. Planting native food species such as salal, thimbleberries, native blackberries, elderberries trees, wild rosemary/thyme/chamomile, would be especially important to the reconciliation of BC's first nations peoples and stimulate critical thought about our food systems (if accompanied by signs/information). We could harvest parts of the food forest and have salve-making workshops, etc. The LFS students or student clubs could manage/study the garden. Please consider it.
6.	I think they're reflected very well! Unfortunately I don't have much to add to this.
7.	No comment here. This may be found in direct response to the concept.
8.	I think there could be much more subtlety. The straight cuts through the forest areas are heavy-handed and insensitive. The success of the seating areas will depend greatly on how they are treated at smaller scales. The open spaces are uninviting at this level of development.
9.	I think they are fairly reflective.
10.	Good. I like the bowl idea.

11. There needs to be a stronger reflection of the design principles that are not seating

Question 6 – What other comments do you have regarding the design concept?

#	Response
1.	Stop spending money on gentrification projects.
2.	looks nice and wont be as boggy as current garden.
3.	This central location needs to do more to act as a focal gathering point on our campus.
4.	It's a non-smoking zone, correct?
5.	Overall, I like it.
6.	<p>Get rid of the rigidity in the forests and create small-scale, intimate gathering spots. Treat them like box-seats. Imagine a concert on sedgewick terrace. Do the sightlines work? Why treat the storm water like an LA viaduct? It could use much more thought. Also, the new configuration for the clock tower plaza feels stingy and undignified.</p> <p>I know that's all the negative stuff but it's a fairly nice design and better than what's there now. Good luck.</p>
7.	N/A
8.	Design evolution would be nice to see - How did it start & evolve w/ consultations? Can you document & show?
9.	Consider the "view from above"- this space will be visible from both thje IKBLC and Koerner Library Upper floors