3. LANDSCAPE DESIGN GUIDELINES

Introduction

The landscape design guidelines for the American University of Beirut are a “road map” with which to navigate the university’s continuing efforts with regard to landscape improvements.

The application of the landscape design guidelines will involve university administration and faculty, maintenance staff, project designers and others, all working together to achieve the vision set out in the master plan and the design guidelines.

The landscape design guidelines have been organized into two major categories: general design guidelines applicable to the entire campus landscape, and specific recommendations developed for discrete areas of the campus.

The general design guidelines are organized by landscape system, such as vegetation, lighting, pedestrian circulation, etc., to enable a comprehensive approach to broad-scale landscape improvements. The recommendations address individual project sites within each of AUB’s four major areas: Upper Campus, Middle Campus, Lower Campus, and Medical Campus. These recommendations illustrate how the general guidelines have been applied at the site-specific level. However, they do not represent design solutions for these areas.
Figure L-1. Landscape Concept
LANDSCAPE CONCEPT

The existing landscape is one of AUB’s most significant and memorable aspects. Essentially, the university is a Mediterranean garden landscape comprised of numerous civic spaces and a naturalistic area that has come to be known as the Middle Campus. Understanding that important new developments must occur throughout the university, the challenge is to protect and enhance the most important existing assets of this unique institutional landscape while taking advantage of new built elements to provide continuity of character and enhance the sense of place.

The major goals of the campus landscape concept are to:

- Enhance the university’s unique physical identity as an educational institution set within a garden landscape.
- Establish major pedestrian “spines” in the form of multi-use pedestrian promenades that link significant places on the Upper and Lower Campuses.
- Reinforce and knit together the two dominant landscape types within the university: the civic landscape and the naturalistic landscape. The civic landscape is defined as those areas that have been created for specific uses and support cultural and social activities within the campus. The naturalistic landscape is defined as areas predominantly composed of native or naturalized vegetation.
- Protect and enhance major views: from the campus to the sea; from the Corniche to the campus; and between key locations on campus.
- Enhance and unify the public image of the university by addressing the treatment of its edges.

The landscape concept will be realized through the application of landscape design guidelines that are aimed at:

- Enhancing the campus’ open space system, creating and upgrading courtyards, plazas, and gardens that function as spaces within the urban environment, and as places where human interaction is fostered.
- Enhancing pedestrian circulation systems.
- Limiting vehicular circulation.
- Providing an appropriate planting strategy.
- Enhancing and unifying the overall character of the university, as well as its individual campuses, through the design and selection of site furnishings, paving and outdoor structures.
- Identifying measures for appropriate environmental management with regard to solar gain, storm water, irrigation, etc.
- Protecting and enhancing important views, both internal and external.
- Establishing a unified character for campus edges and adjacent features.

The following sections provide general guidelines for the campus’ landscape systems and specific recommendations for the individual areas that comprise the university.
Figure L-2. Plan Showing Civic and Naturalistic Landscape Limits
GENERAL DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR THE AUB LANDSCAPE

For the purpose of establishing a comprehensive set of landscape design guidelines, AUB’s campus landscape has been defined in terms of its component landscape systems.

The campus landscape systems are as follows:

• Campus Vegetation
• Water Conservation
• Circulation
• Roadway Surface, Parking and Service
• Site Structures, Furnishings, and Art
• Campus Lighting
• Campus Edges and Gateways
• View Corridors
• Off-site Improvements
• Gardens and Greens
• Plazas and Courtyards

Following are the design guidelines that address each of these landscape systems.
General Vegetation Guidelines

The civic landscape is largely composed of outdoor spaces intended for particular purposes. These spaces should be composed of canopy trees and ground cover.

Vegetation Guideline 1
Trees should be used to:
• Create a canopy of shade.
• Frame and define outdoor spaces.
• Establish a focal point for an outdoor space.

Vegetation Guideline 2
Shrubs should be used to:
• Demarcate a transition from one space to another.
• Enhance areas close to building foundations.

Vegetation Guideline 3
Ground covers should be used to create a soft, attractive groundplane.
• Use lawns for gathering places sparingly to reduce water usage.
• Use plants that require low maintenance for areas that border gathering places.
• Use plants as ground cover wherever possible to assist in climate and erosion control.

Vegetation Guideline 4
Create a comprehensive campus plant survey and database.

Vegetation Guideline 5
Engage a qualified arborist to assess the condition and needs of key specimens on the campus, and to recommend a plant management program.

Vegetation Guideline 6
Take advantage of existing mature vegetation in the vicinity of proposed new facilities to establish character and create shade.

Vegetation Guideline 7
Develop a strategy for the replacement of key specimen plants, to maintain the character of the campus.

Vegetation Guideline 8
Choose plants that have high landscape value.

Campus Vegetation

The AUB campus is a green oasis within the dense urban fabric of the City of Beirut. As a whole, Beirut offers very few parks and open spaces, in stark contrast to the significant and varied trees and shrubs found on the AUB campus. This fact places a demand upon the stewardship of the vegetation within AUB’s walls.

When construction began on College Hall at AUB in 1871, the landscape at Ras Beirut was rocky and sparse, a “windwept and desolate place” according to Bayard Dodge. The historic 1895 photograph of the view from the Corniche shows College Hall, in the distance, in a remarkably barren landscape. For the past one hundred thirty years, faculty and staff have planted shrubs and trees at AUB, resulting in the current rich vegetation of the campus. Dr. Daniel Bliss, the founder and first president of AUB, planted a triangle of cypresses near the Marquand House that still thrive today. Other old and significant species include the very large Kermes oak (Quercus calliprinos) outside the Observatory, the Lebanon cedar near the Jafet Library, and the Washington palms (Washingtonia filifera) on the Green Oval. Another significant specimen is the enormous ficus (Ficus retusa) outside the Medical Gate, which was planted in the early 1930s and shades the entire entrance area. Today, the existing vegetation at AUB is perhaps the most striking aspect of the campus.

In a 1990 survey, 176 woody plant species were identified on the campus, including many native to the Mediterranean as well as numerous non-native species. The historic specimens as well as other vegetation on campus have benefited from vigilant care and service over the years. Unfortunately, these plants will not live indefinitely; therefore, a long-term management and replacement strategy is needed to maintain the landscape character these plants help to create. A comprehensive plant survey will provide a valuable base for this ongoing work.
Mature trees are among AUB’s most valuable physical assets. To the greatest extent possible, trees that exist within new development zones should be carefully transplanted to suitable locations on campus.

**Vegetation Guideline 14**

- Provide protection for significant existing trees that may be adversely affected by any construction project.

Around mature trees, install fencing that extends from the trunk to the drip-line in all directions. Do not allow construction vehicles, equipment, or materials within the protection area. Consider root and crown pruning to minimize “construction shock.”

**Vegetation Guideline 15**

- Introduce street trees on roads that are within or border the campus to provide shade and pedestrian scale.

Replanting palms along the Corniche could be a joint venture between AUB and the City of Beirut to help beautify the waterfront area.

**Vegetation Guideline 16**

- Plant deciduous trees in surface parking areas to minimize summer solar gain, and to “soften” the hard nature of the paved environment.

The campus master plan recommends that existing and future parking needs be accommodated mostly in parking structures. This strategy will support the restriction of private vehicles on campus, and make the most efficient use of campus grounds. In the few remaining surface parking areas, deciduous trees should be planted to minimize summer solar gain and improve the aesthetics of the parking lot.

**Vegetation Guideline 17**

- Introduce planting at proposed service entrances to screen these areas.

Service on campus will be centered around the Salient area, where a new parking deck will include a storage warehouse on the first floor for service. The majority of major service vehicles will enter in this location.

Plants that possess characteristics that add interest to the landscape are best for the campus landscape. Plants that have several interesting characteristics (e.g., significant flower, foliage, bark, canopy, etc.) are of the highest value.

**Vegetation Guideline 9**

- Choose plants that aesthetically complement the civic space.

The aesthetic contribution of vegetation to the campus is one of the most significant considerations in plant selection. For example, the Washington palms on the Green Oval were planted by the late Dr. West with the intention of creating “column-like trunks, which should give an effect like that of a Roman forum.”

**Vegetation Guideline 10**

- Choose plants that are drought-tolerant.

Irrigation water is relatively scarce at AUB. Plants that can exist naturally in the Lebanese climate will have a higher rate of survival during periods of drought.

**Vegetation Guideline 11**

- Choose plants that shade buildings and minimize summertime solar gain.

Solar gain can raise internal building temperatures significantly and increase the need for mechanical air conditioning within buildings. South- and west-facing building facades experience the greatest solar gain, and would benefit most from the shade created by large deciduous canopy trees planted near these facades.

**Vegetation Guideline 12**

- Choose plants that have research value.

Botanical gardens have been planted in the past at AUB for research purposes, including one for the Botany Department and a medicinal plant garden for what was known as the School of Pharmacy. The Agriculture and Food Sciences Faculty and the new Landscape Design and Eco-Management Program would also benefit from species planted for educational and research purposes.

**Vegetation Guideline 13**

- Transplant mature trees that will be adversely affected by new construction.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis can be a focal point. Phoenix dactylifera is a drought-tolerant native tree.

Nerium oleander can provide interest in the Upper and Lower Campus landscapes.
Vegetation in the Middle Campus

The Middle Campus is defined by the steep and densely vegetated escarpment that connects the Upper Campus to the Lower Campus. The mostly native vegetation on this escarpment has been established over the past one hundred thirty-six years by faculty and staff of the university. The Middle Campus is a very valuable green open space for the campus community and should be recognized, preserved, and enhanced.

The Middle Campus generally:

• Presents an informal and organic appearance.
• Requires strategic maintenance.
• Is composed of species native to AUB and/or the Mediterranean region.
• Performs an ecological function by providing habitat for wildlife and a filter for storm water.

General Vegetation Guidelines for the Middle Campus

The naturalistic landscape of the Middle Campus is abundant with large trees. This landscape should be supplemented with native shrubs and ground cover to create a layered plant mass.

Vegetation Guideline 18

Supplement the existing fabric in the Middle Campus vegetation with native shrubs and ground covers.

The master plan recommends creating a landscape management plan for the Middle Campus to guide specific efforts to replant, prune, and irrigate the area in an effort to enhance its function, appearance, and longevity.

Vegetation Guideline 19

Develop a landscape management plan for the Middle Campus based on the five zones.

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Figure L-3. Middle Campus Landscape Zones

Introduce street trees to provide shade and pedestrian scale.

Aloe vera is a ground cover with interesting leaves.

Choose vegetation that shades buildings.

Trees provide shade, lowering the temperature of pedestrian areas.

American University of Beirut Campus Design Guidelines

Sasaki Associates, Inc. / Machado and Silvetti Associates, Inc. • April 2002
Vegetation Guidelines for the Middle Campus

Landscape Zones

Based upon the existing vegetation, topography and use, the landscape of the Middle Campus subdivides into five landscape zones. Each of these zones has the following guidelines:

Zone 1. West of the Villas

This is the most remote area of the Middle Campus and is characterized by dense and overgrown canopy and understory vegetation. The Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science greenhouses are located at the zone's northern edge. Given the proximity of this academic use and its secluded location, this area is a good site in which to establish a teaching arboretum consisting of native and naturalized Mediterranean landscape species. Existing vegetation in this zone could include the following:

- Albizia julibrissin tree of heaven (China)
- Albizia lebbeck lebbeck tree (Asia/N. Australia)
- Bougainvillea glabra bougainvillea (South America)
- Cupressus sempervirens Italian cypress (S. Europe)
- Delonix regia flame tree (Madagascar)
- Eucalyptus globulus yewdale lea hawthorn (Asia)
- Sciaca terebriformis Christmas berry tree (South America)

**Vegetation Guideline 20**

Maintain the area west of the Villas so that it contains a predominance of plants native or naturalized to the region and requires less maintenance.

**Vegetation Guideline 21**

Restore vegetation cover on the unpaved road just below the planned upper promenade. A pedestrian trail could be included in the design to connect the stairways by Bliss Hall with the old Observatory and used as access to study the flora and fauna.

Zone 2. The Villas

The residential structures in this zone remind one of Mediterranean villas along the Riviera. The Villas will remain housing specifically for the deans of the faculties. The intimate scale and location of these homes make them perfect venues for hosting social functions. The Villas add a unique character to the Middle Campus; however, their yards should remain part of the Middle Campus. Existing vegetation in this zone includes some beautiful gardens and specimen trees associated with the Villas. By selectively removing walls and hedges, the Villas will become more of a complex of residences with gardens for all to enjoy. Existing woody plants that should be retained in this zone include:

- Carob (Mediterranean)
- Cupressus sempervirens Italian cypress (S. Europe)
- Ficus benghalensis banyan tree (India)
- Jacaranda mimosifolia jacaranda (South America)
- Myrtus communis myrtle (Mediterranean)
- Pittosporum tobira Japanese pittosporum (Asia)
- Schinus terebinthitolius Christmas berry tree (South America)
- Washingtonia filifera Washington palm (Tropical America)

**Vegetation Guideline 22**

The landscape of the Villas should be made more open visually by removing walls and fences, and should be unified by its planting.

**Vegetation Guideline 23**

When selecting plant materials for Zone 2, choose species that have proved successful in this part of the campus.

Zone 3. Overlook Areas

The area south of the tennis courts is characterized by relatively low, colorful vegetation that can be viewed from both above and below. This area is defined at each end by the two most heavily-used and graceful stairways on campus. The low vegetation allows for commanding views from the Upper Campus out to the Mediterranean. Low stone retaining walls terrace the land in this area, and when combined with native agricultural vegetation such as olive and carob, this landscape has regional charm. Predominate woody species in this area include:

- Bougainvillea xanthina white bougainvillea (India)
- Carpentaria pedunculata carob (Mediterranean)
- Castanea sativa chestnut (Australia)
- Cupressus sempervirens Italian cypress (S. Europe)
- Grevillea robusta silky oak (Australia)
- Pistacia palaestina pistacia (E. Mediterranean)
- Platanus campestris plane (Tropical America)
- Olea europaea olive (Mediterranean)
- Pistacia vera pista (Tropical America)
- Quercus coccifera corks oak (Mediterranean)

**Vegetation Guideline 24**

Maintain the area below the Campus Overlook with low-growing vegetation (5-meter height maximum). Increase density of planting.

**Vegetation Guideline 25**

Enhance the character of this zone as an "historical fragment of things past" by cultivating a terraced landscape with native or naturalized vegetation typical of an agricultural landscape in the Mediterranean.
Zone 4. The Pines

The area known as the Pines is a relatively rocky area with many pine trees, including the stone pine (Pinus pinea). This zone extends from north of Jafet Library to Van Dyck Hall to the east. Students use the rocks in the area just north of Jafet for sitting. The above-ground infrastructure pipes in this area are especially noticeable. Another substantial disturbance in this area is noise pollution, both from the air-conditioning unit on Jafet and from the power plant. With the exception of these disturbances, the area is a beautiful landscape of graceful trees on a largely rock base.

Species in this zone include:

- *Grevillea robusta*: silk oak (Australia)
- *Mexican abbeander*: abbeander (Mediterranean)
- *Pinus halepensis*: Aleppo pine (Mediterranean)
- *Pinus pinea*: stone pine (Mediterranean)
- *Pistacia lentiscus*: lentisk (Mediterranean)
- *Pittosporum tobira*: Japanese pittosporum (Asia)
- *Eucalyptus nitens*: sandgear tree (N. Africa and Spain)
- *Nelumbo nucifera*: oriental arborvitae (Asia)

**Vegetation Guideline 26**
Maintain the zone between the libraries as a rocky area with little understory characterized by pines and other overstory trees.

**Vegetation Guideline 27**
In order to fully appreciate this part of the Middle Campus, limit the noise pollution coming from Jafet Library and the power plant.

Zone 5. Eastern Middle Campus

The landscape zone at the eastern end is a small and relatively hidden area that is defined by the Women's Dorms on the north side and by Van Dyke and the DTS Building at the south end. This zone has a wide variety of vegetation and has been nicely terraced in places to prevent erosion from storm water runoff. Some invasive vines have become a problem in this area. Woody species in this zone include:

- *Bougainvillea glabra*: bougainvillea (South America)
- *Brachychiton populneus*: kurrajong (Australia)
- *Codiaeum variegatum*: garden croton (Malaysia)
- *Dodonaea angustifolia*: dodonaea (Tropical)
- *Ficus carica*: fig (Mediterranean)
- *Ficus retusa*: ficus (India)
- *Hibiscus syriacus*: rose of Sharon (India, Asia)
- *Livistona chinensis*: Chinese fan palm (Asia)
- *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*: Virginia creeper (North America)
- *Quercus calliprinos*: kermes oak (Mediterranean)

**Vegetation Guideline 28**
Maintain and enhance the eastern Middle Campus character by supplementing plantings and limiting aggressive and invasive species.
**Water Conservation**

The appropriate use of water is a priority for the university. Future vegetation on the campus should favor drought-tolerant species that require minimal irrigation, except in specific areas where irrigation is deemed acceptable.

The Middle Campus at AUB—the escarpment sloping down to the Corniche—is a sustainable landscape. All of the vegetation in this area survives on rainwater alone. An irrigation network on campus provides water to many of the landscaped areas of campus. The main source of water for irrigation is the brackish water network, which takes water from a well near the Faculty Apartment 3 and pumps it to a storage facility on the top of Kerr Hall. Here the brackish water is mixed with water from the potable reservoir and then distributed throughout the campus to the irrigated areas. The main irrigated areas on the Upper Campus include the Green Oval, flowerbeds near Jalil Library, the greenhouses behind the Chemistry Building, Post Hall, and Nicely Hall.

Overall, there are two main concerns regarding irrigation. First, there is a lack of irrigation water and therefore a reluctance to establish new areas of plantings. Second, the salinity of the brackish irrigation water is not well tolerated by some plants, particularly the ground cover of the Green Field. Lowering the salinity level of the water by mixing in potable water is not always an option due to water shortages in the region and pressing water needs throughout the campus.

Given the demands on the water supply system and the quality of campus irrigation water, drought-tolerant species should be planted wherever possible. Such vegetation can still add color and texture to the campus but require much less, if any, irrigation. Additionally, the campus irrigation system should be a state-of-the-art system that maximizes available water.

Fountains are recommended to provide visual accent and a cooling effect. New fountains will be designed to use a low volume of water, and will recirculate water to the greatest extent possible.

New plantings within the naturalistic landscape, composed of drought-tolerant species, are water-conserving due their adaptation to Beirut’s climate and rainfall availability. Nevertheless, this landscape is susceptible to erosion during periods of heavy rainfall, and therefore needs effective stormwater management.

**Water Conservation Guideline 1**
Select plant species that are drought tolerant.

**Water Conservation Guideline 2**
Apply the most efficient, water-conserving irrigation technologies to maximize the application of available fresh water.

**Water Conservation Guideline 3**
Select new water fountains that use a low volume of water that is recirculated.

**Water Conservation Guideline 4**
Provide for effective stormwater management to slow down stormwater and minimize erosion in the naturalistic landscape.

Viburnum tinus is a native shrub that is drought tolerant.

Select new water fountains that use a low volume of water that is recirculated.
Circulation

The AUB master plan presents a comprehensive strategy for efficient and enjoyable circulation throughout the campus. Further, the proposed pedestrian circulation system reinforces existing linkages and establishes important new linkages between key buildings and campus areas. Vehicular and service roadways are minimized in the master plan.

New Pedestrian Promenades

The most significant addition to the pedestrian circulation system will be a new pedestrian promenade system connecting the Upper, Middle and Lower Campuses. For the most part, these major pedestrian paths will be located at the upper and lower edges of the Middle Campus, and will be designed to promote and support pedestrian circulation and informal gatherings. Promenades will accommodate service and emergency vehicles, but personal motor vehicles will be prohibited. With a unique design and high-quality paving materials, lights, vegetation and site furniture, the new system will be a significant addition that helps to unify the campus. The promenades have been planned to create a variety of pedestrian-scale spaces that, together, form an interesting sequence.

The new upper portion of the promenade system will be a bustling pedestrian environment located on the upper edge of the Middle Campus, taking full advantage of the spectacular view to the Mediterranean Sea. The promenade will extend from the new West Gate into the Medical Center to the Hospital.

AUB’s Lower Campus is divided between east and west sections, with the Green Field situated in the center of the campus. This layout, combined with the lack of a well-developed pedestrian circulation system and a relative paucity of vegetation, has resulted in a campus that lacks a cohesive landscape character.

The new lower portion of the promenade system will link the Agriculture, Sciences, and Food Science Faculty with the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture and the future School of Business.

General Pedestrian Circulation Guidelines

Except where specifically noted in the landscape design guidelines, the standard paving material will be asphalt, due to its low cost and flexibility. Standard lighting, benches, trash receptacles, and bollards should be included in the design of all pedestrian walkways.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 1
Take advantage of existing mature vegetation in the vicinity of the promenade system to establish character and create shade for the promenade.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 2
The paving for the promenade system should be comprised of concrete unit pavers with granite feature bands. Establish a program by which significant/historic inscriptions are added annually to granite paving bands on the promenades.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 3
A variety of pedestrian spaces will be included within the promenade to promote informal gathering and to add interest, rhythm and sequence along its length.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 4
Democratize each entrance to a building or stairway from the promenades with a small plaza defined by distinctive paving.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 5
At appropriate locations along the promenades, palm species with similar visual characteristics should be planted to help identify and unify the promenade system.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 6
Except where specifically noted in the landscape design guidelines, all walkways should be of asphalt.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 7
Walkway widths should be as follows:
- Promenades should be 6 to 7 meters wide.
- Building entry walks and secondary walks linking buildings and areas should be 3 to 5 meters wide.
- Service walks at buildings should be 2 meters wide.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 8
Paving should support pedestrian movement and gathering. Areas of pedestrian activity that do not serve either purpose should be reduced or eliminated.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 9
Use standard campus furnishings to enhance campus walkways. See Site Structure, Furniture and Art.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 10
Improvements to new and existing pedestrian walkways should maintain the existing landscape character through the use of similar and compatible materials and forms.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 11
Maintain existing stone walls adjacent to existing pedestrian stairways. All new walls in the Middle Campus should be composed of stone or be clad with stone.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 12
Stairways should not be covered unless it is an existing condition. When covered stairways are replaced, appropriate roofing materials should be used.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 13
Promenades, special paving areas and pedestrian areas not located on building decks are designed to accommodate vehicles.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINE 14
Day-to-day service and delivery requirements are facilitated by small, electric-powered vehicles dispatched from the central warehouse.

Figure L-4. Pavement “Zones”
Roadway Surface, Parking and Service
These areas are reduced to a minimum in the master plan. They exist only where absolutely necessary.

Circulation Guideline 15
Roadways and serviceways are asphalt paving with curbs and subsurface drainage.

Circulation Guideline 16
Surface parking areas are shaded with vegetation where appropriate.

Demarcate each stairway or building entrance with a small plaza defined by distinctive paving.

Paving for the new upper promenade should be of concrete unit pavers or stone.

Take advantage of existing mature vegetation to establish character and create shade for the upper promenade.

Figure L-5. Granite band memorials with inscriptions can be incorporated in the paving of the promenade system.

Figure L-6. Section Through the Lower Promenade

Upper Promenade Location

New promenades will be 6 to 7 meters wide and use standard campus furnishings.

Figure L-7. Plan Detail of the Lower Promenade

Asphalt Walk Meeting Special Paving Area

Extraneous paved areas, such as that by the Observatory, should be eliminated.
Site Structures, Furnishings, and Art
A standard set of site furnishings for AUB will help to create a unified and coherent campus environment and enhance the university’s overall identity. The standard light fixtures, bollards, benches, trash receptacles, handrails, and signage will be installed throughout the university grounds. The standards should be selected during the first implementation project. The design of the elements should focus on simple and functional design that recedes into the surrounding landscape.

Structures and Furnishings Guideline 1
Establish a set of standard campus site furnishings to be used throughout the university:
- Bollards (for lighted bollards, see Lighting)
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Signage
- Handrails
- Tree Grates
- For Fencing, see Edges
- Trellises and Pergolas
- Bicycle Racks

Structures and Furnishings Guideline 2
Select a standard bench to be used consistently throughout the campus.

Structures and Furnishings Guideline 3
Place artworks in redesigned or upgraded outdoor spaces.

Structures and Furnishings Guideline 4
Art in the landscape provides interest and accent to places where people work and study every day. Further, art can reinforce the educational atmosphere of the AUB campus.

Structures and Furnishings Guideline 5
Construct a new belvedere at the northeast edge of the tennis courts to add a focal point at an important pedestrian intersection on the Lower Campus.

Structures and Furnishings Guideline 6
Benches should not be “add-on” items to spaces. They should be included in the design of spaces as fixed design features.
Campus Lighting

Lighting for the AUB’s landscape should enhance both the appearance of the university and the safety and movement of pedestrians and vehicles through the campus. For uniformity of appearance and ease of maintenance, the various light fixture types should be standardized. Fixtures shall be selected to minimize energy use and light “pollution” within the campus.

The Middle Campus landscape should be kept as free from artificial lighting as possible. This landscape should have lighting that supports pedestrian movement only. There should be no pole-mounted lights in the naturalistic landscape.

**Lighting Guideline 1**
Light fixtures should be selected to minimize light pollution. Select the appropriate type and quantity of light fixtures to provide the level of illumination appropriate for a given area.

**Lighting Guideline 2**
Light fixtures should be of energy-conserving design.

**Lighting Guideline 3**
Standardize light fixtures throughout AUB’s landscape. Select a standard for:
- Streetscape, parking area, and pedestrian pole-mounted light fixtures.
- Bollard light fixtures.
- Stairway light fixtures.
- Feature lighting.

**Lighting Guideline 4**
Lighting in the Middle Campus shall be indirect, ground level illumination. There should be no pole-mounted lights in the naturalistic landscape.

**Lighting Guideline 5**
Standardize light fixtures throughout AUB’s naturalistic landscape. Select a standard for:
- Bollard light fixtures.
- Stairway light fixtures.

- Ground-level lights used to illuminate granite feature bands on the promenades.
- Bollard lights for low-level illumination in the landscape.
- Stairway lighting for middle campus stairways.
Campus Edges and Gateways

Campus Edges
The edges of AUB comprise the “face” that the university reveals to the surrounding community, and convey the university’s physical image. The AUB master plan recommends creating a new public face for the university to reflect the level of quality and thought given to areas within the campus walls. Presently, campus edges are inconsistent in design, and therefore, so is the image they convey. The AUB Master Plan recommends creating a common or uniform edge for the university and, as part of the process, determining an appropriate degree of visual penetration permitted from outside the university grounds. At points, if possible, this edge could be the facades of new buildings. The School of Business and Hostler Center represent opportunities to explore this relationship with the public edge.

General Edge/Gateway Guidelines

EDGE/GATEWAY GUIDELINE 1
When appropriate, opportunities to use building facades as the campus edge should be explored.

EDGE/GATEWAY GUIDELINE 2
Develop a set of campus wall/edge treatments that unify the appearance of the campus edge, addressing each existing and proposed condition. Apply the new treatment as a component of each new site or building project that is implemented at the campus edge.

EDGE/GATEWAY GUIDELINE 3
All new or reconstructed walls along the campus edge should be of stone construction or stone clad.

EDGE/GATEWAY GUIDELINE 4
All fencing should be ornamental. Replace all existing chain-link fencing with ornamental iron fencing.

EDGE/GATEWAY GUIDELINE 5
Work cooperatively with the City of Beirut to develop a set of improvements for the public edges of the campus, including street sections, curbing, street trees, etc.

EDGE/GATEWAY GUIDELINE 6
Establish a design theme for gateways to unify the look of campus entry points.

EDGE/GATEWAY GUIDELINE 7
Provide poles for hanging banners to help advertise special events on campus.

EDGE/GATEWAY GUIDELINE 8
Make the campus more “visually accessible” without compromising security.

Replace existing chain link fencing with ornamental iron fencing.

Develop a set of campus wall/edge treatments that unify the appearance of the campus edge, addressing each existing and proposed condition.

When necessary to use fencing for security and elevation change, the fence should not be chain link. Rather, ornamental iron fencing is preferred.
View Corridors

Perhaps the single most memorable feature of AUB is its broad views of the Mediterranean Sea and the Lebanese Mountains. Although some external views have been obstructed by tall towers along the Corniche, there still exist some extraordinary views to the sea. The most significant external view corridors exist at the top ridge of the natural amphitheater. Additionally, there are important internal view corridors that have been created by the portals within the university, and by virtue of framing by buildings, trees, and other landscape elements.

Above all, it is important to protect and enhance the external view to the Mediterranean from the natural amphitheater (the area of the proposed University Overlook). See additional recommendations for the University Overlook area in Recommendations for Specific Areas of the AUB Landscape. The other major external views delineated in Figure L-9 should be protected and enhanced as well.

Internal view corridors are important as well and should be protected and enhanced. As new development occurs at AUB, potential impacts on these internal views must be considered as part of the design process.

**VIEW GUIDELINE 1**
Protect and enhance views from the natural amphitheater (the proposed University Overlook).

**VIEW GUIDELINE 2**
Protect and enhance the existing major internal and external view corridors as shown in Figure L-9. Consider the impact of new development on these view corridors as part of the design process.

**VIEW GUIDELINE 3**
Use vegetation to frame and enhance views. Vegetation that obstructs important views should be avoided.

**VIEW GUIDELINE 4**
Significant views from the Corniche to the campus should be maintained.

Existing View from Natural Amphitheater

External views into the campus help to create landscape character.
Another significant offsite improvement is the redesign of the Medical Center Gate and intersection, which is no longer planned as a drop-off point but redesigned as a significant pedestrian crossing area. Removing this drop-off and redesigning the intersection should improve traffic congestion in this area. Limited access to the campus by vehicles can be maintained in this area. Other major projects in the Medical Campus affecting city interests include the new parking structure and two new entrances for this structure. The proposed relocation of the entrance to the Medical Library to the west side on Abdul Aziz Street will also need city approval. Perhaps all of these changes could be coordinated through a traffic study for the Medical Campus area as a whole.

**Offsite Guideline 1**

Work cooperatively with the City of Beirut on the following mutually important projects:

- Tree planting and building design along the Corniche.
- Vehicle circulation along the Corniche.
- New pedestrian plaza and entrances along the Corniche.
- Parking deck in the Salient area.
- Medical Center Gate.
- Public street circulation within the Medical Campus.

**Offsite Guideline 2**

Conduct a traffic study of the Medical Campus area as a basis for the design of new facilities in the area.

**Offsite Guideline 3**

Participate in or establish a neighborhood improvement committee with local business people, residents and representatives from other institutions.

**Offsite Improvements**

Not all of the planned landscape improvements at AUB are within the boundaries of the campus property. Significant offsite improvements provided for in the AUB Campus Master Plan should foster a partnership with the neighborhood, the City of Beirut and the university to jointly improve the public life of the Ras Beirut area.

Offsite improvements stipulated in the master plan include major planting along the Corniche. Palms should be planted on both sides of the street, and in the median to reinforce the lines of palms that currently exist (although many of these trees are missing).

Two new major vehicular entrances along the Corniche are proposed: one leading to the parking deck at the Hostler Center and another accessing underground parking at the School of Business. Both of these projects need coordination with the City of Beirut to see how they will affect traffic along the Corniche.

Similarly, two major pedestrian entrances are proposed along the Corniche: one at the Hostler Center and another at the School of Business. Associated with these new entrances is an opened-up area along the Corniche edge at the north edge of the green field. This new plaza space is in the public realm and could benefit from the input of both the university and the city.

The proposed parking deck in the Salient area is a third major project on the Lower Campus that will affect city land. This project involves property acquisition and requires rerouting roads in the area.

The Bliss Street wall should be selectively enhanced.
**Gardens and Greens**

Gardens and greens at AUB are relatively small spaces that exist exclusively within the civic landscape. These smaller open spaces, defined largely by their vegetation, offer quiet escapes for the AUB community. The University Overlook is an important example of this type of space, framed by buildings and trees, and offering a quiet setting with spectacular views. There are existing gardens adjacent to Foat Library, near to Post Hall, in front of Ada Dodge Hall, in the A Wing of Agriculture, and in the Faculty Residence area, among others.

Gardens and greens on campus are generally:

- Relatively small in scale
- Defined more by vegetation than paving
- Used by small groups from nearby buildings for sitting, reading, and small gatherings

**Gardens and Greens Guideline 1**

Introduce new vegetation to these spaces as part of a plan to replace existing mature vegetation that will inevitably decline.

**Gardens and Greens Guideline 2**

Select drought-tolerant species and perennials rather than annuals that have high water requirements.

**Gardens and Greens Guideline 3**

Introduce new species to these spaces to serve as teaching tools for the campus community.

**Gardens and Greens Guideline 4**

Plant deciduous trees to create shady spaces where appropriate to provide respite from the hot sun.

**Gardens and Greens Guideline 5**

Introduce water-conserving fountains that produce a fine spray for a cooling effect where appropriate.

**Gardens and Greens Guideline 6**

Emphasize the pedestrian nature of gardens and greens; reinforce their use for quiet, passive activities.

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Figure L-11. Plan of Gardens and Greens on Campus
Plazas and Courtyards

Plazas and courtyards at AUB are largely defined by the buildings existing at their edges. These important social spaces exist exclusively within AUB’s civic landscape. In general, the materials and site details of plazas and courtyards will be enhanced to complement their architectural setting, and to provide useful, flexible, and enjoyable outdoor spaces.

Plazas and courtyards on campus are generally:
- Among the larger outdoor spaces on campus.
- Defined by buildings at their edges.
- Characterized by more “hardscape” and paving than vegetation.
- Used by large and varied groups on campus for informal meeting and relaxation.

The Upper Campus is currently defined by a system of interconnected plazas that link buildings from one edge of the campus to the other. These plazas comprise a heavily used pedestrian spine extending from the entrance at Kerr Hall to the Medical Center Gate at the east end of the campus.

The Lower Campus and the Medical Campus will benefit greatly by the creation of plazas and courtyards that function as attractive, functional outdoor rooms, and provide a transition from campus buildings to the surrounding landscape. For example, a new plaza will complement the development of the new Hostler Center.

**Plazas and Courtyards Guideline 1**
Plazas and courtyards should be designed for flexibility with regard to the activities they support. For example, use movable furniture to accommodate gatherings of different sizes and functions.

**Plazas and Courtyards Guideline 2**
Provide covered and uncovered areas within plazas and courtyards for weather protection.

**Plazas and Courtyards Guideline 3**
Introduce canopy trees to provide shade.

**Plazas and Courtyards Guideline 4**
Introduce fountains that produce a fine mist for a cooling effect where appropriate.

**Plazas and Courtyards Guideline 5**
Replace asphalt paving with modular paving or textured concrete paving to improve the aesthetics of existing spaces.

**Plazas and Courtyards Guideline 6**
Use the standard light fixtures, seating, bollards and trash receptacles as specified in the Site Furnishings section to reinforce landscape unity on campus.

**Plazas and Courtyards Guideline 7**
Adjacent to plazas and courtyards, transition areas should be designed so that informal seating can be accommodated.
In this section, the application of the landscape design guidelines is documented to illustrate how development or redevelopment of specific components or sites within the campus can be suitably achieved.

The recommendations included in this section are intended to illustrate how the comprehensive vision of the master plan recommendations and the guidelines could apply to the design of important improvements in the AUB landscape.
**West Gate Plaza**

As a significant place on campus, this space should:

- Be a positive image of AUB along Bliss Street.
- Serve as an appropriate terminus for the promenade system.
- Provide pedestrian access to the Green Oval.
- Serve as a landmark to orient first-time visitors and provide them with a place to park.
- Organize and define appropriate space for the users of Kerr and Penrose Halls.

For the Bliss Street Gate area, the AUB Master Plan recommends the development of a new linear open space east of the new Kerr Hall, and visitor parking for 32 cars adjacent to the Bliss Street Gate, to be known as West Gate Plaza.

The Bliss Street Gate will become the main visitor entry area for the university. It could also provide access to the Marquand House when necessary on the promenade system. The gate and wall in this location will be more transparent, possibly through the use of fencing, to visually open up this area from Bliss Street.

The master plan recommends the creation of a new pedestrian plaza adjacent to the existing bookstore. The new plaza could serve as a café for the bookstore, and will be attached to Bliss Hall and linked to the new West Gate.

**Program**

- Entrance for pedestrian visitors, students, faculty and staff.
- Entrance for visitor vehicles with parking (security).
- Fence edge to provide views between campus and Bliss Street.
- Direct pedestrian connections to the Green Oval and the pedestrian promenade system.
- Orientation map and information kiosk.
- Seating for bookstore café.

**Recommendations for New Kerr Plaza**

To achieve the open space concept and program, the following recommendations and master plan guidelines illustrate this space.

**Recommendation A**

Preserve as much existing vegetation as possible in the new parking area.

**Recommendation B**

Maintain and supplement existing vegetation in front of Penrose Hall to screen pedestrian traffic.

**Recommendation C**

The new open space in front of new Kerr Hall should be designed to create semi-private spaces for passive activities for new Kerr Hall and existing Penrose Hall residents.

**Recommendation D**

The new West Gate Plaza should be designed primarily as a pedestrian space that also allows for vehicular circulation.

**Recommendation E**

Maintain existing alignment of the entry road to begin the pedestrian promenade in this area and to align with the existing gate and road across Bliss Street.

**Recommendation F**

Along the Bliss Street edge, from Fisk Hall on the east end to Kerr Hall on the west end, replace the existing wall with a well-designed, high-quality ornamental metal fence or low wall with fence above to allow views into the campus.

**Recommendation G**

A planted pergola south of Bliss Hall will help to create a transition between West Gate Plaza and the parking area.

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*Figure L-14. Illustrative Plan: West Gate Plaza*
A planted pergola south of Bliss Hall will create a transition between the edge of Kerr Plaza and the parking area. It also would direct pedestrian movement toward the Green Oval.

Along the Bliss Street edge, visibility between the street and the campus can be achieved by replacing the wall with an ornamental fence.
University Overlook

To add a hierarchy of spaces to the AUB landscape, a large open space is proposed for the middle of the Upper Campus. The new University Overlook will be a significant addition to the heart of the Upper Campus. To add to the diversity of types of spaces, the master plan suggests a more simplified spatial structure that is open and informal, and is ideal for sitting and viewing. A simple amphitheater, that takes full advantage of its position on the edge of the Middle Campus escarpment to maximize views to the Mediterranean Sea, can be a venue for informal concerts, plays and other presentations.

Program

- Primarily grass, for informal gathering.
- Informal and formal gathering place for 250 students.
- Flat stage area of approximately 25 square meters.
- Accommodate lighting and sound for formal productions.
- Direct pedestrian circulation between upper promenade and Jaffet Library Plaza and College Hall Plaza.
- Amphitheater formed from change in elevation.
- Open views to Mediterranean Sea from the upper promenade and amphitheater.
- Informal seating for outdoor eating, with food from Ada Dodge Cafe.
- Accent lighting or special landscape and architectural features.
- Campus emergency phone.

Recommendations for the University Overlook

To achieve the open space concept and program for this space, the following recommendations explain the illustrative plan:

**Recommendation A**
Maintain as much existing vegetation on the west side of University Overlook as possible, particularly the Italian cypresses that were planted by Daniel Bliss, the first president of AUB.

**Recommendation B**
Use high-quality stone to create the new amphitheater’s steps within University Overlook.

**Recommendation C**
In the University Overlook area, maintain “desire lines” established by existing pedestrian paths.

**Recommendation D**
Protect and enhance the view from the natural amphitheater (the proposed University Overlook).

Figure L-17. Illustrative Plan: University Overlook
Figure L-18. Urban Design Concept: University Overlook

Perspective view of the proposed University Overlook.
The Medical Quadrangles

The master plan open space concept extends into the Medical Center to include the establishment of a new landscape structure to create a series of spaces along the pedestrian promenade that are integrated into the campus. By adding new pedestrian open spaces and amenities, the Medical Center landscape will become a welcoming and restful place for students, faculty and the public, connected to the larger campus.

Due to heavy traffic through the hospital drop-off area, the master plan and guidelines recommend that use of the drop-off area be limited to hospital emergencies only. The new parking deck located at edge of campus is intended to keep vehicles out of the heart of the Medical Campus area.

Medical Campus Green

The AUB Master Plan includes a new Medical Campus Green, composed of an oval-shaped green space encircling by deciduous trees. A new waterfall at the western edge of the oval green will screen the parking deck and soften street noise. The loggia on the northern façade of Issam Fares Hall is accentuated. A new Grand Stairway will lead users up to the terrace of the Medical Library.

Medical Campus Parking Deck & Maamari Street

The master plan recommends that the existing Medical Campus parking deck be rebuilt entirely below grade at Maamari Street. This allows the space above the parking deck to be used as an open space, with planting and vegetation on the southern half and possibly two tennis courts on the northern half.

Maamari Street is a busy street in the heart of the Medical Campus lacking pedestrian amenities. Proposed enhancements to the street’s pedestrian environment include a new wider sidewalk with a special paving treatment and street tree planting aimed at providing a more hospitable atmosphere for pedestrians and visitors to the Medical Center.

Program

- Provide direct pedestrian connection between Medical Plaza Gate and the entrance to the hospital.
- Provide pedestrian connection between Building 56, Issam Fares Hall and Saab Library.
- Water feature from Phase III deck to Clemenceau Street level to help mitigate noise from the streets.
- New staircase between the Phase III deck and Clemenceau Street level.
- On-street parking removed, sidewalks expanded and street trees added along Maamari Street.
- Pedestrian entrance from Issam Fares and Maamari Streets (secure).
- Direct pedestrian spine between new Clinics Building and Hospital Phase II.
- Accent lighting for special landscape and architectural features.
- Campus emergency phones.

Recommendations for the Medical Quadrangles

To achieve the open space concept and program for this space, the following recommendations explain the illustrative plan:

RECOMMENDATION A
Establish a major open space as a central feature and gathering space for the Medical Campus.

RECOMMENDATION B
The open space on the southern half of the parking deck roof should provide continuity with the open space east of Issam Fares Hall.

RECOMMENDATION C
Use the northern half of the Medical Campus parking deck roof for new tennis courts.

RECOMMENDATION D
Widen sidewalks and design a new pedestrian paving treatment for Maamari Street. Use standard campus site furnishings.

RECOMMENDATION E
Implement a street tree planting along Maamari Street.

RECOMMENDATION F
Create a new plaza, pergola shade structure and water elements outside the Medical Library and Issam Fares Hall.
Medical Gate

A significant goal of the master plan and the open space concept is to connect the Medical Center to the larger AUB campus. The Medical Gate Plaza is the keystone in accomplishing this goal.

The Medical Gate Plaza is to become a more pedestrian-oriented space, mainly by eliminating the vehicle drop-off function in this area and creating a pedestrian zone in the street.

At the Medical Library, the northern wall is to be moved south to create more pedestrian circulation space along Clemenceau Street. To encourage this area to become more pedestrian-oriented and less for vehicles, the entrance to the parking deck is to be relocated to the western side of the library on Abdul Azziz Street. A new pedestrian gate to the Medical Quadrangle is situated at Clemenceau Street.

Program
- Pedestrian entrance for visitors, faculty and staff.
- Retain historic ficus tree.
- Provide continuity of special pavement in intersection and walkways.
- Provide map and information kiosk.
- Informational banners on north and south sides of street.
- Accent lighting for special landscape and architecture features.
- Campus emergency phone.

Recommendations for the Medical Gate Plaza

To achieve the open space concept and program for this space, the following recommendations explain the illustrative plan:

**Recommendation A**
At the Medical Gate, preserve the existing ficus tree and expand its surrounding planting bed.

**Recommendation B**
Recommend new trees for the Medical Center Gate area.

**Recommendation C**
Create a new planting on the north, west and south sides of the Medical Library using low shrubs.

**Recommendation D**
Implement a street tree planting program along Clemenceau Street composed of trees planted at 7- to 8-meter intervals.

**Recommendation E**
Create a grand stairway in the reconstructed parking deck to access the Medical Library Plaza.

**Recommendation F**
Develop a unique paving treatment that creates a pedestrian character for the Medical Center Gate area. New paving should be compatible and complementary with upper promenade paving.

**Recommendation G**
Maintain the architecture of the Medical Center Gate.

**Recommendation H**
Relocate the parking garage entrance.

Figure L-23. Illustrative Plan: Medical Gate
By removing the drop-off and entrance into the Phase III parking deck at this location, simpler and safer traffic patterns can be achieved.

Figure L-24. Urban Design Concept: Medical Gate

Perspective View Illustrating the Connection Between the Medical Center and the Larger Campus
Faculty of Engineering and Architecture Way

The open space concept and master plan recognize a need to create an open space system in this part of the campus to give order to the industrial quality of the existing spaces. The existing space between the buildings has the potential, through landscape improvements, to tie the facilities into the overall campus open space concept. The service road north of Bechtel, Architecture and the corporation yard can become an open space spine. Along this spine, by the improvement of existing spaces, a series of meaningful open places and connections to other spaces can be created.

Program

- Provide for grade change between the lower promenade and lower Faculty of Engineering and Architecture Way.
- Provide for a significant landmark plaza along Lower Campus Promenade.
- Possible location for outdoor art or memorial.
- Comfortable shaded area for informal outdoor seating.
- Major landmark within Engineering and Architecture precinct.
- Pedestrian connection among Lower Campus, Library, Bechtel Hall, Engineering Wings B (Workshop West) and C (Workshop East), and Architecture.
- Provide for special lighting.
- Connect student housing to FEA facilities with a direct pedestrian connection.

Recommendations for the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture Plaza

To achieve the open space concept and program for this space, the following recommendations explain the illustrative plan:

**Recommendation A**
Create a new grand stairway that will lead up to the lower promenade from the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture Plaza that can also function as a sitting area.

**Recommendation B**
The grand stairway should be dimensioned to allow for comfortable climbing and sitting.

**Recommendation C**
At the upper level of the new grand stairway, create a new plaza with a new wall set back from the promenade to create a seating area.

**Recommendation D**
Install outdoor artworks in the lower and upper plazas.
Figure L-26. Urban Design Concept: FEA Way

Figure L-27. Section Through Grand Stairway

Perspective Illustrating the Connection Between FEA Way and the Lower Promenade

Existing Wall on Proposed Lower Campus Promenade
New Green Field Area (Sports Field)

Because the master plan prohibits construction of new buildings within the Green Field area, this is the most important space on the campus. This recreational use provides the largest window to the Mediterranean and allows for all the breathtaking views both from the campus and into the campus from the Corniche. The most important aspect of the master plan and the open space concept is to make this window as large as physically possible without sacrificing the building program. All the improvements in this area should seek to visually unify the variety of uses for this space to provide a simple and clear frame for these views. This space is the mid-ground for views from the Upper Campus and the foreground for views from the Lower Campus.

The new Green Field will feature an expanded, competition-size track with 8-lanes and a straightaway for sprints. The new soccer field will be regulation size at 68 x 110 meters. New international basketball courts will be located at both ends of the field. New bleachers with seating for approximately 400 people will be located on the west edge of the field. The development of the Green Field will present opportunities for a variety of landscape improvements.

Program
• Formal seating created in elevation change between lower promenade and field.
• Major landmark along the lower promenade, intersection of major stairways and east Green Field spines.
• Provide architectural feature as a landmark at the end of the east Green Field spine.
• Primarily for pedestrian circulation.
• Informal meeting and gathering space for faculty and staff.
• Accent lighting for special landscape and architectural features.
• Campus emergency phone.
• Eight-lane track (international competition standard).
• Soccer pitch (international competition standard).
• Outdoor basketball (to fit).

Recommendations for the New Green Field Area
To achieve the open space concept and program for this space, the following recommendations explain the illustrative plan:

Recommendation A
Create a series of large stone steps to accommodate the grade change at the south-east corner of the Green Field. The steps should transition into a retaining wall and fence at the southeast corner of the field.

Recommendation B
Preserve a portion of the existing ficus hedge along the future edge of the Green Field.

Figure L-28. Illustrative Plan: Green Field
Create a series of large, stone steps to accommodate the grade change at the southeast corner of the Green Field.

The Green Field is an icon open space within the urban fabric of Beirut.

The Existing Green Field
School of Business, Durrafourd Quadrangles

At the School of Business, two new quadrangles will be created to serve as major open spaces in this area. These new quadrangles will organize the new and existing buildings at the northeast corner of campus. There is a variety of architectural styles and scale of buildings, and an existing pedestrian system does not exist. The open space concept and master plan organize the pedestrian system and add a common landscape for the different buildings to face.

A new allee of palm trees will connect the new School of Business to the lower promenade. A new plaza will be created between the Engineering Shops, Raymond Ghassan Hall and the new School of Business to make a connection between the School of Business and the Engineering Faculty to the south.

Program
  • Pedestrian connection to east Green Field pedestrian spine.
  • Connection between east Green Field pedestrian spine and the Durrafourd Buildings.
  • Plazas integrated with buildings to provide space for formal and informal gathering of faculty and staff.
  • Accent lighting for special architectural and landscape features.

Recommendations for the School of Business

To achieve the open space concept and program for this space, the following recommendations explain the illustrative plan:

RECOMMENDATION A
At the new School of Business, the new allee should be composed of palm trees planted at 6-meter intervals.

RECOMMENDATION B
Preserve existing vegetation to screen Durrafourd West from the new School of Business.

RECOMMENDATION C
The new entry plaza at the new School of Business should have special paving.

RECOMMENDATION D
Create outdoor spaces appropriate for campus use and for School of Business functions.
The new entry plaza at the new School of Business should have distinct paving.

At the new School of Business, the new allee should be composed of palm trees planted at 6-meter intervals.
Corniche Edge

This area is owned both by AUB and the City of Beirut. It will become the new face of AUB to the citizens of Beirut. The challenges of this area include creating a positive image of an institution that wants to play an important role within the city while protecting a suitable environment for education.

Along the Corniche, the development of the new Hostler Center, the new School of Business, and the new Green Field will provide an opportunity to create a new edge for the campus. Along the redesigned edge, the new campus wall should suggest an enhanced design for AUB to the Beirut community using the Corniche.

Program

- Convenient pedestrian entrances on east and west sides of Green Field.
- Preserve mature vegetation.
- Create views into the campus.
- Create positive image for AUB along Corniche.
- Banners to promote visitor programs and goals of AUB.
- Continue strong Corniche edge of palm plantings.
- The new building facades should assist in making this new edge.

Recommendations for the Corniche Edge

To achieve the open space concept and program for this space, the following recommendations explain the illustrative plan:

**Recommendation A**

Along the Corniche, from the Durrafourd Buildings on the east to the Faculty Apartment 2 on the west, create a new retaining wall that is designed to reflect the character and heritage of the university.

**Recommendation B**

Preserve two existing Ficus nitida and three Poinciana regia, all approximately 70 to 110 years old at the northern edge of the Green Field. Preserve a portion of the row of ficus trees at the edge of the current Sea Parking to form an edge for the new Green Field.

**Recommendation C**

Create a pergola north of the Green Field as a transition to the Corniche edge and for shaded seating.

**Recommendation D**

Retain and augment existing vegetation on the Corniche.

**Recommendation E**

Large stairways and gateways should be used as visitors’ entrance during formal events.
Along the Corniche, create a new retaining wall designed to reflect the character and heritage of the university.
Hostler Center Plaza

The new Hostler Center Plaza will be a major catalyst in the enhancement of the Lower Campus. The new building’s location along the Corniche will help to transform this prominent public edge of the campus. The challenges for this space include providing the social space for the uses within the Hostler Center, accommodating spectators during sporting events and being a portion of the larger open space that creates the viewshed for the campus as a whole.

Program
• Primary outdoor gathering space for the Lower Campus.
• Food service during special events and school hours.
• Informal moveable seating and tables.
• Pedestrian connection between the Corniche edge with lower promenade.
• Pedestrian tunnel to beach.
• Accent special landscape and architectural features with lighting.
• 50% of space to be “soft” areas.
• Provide appropriate entrance to major student life building on Lower Campus.
• The elevation of the plaza to be same elevation as the field.

Recommendations for the Hostler Center Plaza

To achieve the open space concept and program for this space, the following recommendations explain the illustrative plan:

**Recommendation A**
Create two large green soft areas at the new Hostler Center to provide open resting spaces.

**Recommendation B**
Relocate significant existing vegetation from the current Health Club and residence (proposed to be demolished) to the northern lawn area.

**Recommendation C**
Preserve existing vegetation along the east side of Agriculture Wing A to screen the parking area.

**Recommendation D**
Create a loggia along the south and east sides of the new Hostler Center to create a strong pedestrian axis, and create a link to the Agriculture and Science Quad.

**Recommendation E**
In the new Hostler Center Plaza, include a fountain or other water feature to provide a cooling effect and create a sense of entry into the center.

**Recommendation F**
Include a fountain/water feature at the southeast entrance to the Hostler Center area.

**Recommendation G**
Incorporate a snack shop into the base of the Green Field Bleachers or building.

**Recommendation H**
Spectator seating can spread out and become integral into the changes in elevation.

**Recommendation I**
Provide for bus turning radius and parking.
Create soft areas and landscape at the new Hostler Center to provide open resting space.

Mature Ficus transplanted by Solidere in Downtown Beirut.

Fountains can be designed to be attractive when not in use.
**Agricultural and Sciences Courtyard**

The Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences currently lack any attachment to the overall landscape structure of the campus. The existing buildings are positioned to create these spaces that currently are used for parking.

The open space concept and master plan recommend that parking be removed from this area and replaced with a lawn. This new quad will be framed by the Physics and Agriculture Buildings. A new cafe housing the food service operations will be located in this area. New lecture hall space will be connected to Agriculture Wing A by an atrium that will offer sheltered student space and connect the series of open spaces in the Agriculture and Sciences area.

The new auditorium building will act as a western gateway to this academic area and an important spine through to the Hostler Center. A half-tennis court and half-basketball court will be introduced near the faculty residences, primarily to serve the children of faculty.

**Program**

- Major landmark along lower promenade.
- Remove all parking.
- Retain mature vegetation.
- Primarily pedestrian circulation between buildings.
- Outdoor teaching in large grass panels and shaded grass areas.
- 50% "soft green area."
- Accent significant landscape features.

**Recommendations for the Agricultural Courtyard**

To achieve the open space concept and program for this space, the following recommendations explain the illustrative plan:

**Recommendation A**

Create a substantial lawn for seating and relaxation.

**Recommendation B**

Preserve the row of ficus trees to reinforce the pedestrian path connecting the Agriculture and Sciences area to the loggia of the Hostler Center.

**Recommendation C**

Redevelop the existing cafe in the Agricultural and Sciences Courtyard.

Figure L-41. Illustrative Plan: Agriculture and Sciences Courtyards
Figure L-42. Urban Design Concept: Agriculture and Sciences Courtyards

Figure L-43. Section Through Outdoor Cafe in Agriculture and Sciences Courtyard

Existing Surface Parking in Proposed Courtyard
AUB Beach

The AUB Beach has been described as a unique but underutilized aspect of the university. Some of the obvious problems include glass in the sand, lack of seating, and lack of access to food service. The accumulating trash is also an issue, and the hard concrete and rock surfaces can be uninviting.

However, while use of the AUB Beach has fallen, it is still used by many in the AUB community who would benefit from its improvement. Sea water at the beach is clear and the beach is ranked as an “A” quality beach. There are also salt-tolerant plant species that could be used to soften this landscape.

The AUB Master Plan recommends a variety of improvements that will increase the value and utility of this unique natural resource.

Program

• Accommodate informal water-related activities for the AUB community.
• Screen this area from Corniche during the summer season; however, maintain views from the Corniche during the winter months.
• Create a safe environment for young children to enjoy the salt water.

Recommendations for the AUB Beach

To achieve the open space concept and program for this space, the following recommendations explain the illustrative plan:

RECOMMENDATION A
Unify the beach area with a new pedestrian plaza linking the various use areas.

RECOMMENDATION B
The new pedestrian plaza should have a naturalistic edge along the beach.

RECOMMENDATION C
Create a new swimming pool that reflects the natural form of the coastline.

RECOMMENDATION D
Create areas for a volleyball court and café/snack bar with a seating area.

RECOMMENDATION E
Create a linear plant bed along the base of the Corniche wall to soften the edge. The plantings should be comprised of native seashore species.
The existing beach has little definition of space. High tides require that the beach have durable materials. Cakile maritima is a coastal flora species that could add greenery and color to the beach.

Figure L-45. Urban Design Concept: AUB Beach

Figure L-46. Section Through Beach Showing Improved Definition of Spaces