VI. WARREN MALL

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MALL

The UCSD campus contains many "formal" spaces, rectangular or square spaces enclosed by buildings or tree masses. Of these, Warren Mall is the largest in area and the longest, measuring approximately 140 x 700 feet, excluding the rise to the library (Figure 51).

The library anchors the west end of the space, an attribute that is magnified by the Stuart Collection piece "Snake Path" by Alexis Smith, which is situated at the base of the library. The piece consists of a walkway rising from the Mall to the library in the form of a serpent, allegorically referencing the path of temptation to the "Tree of Knowledge", which, by biblical implication, led to man's expulsion from Paradise. A coil in the snake contains vegetation "remnants" from Eden while excerpts from Milton's "Paradise Lost" are inscribed along the path in a vertical stone slab resembling a book.

Another unique feature of the Mall is its interface with Mandeville Walk. The walk is part of the diagonal pedestrian corridor that traverses campus from North Torrey Pines Road to the tip of the Warren College mesa. It enters the Mall on its southwest corner and exits on the northeast corner dividing the Mall into a middle circulation zone and two residual end zones. No other formal space on campus is met and crossed by this corridor.

The unique geometric interface with the diagonal corridor and the siting of Alexis Smith's art piece on its west end affords for Warren Mall a unique design opportunity.
Figure 52  Warren Mall Site Analysis
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS
(Figure 52)

Barrenness and a broken enclosure characterize the Mall at present. Not a single tree occupies the Mall within its paved edges, a width of about 125 feet, while the existing buildings that frame the space vary greatly in height, setback, and overall form. The north side is dominated by EBU I, a massive but well articulated building, while the south side is defined by four buildings ranging from two to five stories each with a different setback to the edge of the Mall. In addition to creating an uninviting, windswept environment, these conditions diffuse and confuse the axial view to and from the library, diluting the Mall's formal qualities.

To improve the environment, the design proposes a double-lined allee of Eucalyptus citriodora as the major vegetation element. The tall, robust yet graceful trees, while helping reduce the impact of the wind, will establish a stronger edge to the Mall, help scale-down the buildings and enhance the axial view to the library. To further enhance the quality of the mall, the use of leaf blowers and other loud machinery is discouraged.
Figure 53  Warren Mall Cross Section
CIRCULATION

Warren Mall functions as part of the main pedestrian circulation corridor that connects the residential apartments to the Price Center and beyond to Revelle College. It is also a major node in the North-South corridor that connects Warren College with University Center. In addition, the Mall serves as a fire prevention corridor to the buildings that face it. While the Mall should provide the amenity to encourage gathering and seating, its overall circulation and fire prevention functions must be maintained (Figure 53).

The minimum fire prevention standards are as follows:

- One 16 foot-wide lane at each side facing the buildings, varying from not less than 15 feet to not more than 25 feet from building face. Because three fire access lanes are provided, this standard deviates from the emergency circulation guidelines (Page 78 -- per Chuck Stone, Environmental Health and Safety);

- One 12 foot-wide lane running along the center of the Mall;

- End loops connecting the side lanes with minimum 45 feet radius;

- 25 foot-wide outlets at each end of the Mall, leading to the loop road and/or a service driveway (Matthews Lane)

The above has been incorporated in the Mall's design.

At each end of the Mall are residual areas lying outside the main pedestrian thoroughfares. These areas lend themselves for special treatment. The West area acknowledges and is sensitive to the "Snake Path" art piece which it faces, while the East area acts as the forecourt to EBU II.
Figure 54  Warren Mall Narrative Description

- **Dispersal**: The "tree of knowledge" disperses its "seeds" down the center of the mall; the knowledge vector is established.

- **Entanglement**: The forces of knowledge become tangled with the center of the mall as it enters the mall. A new structure common to both is generated but not fully revealed.

- **Assemblage**: Both vectors surface as a bounded, grid-like plot comprising "vectors" of knowledge; first fragment and fragmenting these in relation to the ends within the "new" structure. The "garden" becomes the precedent to the Engineering Building Unit II.
DESIGN THEME

Any design effort for the Mall must address the narrative implications of the "Paradise Lost" art concept. The questions arise: how should the Mall respond to it and how can the activities of scientific research and investigation be integrated into the story?

The proposed design concept (Figure 54) offers one possible answer:

If temptation led us to eat from the "Tree of Knowledge," which precipitated our expulsion from Paradise, perhaps it is through research and investigation -- of nature -- that it can be reconstructed.

While the reconstruction of Paradise is, of course, an unattainable goal, it has not deterred over 2,000 years of "paradisical" garden making, as manifested by the early Middle Eastern, Persian, Greek and Roman, Moghul, Western Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and Spanish Colonial gardens, whose heritage is enjoyed throughout California. This "Latin" tradition, as defined by the late Catalan landscape architect, Jose M. Rubio y Tuduri, espouses the geometric partitioning of the land into small garden plots where informal plantings of aromatic, flowering, fruit-bearing, or medicinal plants occur. Normally these gardens are enclosed and contain a central focal feature like a palm tree, fountain, or shelter.

Warren Mall incorporates this tradition by having:

- A strong visual boundary
- Geometric partitioning of the groundplane
- An informal arrangement of subcanopy flowering trees
- A focal feature at the east end: the forecourt of EBU II

"Paradise Reconstructed," as the concept may be called, is divided in three phases. Each phase is expressed in distinctive but integrated landscape forms along the Mall:

1. Dispersal (of knowledge from the tree);
2. Entanglement (of knowledge with the land); and
3. Assemblage (of the land, through knowledge, of the Paradise Garden).

The interplay between both the academic grid and the diagonal corridor are structured geometrically according to the interplay of the academic grid (the knowledge vector) and the diagonal corridor (the land vector).
1. **Dispersal:**

As the "Tree of Knowledge," the library exerts a symbolic pressure over the Mall: to manifest the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. Such a pressure is envisioned as an axial force emanating from the Library and traveling the length of the Mall to EBU II. This force is termed the "knowledge vector."

By the Library, the knowledge vector is raw, natural, not yet engaged by scientific research and investigation; it exists as a "seed" to be dispersed and harnessed. This gestating phase of knowledge is embodied in the landscape by the apron of wildflowers that will eventually cover the sloping base of the new library addition. Wildflowers, more than most other association of plants, symbolize nature's biological ability to disperse seeds and colonize new territory.

Thus the Mall's west "residual" area is kept in a soft, unstructured form that "carries" the seeds eastward. Planting in this zone is restricted to wildflowers and selected flowering tress that begin to recall the Paradise Garden (*Figure 56*).

2. **The Entanglement:**

This phase corresponds to the main body of the Mall between the diagonal corridor entry points. Because it follows in the college the orientation of the mesa, canyons, and main mountain views, the diagonal corridor is defined as the "Land Vector" (*Figure 56*).

This zone is envisioned as the interplay of the knowledge and land vectors. As they encounter each other on the Mall, a new grid is generated containing both vector orientations in symmetrical harmony: a square and its crossing diagonals. However, the new underlying grid, while regulating all features of the Mall, remains nonetheless "hidden" and reserved for appearance only in the east end by EBU II.

Elements particular to both vectors are present in this area of the Mall. The principal "land" element comprises the allee of the *Eucalyptus citriodora*, placed in groups of three in triangular, raised planters that "slide" across the Mall along diagonal stone strips. The strips are the only elements that directly reference the land vector (*Figure 58*).

The eucalyptus planters visually define the edge of the Mall while offering discrete seating areas which are diagonally oriented to the Mall to afford an optimum viewing angle. Where the University Center corridor crosses Warren Mall, eucalyptus are planted in flush stone grates to allow room for pedestrian circulation.
Figure 57  Warren Mall Detail Section

Figure 58  Warren Mall Construction Guidelines
The principal "knowledge" elements are square planters containing wildflowers and a variety of flowering tree species. They function as "vessels" that carry the "seeds of knowledge" along the Mall. The flowering trees are intended to further scale-down the space, providing an intimate setting for seating. The plants sit in a skewed grass apron to recall the loose and informal plantings of the Paradise Gardens.

The geometric center of the Mall, which also coincides with the crossing pedestrian corridor to University Center, is marked by a special stone paving feature.

3. **The Assemblage**

*Rising from the Mall's east residual area is "Paradise Reconstructed," the forecourt to EBU II. Following the Paradise Garden design precepts, the forecourt contains regularly spaced planters with plantings of a variety of flowering trees and a single palm tree symbolizing paradise. The planters echo the four-part division of the garden while referencing in the paving the harmonic convergence of both the knowledge and land vectors. The proportionately narrow, shifting spaces between the planters coupled with the varied plantings, intend to recall the intimacy of the traditional Paradise Garden (*Figure 56*). The lone palm tree expresses diversity and randomness and is off center to reinforce the informality within the structure of the grid. A vertical element, be it a future sculpture or the tall palm tree, will accentuate the terminus of the Mall. It is recommended that the design of EBU II's west facade be integrated to the theme and forms of the Mall.*

**THE EXPERIENCE**

Warren Mall, through its spatial enclosures, provisions of shade and sun, and enriched materials will be a place for all people. The area, which is currently foreboding today because of the wind and massive scale, will become friendly and inviting both to passing pedestrians and those willing to sit and observe.

Climatically, the Mall will be improved by buffering the wind through allees of eucalyptus, providing dappled shade with overhead canopy trees, and providing benches to sit in sheltered locations.

Experientially, the Mall will be improved by framing the library views with the eucalyptus, diversifying the visual interest with a variety of flowering trees, creating three separate, distinguishable areas within the large space, and providing separate places for congregation and circulation.
MATERIALS

Salt-textured concrete is proposed as the dominant paving material. To reinforce the overall concept of the discrete landscape (Page 69) the paving units, each a single pour, would be "fitted" into the Mall grid and separated by 8" wide, exposed aggregate joints.

The diagonal "land" strips are envisioned as field-fitted stone sections, as would be the raised benches. The paving stones would be set in mortar over a graded concrete base. Where stone paving crosses utility corridors, the detail should provide for easily removed and replaced pieces.

LIGHTING

A variety of light fixtures, bollards and pole types, currently exist on the Mall. The design proposes the removal of these fixtures with a uniform fixture. The type of light standard, its height, and spacing will be determined as part of the Campus Lighting Study (currently in progress).

COST

The cost for the Mall is estimated to be approximately $950,000 including contractor's overhead and profit and a 10 percent contingency. Given the Mall area, about 84,000 square feet, the costs average about $11.50 per square foot.

Appendix 3 contains an itemized description of the costs and cost alternatives.