II. THE CONTEXT

THE CAMPUS CONTEXT

Published in 1963, the first UCSD Long Range Development Plan envisioned the campus as clusters of colleges. The initial colleges, Revelle and Muir, developed along a strong north-south grid following the alignment of North Torrey Pines Road. This orthogonal grid pervades much of the campus including, with a slight variation, the Matthews Academic and Administrative Complex, a remnant of the Camp Matthews military base. The eucalyptus parkland, traversing the campus from north to south, further reinforces the orthogonal grid (Figure 3).

Underlying this north-south grid of development is the pattern of the landform. The dominant north-south and east-west ridges and mesas have been carved by precipitation to form a network of canyons favoring a counter, diagonal orientation. Warren College is situated over a mesa along one of the more prominent of these canyons. The mesa acts as a terminus for a through-campus, diagonally-oriented circulation corridor that originates at the intersection of North Torrey Pines Road and La Jolla Shores Drive.

The predominant image of the UCSD campus is its native and naturalized landscape. The eucalyptus groves on the ridges screen development and create precincts of open space with a distinctive rustic feel. The groves limit long ground-level vistas while forcing a free-flowing, meandering circulation through them. The native vegetation, primarily Coastal Sage Scrub and related communities, follows the undisturbed slopes of the canyons. Being low in height, this vegetation allows open vistas from the promontories. The valuable native vegetation has been incorporated into The Park for study and preservation.

Warren College's exposure to the canyons' open, rustic character and diagonal orientation affords planning and design opportunities that are unique on campus.
Figure 4  College Context
THE COLLEGE CONTEXT

*Urban Form:* Warren College is currently organized by a series of axes and terminal "events," or nodes, oriented along both the overall campus orthogonal grid and the diagonal circulation corridor. These axial paths and nodes are hierarchically arranged according to their function and spatial prominence (*Figure 4*).

Warren Mall is the principle organizing element for the orthogonal or "academic grid." Naturally all of the existing research buildings are likewise orientated on this grid. The north-south walks and vistas from Pepper Canyon and University Center extend through the core of Warren College to the open space beyond. These are perpendicular to the east-west axes of Matthews Lane, Warren Mall, and service roads and reinforce the orthogonal grid.

In contrast to the "academic" grid is the diagonal, or "land" vector, defined by Mandeville Walk and the path from the Mall to the residential complex. The former visually terminates on one of EBU I's vertical office wings while the latter points directly towards the neon sculpture atop the Structures Lab. The housing walk has the potential for continuing through the existing and new residential complexes to the tip of the mesa, thus strengthening the campus' unique diagonal corridor.
Environment: The college is shielded from the west by the central campus ridge and eucalyptus parkland. While the ridge mitigates excessive coastal winds from sweeping through the college, the mesa is nonetheless subject to sustained breezes that on cool days can become a source of discomfort for outdoor passive activities, such as group seating.

Building forms can have a significant impact on how the sun and wind either improve or diminish the level of environmental comfort. The Mall, which will be framed by buildings, will tend to channel and increase the velocity of the wind as it passes through it. However, its east-west orientation affords maximum sunlight penetration in the late fall and winter months, mitigating the wind impact. The Mall will nonetheless require further treatment to ensure that an optimum level of comfort for gathering is achieved.

The Landscape: Within the overall context of the campus landscape, Warren College is distinguished by its rustic landscape setting. To the north and east, the natural canyon, protected as The Park, forms a strong boundary (Figure 5). Views east from Warren Mall, on exceptionally clear days only, look toward the distant mountains, although much will be blocked by the construction of EBU II at the terminus of the mall. West of the college, the eucalyptus groves and ravines dominate the landscape and screen it from development to the west. Dispersed plantings of eucalyptus at the southern edge of the college do not contribute to the image of the college.

Powers Fault, a recorded geologic earthquake fault, runs through Warren College, paralleling the landform diagonal. Site specific investigations at each future building site will be necessary to determine the appropriate mitigations.

The views to the Central Library from both Interstate 5 and Genesee Avenue are considered important for campus identity and image. The viewshed passes through the northern portion of Warren College, including the northern parking lot (Lot 502) and a portion of EBU I. This viewshed also impacts approximately one acre of developable land in the academic core west of EBU I and the development potential of parking lot 502. Because of the existing mesa and canyon landform configuration, the view to the Library Forum is blocked, allowing only vistas to the main structure above. Therefore, any development in the one acre academic site must not protrude above the "hidden" zone, restricting development to below ten feet in height. The Master Plan proposes play fields on the parking lot within this viewshed rather than structures to further maintain the open views.
Figure 5  Warren College and the Rustic Edge

Figure 6  Warren Mall

Figure 7  Architectural Character, EBU I
**Architectural Form:** Within Warren College, the context created by the existing buildings and spaces suggest parameters for new development. The consistent elements of the academic buildings are their frontage on Warren Mall, their building materials and color, their orthogonal expression of volumes and their systematic identification of functional parts, office wings, labs, circulation, etc.

Four existing buildings define the edges of Warren Mall: CMRR, Powell Structures Lab, and I&R on the south side, and EBU I on the north. The CMRR and I&R facilities are low-scale structures with large floor areas, each with limited windows facing onto Warren Mall. CMRR is two stories in height and expresses its entrances by overhangs and transparent walls while its mass is diminished by the stepping and recessing of its surface planes. I&R’s large building area is four stories in height and divided into separate classroom and office wings. EBU I, on the north side of the Mall, is a large, seven-story facility that effectively breaks its mass by dividing the volume into smaller pieces, using glass to reflect the landscape, recessing parts of the facade, and punctuating its parapet line at circulation and entry points (*Figure 6*).

A palette of materials used on these buildings include concrete, either poured in place or precast, glass, and painted metal trims. Colors tend towards the grey and cream of concrete and the terracotta and reds of painted metals (*Figure 7*).

The existing housing at Warren College is dense and monotonous in character. The apartments are five- and six-story buildings arranged in connected clusters that focus on small courtyards. The courtyards help define private areas and mitigate against a uniform spatial experience. However, the unrelenting use of gray concrete and concrete block give the complex a massive, monotonous quality. Paint application and new landscaping is currently under consideration to improve its appearance.
CONTEXT ANALYSIS

The following is an analysis of the key contextual features that identify the college as a unique place in campus and how they should serve to generate a unique neighborhood identity.

Structure: The arrangement of linear corridors focusing on architectural and art landmarks yields a clear, formal urban structure in Warren College. It suggests that a system of edges, paths and nodes organizes the place. This sense of structure should be developed further: open corridors should be framed, new corridors should be marked by visual monuments and nodes should be placed at major corridor connections. The neighborhood should feel like an organized, fitted arrangement of parts, surfaces, solids, and monuments and the space that binds them.

The Grids: Warren College is the only area of campus to comprise two distinctive and contrasting grid patterns by which buildings and paths are organized. One grid, oriented along the cardinal points of the compass, underlies the academic district of the college, while the other, on a 45 degree tilt, underlies the housing district. The urban form of the college should directly respond to these grids; they should be used, in contrast or in juxtaposition, as the basic structures that govern the placement of the "parts", as suggested above.

The Canyons: Warren College, more than any other neighborhood, is bounded by rustic landscape. It follows that the identity of the college is directly linked to the exposure and preservation of this landscape: views should be provided from inner areas of the college to the canyons and mountain views beyond; perimeter paths along the canyons should be provided; and, additional rustic vegetation should be planted where needed to establish a uniform boundary.

Districts: The College has two major land uses: academic and housing. While there should not be a physical division nor an incompatible appearance between them, each district should respond to its unique and particular form and environmental setting.

Library View: The Library is a major university and college landmark. Views to the library to and from Warren Mall and, more importantly, along the canyons to and from Genesee Avenue and I-5 should be preserved.

Warren Mall: The Mall is the college's central and major space. It is also the site where the diagonal "land" vector first encounters the academic grid and the site of two Stuart Collection pieces: Vices & Virtues and Snake Path. The design of the Mall should address and respond to these features. In addition, the Mall should become the college's primary gathering area. Considerations of wind and sun should guide the design to achieve a suitable level of comfort and amenity.

Several site plan alternatives were generated to test how the above attributes could best be respected and developed further. These are discussed in the following section.
Figure 8  Development Area