

B. THE “LEARNING FROM” PROCESS

Although in this first phase of the plan we have been collecting data and working toward a factual understanding of the Michigan campus, here we attempt to engage the campus’ “many landscapes” at an artistic level. We have defined landscape broadly to include all aspects of the physical campus -- buildings, spaces and vegetation -- and all facets of its character, from urban to natural areas.

In this first phase, analysis has dominated, but a kind of intuitive awareness should accompany and parallel our more formal analyses, and from this “learning from” the place (as we put it) hypothetical jumps can evolve. These early thoughts on design, which may suggest or anticipate ultimate solutions or options, can be tested during the analysis.

The analytical process will evolve in response to dominant problems within the campus and its setting. These pertain largely to the need for connection -- physical and perceptual, pedestrian and vehicular -- between campuses. Lack of connection creates disunity within the University community. The resultant problems or challenges range from particular inconveniences to broad symbolic dissatisfactions. Dealing with them involves the study of activity patterns, physical arrangements, transportation modes and systems, and symbolic identifications -- fine-grained research where ultimately the detail can wag the dog and where hypothetical jumps may be inappropriate.

The intuitive process may both parallel and deviate from the analysis. It can be less problem-oriented, more joyous. From it, significant modification, not drastic imposition, should evolve -- if the campus is worth learning from, it’s implicitly worth maintaining and making the best of what it can be.

“Learning from” can later be melded with the broader planning process, to help in the formulation of principles and guidelines for design.

C. LEARNING FROM THE MANY LANDSCAPES OF THE “UNI-VERSITY”

The breadth and variety of Michigan’s campuses and properties present both opportunities and problems for a complex *uni-versity* that revels in both its unity and its diversity.

The introduction to this report described a wealth of diversity between and within campuses and essayed an interpretation of the University’s development given its landscape, topography and history. This forms the basis for our consideration of individual campuses below.

These descriptions see the campus and its components from the viewpoint of the overall; views of each School, College or Program from the inside out will be equally important to the study and must be considered in the next phases of the plan.

1. *Central Campus*

Central Campus is the most urban of the campuses, with strong physical connections to Ann Arbor, especially to the State Street-Liberty Street retail area. The center of town and its edges are a varied and vital context to the Central Campus. The density of the campus, its comparatively historic architecture, and the presence of many University-wide functions and images make it “central” symbolically even as the University’s eastward expansion moves it off-center geographically.

University-wide symbols. Many of Michigan’s most loved buildings, landscapes and landmarks -- including the Diag, Ingalls Mall, Michigan Union, the Michigan League, the Rackham Building, Hill Auditorium, Burton Tower, Angell Hall, and Engineering Arch -- are on Central Campus. These are emblems of the University as a whole.

Density. Of the University’s 36,450 students, about 23,000 are enrolled in schools and colleges on Central Campus. The adjacent commercial neighborhoods draw on this density and contribute to it by attracting many non-University users as well as North, Medical and South Campus students, faculty and staff.

Central functions and activities. Most University-wide administrative, cultural and performing arts activities and the offices of the President, Provost and Executive Vice Presidents are on Central Campus, which is important symbolically as well as functionally.

Historic buildings. Although only the President’s House and the Detroit Observatory remain of the pre-1870 campus, there is a wealth of historic building on Central Campus in a variety of styles and materials. Some -- Rackham, Hill Auditorium and Burton Tower -- were built for particular uses and have become University-wide landmarks. Many others -- like Lorch Hall, the Dana Building, West Hall and North Hall -- are generic, loft-like, masonry structures that have served a succession of uses, as teaching philosophies and technologies have changed.

Orientation toward streets. Early buildings on the original forty-acre superblock were constructed facing its perimeter streets; the central yard was a pasture and, as the campus developed, this “residual” space was treated less formally than was the perimeter frontage. Most outward facing buildings of the earliest campus have been demolished and, since 1890, campus plans have focussed attention on the central space with its famous Diag; yet many of the most symbolic buildings on Central Campus face public streets or pedestrian ways that were once streets. Street facades are generally more formal, classical and imageable than facades on the Diag. Angell Hall, Alumni Memorial Hall and the Clements Library, for example, offer symmetrically composed, columnar fronts to the street.

The Diag, originally a pedestrian shortcut across the superblock, is now the main crossing point and image of the Central Campus. It is the most important symbolic space on Central Campus and possibly within the whole University. Its design and materials serve the continuous ballet of campus movement between the most heavily used teaching spaces on campus. Particularly in fine weather, it is much used for recreation and “just sitting.” To quote Professor Grandison (SNRE):

“Michigan handles an unusually large volume of pedestrian traffic on a relatively small site in an urban context. In contrast, most large public universities are situated on large tracts of land. In this sense, Michigan is more similar to private urban universities. However, most private urban campuses with limited space ... have much smaller university populations and much less openness to the publicThe fact that the number of people per unit of area on our campus is unusually high means that this campus cannot easily accommodate the softer, greener ambiance of the stereotypical campus--that is, not without a very high degree of maintenance ... how effective the functional, open design of our campus has been. The design accommodates a steady pedestrian flow, which occurs rather freely in this limited space. Other designs could have resulted in chaos. This freedom of movement is true even at the height of use between classes, when the space accommodates mobs of pedestrians. Moreover, the design has provided remarkable opportunities for adaptive use by students and passers-through. On an average Fall day, walk along the East University, the Ingalls Mall, or even the less successfully redesigned Diag, and you will see what I mean. Students sunbathe on the raised lawns to see and be seen. Bicyclists zip through cramped spaces with minimal harm to others and park their vehicles conveniently. Classes meet under the shade of trees on sunny days, as people stream this way and that. Even the corners of the seatwalls provide for a surprising variety of interaction and uses. The campus stays clean and in relatively good shape, despite the heavy traffic and limited grounds personnel.”

Ingalls Mall extends from the Hatcher Library north to the Rackham Building to form a visual connection across the superblock. With its aligned buildings and formal landscape, it overlays Beaux Arts planning principles on this section of the campus and is a primary component of the image of the University. The asymmetrically placed Burton Tower, west of this axis, provides a counterpoint and, with Rackham, helps shift the center-of-gravity of Central Campus northward from the original forty acres.

Landscape organization and character. The courtyards, greens and malls of the Central Campus seem modeled somewhat distantly on English Medieval and more closely on American eastern collegiate exemplars. The landscape character of the greens and courtyards is simple and large-scale with few fussy elements -- informal groups of trees in lawn. Central Campus is generally a successful collection of spaces of varying scales that are linked together by “green corridors.” On a broader scale, there is little perceptual connection between the Central Campus and the Huron River flood plain, except at Nichols Arboretum or as you circulate en route to the North Campus.

A variety of scales. The scale of buildings on Central Campus varies, from residential-scale of houses converted to academic use, to the modest yet institutional-scaled Alumni Memorial Hall, and to the imposing Rackham terminating the Mall. In some cases, for example the juxtaposition of the President’s House across from the Law Quadrangle, the mix of scales is serendipitously charming.

Central Campus outside the Classroom Walls. The Advisory Committee writes, “...Central Campus has both shortcomings and positive attributes...places such as the Michigan Union and the Michigan League are quite unique to the campus and its secular life. Besides Rackham, however, there are few venues for creating a sense of identity with one’s peers, no faculty club, no undergraduate center that is the equivalent of Rackham, few identifying outdoor spaces besides the Diag and the Law Quad which create a vibrant sense of ‘home’ for the various constituents of the University community. Student circulation and movement patterns and places of intense student use should be given attention which is equal to buildings and spaces. The Campus needs learning centers, vibrant spaces where people will want to gather, taking learning beyond the classroom walls and making it part of the campus milieu.” Committee member Sherman James adds, “...the beautiful, arresting space directly in front of the graduate library and off to the left toward State Street is ... inviting for unhurried conversation, and I do invite colleagues to join me for conversation over lunch in this space whenever the weather permits. The problem, at least in my view, is that there are not enough such inviting outdoor spaces on the U of M campus.”

Ann Arbor’s classic downtown commercial district edges and weaves into the Central Campus. A few mini-centers make for picturesque and vital contrasts with the Central Campus and link it to residential areas they border or sit within. Churches of varying historical periods enrich the urban and campus context. The interweaving is perhaps best where the town-gown boundary is at midblock and streets have been enabled to retain their symmetry of activity on either side, as on parts of State Street and South University Avenue.

Parking at the perimeter. In some instances, a collision of scales and a sea of parking create a distinction and a barrier between town and gown. An example is the Thompson Street parking structure: to its west is a neighborhood of modest houses and small apartment buildings; to its east are University dormitories and administrative buildings. They are separated rather than linked by the parking structure and adjacent parking lots. Is the scale contrast urban, poignant, and in some way the sign of a living city, or is it merely disruptive?

Residential neighborhoods. At their best, the residential neighborhoods surrounding Central Campus have an American small town character that adds to the sense of a traditional campus. Some in the immediate vicinity, where University expansion has left little “critical mass,” are in apparent decline with poorly kept houses and yards.

Learning from Central Campus

Robert Venturi

The Central Campus as a kind of superblock whose rich variety and hierarchies of elements include:

- *Pedestrian Circulation:* A gridiron system of paths reflecting that of the streets of the town beyond; upon which is juxtaposed a system of diagonal paths through spatially ambiguous-piazas; upon which is juxtaposed a central axial “boulevard” connecting Hatcher Library and the Rackham Building.
- *Architecture:* Brick structures of generous scale, varying rhythms, and consistent heights that constitute a group of the most distinguished generic loft buildings to be found anywhere; that are, via their classic forms and varied ornament, anti-stylistic; that work, via their particular shape on the outside, to direct or border exterior space; and whose particular configurations of inside space can variously accommodate classrooms, libraries, laboratories and other uses over time.
- *Symbols and Signs:* Very little of, except for the Burton Memorial Tower which effectively symbolizes the center of the campus as a whole and constitutes an emblem of the University as a whole -- and in these ways enhances unity. And then there is the sculpture -- the Carl Milles we particularly love -- that enriches spaces, and signs that direct circulation, and poster boxes that announce events. Such kinds of iconographic elements can be developed to further enrich the environment and its symbolic content and identify place and direction within a complex configuration.
- *The Elements of Connection and Proximities and the Configuration of Precincts:* All of these elements work together to promote community, identity, and convenience within the central campus and have been analyzed via various maps that are part of this study.
- *The Landscape of the Central Campus.*
- *The Boundaries of the Central Campus or the Physical Relation between Town and Central Campus:* The edge of the campus can be explicitly delineated by a street as divider as along South State Street, North University Avenue, and Maynard Street where these commercial streets sit across from a comparatively quasi-rural campus and create vivid contrast and thereby whamo vitality. On the edge of the campus can be explicitly delineated by a sudden change along a street from quasi-rural campus on both sides to (student-oriented) commercial-retail on both sides as on South University Avenue where it is crossed by East University. These examples of vivid edging involve contrast. Other edges of the Central Campus are less explicit and represent interweaving more than edging. And from their ambiguity can also derive positive tensions -- spatial and architectural -- between campus and town. And from these juxtapositions involving diversities of parts and of relationships derives a configuration of center of town and Central Campus ambiguous *and* explicit that makes for a whole that is rich and vital.

University of Michigan: General Ideas Derived from Different Sources in No Particular Order

Robert Venturi

- COMMUNITY
COMMUNICATION
CONNECTION
- Dangers of landscape/prettification as substitution for urban/campus planning.
- Community input
- Interdisciplinary issues
- Exciting juxtapositions -- urban-commercial and American “rural” campus; vivid juxtapositions and, at the same time, ambiguities concerning the borderlines between campus and town.
- Identification of campus: the gateway identifying the edge vs. the sign diminishing the sense of edge and identifying place in general.
- Washington vs. Philadelphia city plans and the acknowledgement of diagonal circulation.
- Continuity vs. juxtaposition.
- Wayfinding via signage/iconography.
- Not expressive architectural grandeur
- ‘Main Street is almost all right’ has become ‘Main Street is almost flourishing.’
- Proximity and infill
- Acknowledgement of “bad weather”
- Frederick W. Mayer has a wonderful amount of history in his head.
- Challenging vs. overwhelming
- Technology: computer, web, LED
- Signs more than space and form
- The desanctification of the North Campus
- Hard edge vs. soft edge
- Parking issues
- Magnificent coming together of institution and commercial at North University and South State Streets!
- Picturesque river area vs. the grid plan above
- Very beautiful houses of all periods in the town
- Evolution vs. revolution
- Academic planning
- Housing
- Eventual emphasis on sciences
- Beauty and relevance of older loft buildings.
- Desanctify the North Campus with its commercial facing inside like a commercial mall -- how about some commercial iconography?
- More on appropriate desanctification of the North Campus: to enhance continuity and connection, and complexity and contradiction -- via pedestrian amenity deriving from increases in architectural proximities, architectural infill, and architectural openness (i.e., you can look inside and see activity), and programmatic diversity including commercial uses, and iconographic dimensions including commercial signs and aesthetic/historical signage involving varying media; decrease the aesthetic of harmony via analogy and increase that of harmony via contrast: diminish architectural, stylistic, motival consistency and accommodate valid juxtapositions for today for a multi-cultural institution in a multi-cultural time.
- Commercial areas: 1) Kerrytown, 2) South University, 3) State and Liberty, 4) Main Street.
- Kerrytown: a great high school and therefore families are coming back.
- Realistic planning involves not solely revolution or solely evolution but rational and aesthetic combinations of both.

2. The Medical Campus

Seen from across the Huron, the Medical Campus is an impressive sight, high atop a steep wooded bluff near a major river crossing. From various points of view, the Campus can also be seen as:

- *A dense configuration of large buildings.* An oxymoron, “autocratic pragmatism,” seems to apply to its evolution over time.
- *A hard rind with a swiss cheese center* (p.36): Its exterior ring of buildings projects little spatial coherence or identity except seen from across the river and flood plain. An inner epithelium of older buildings and courts is pleasantly scaled to the campus and city, but is considered in need of renewal or demolition. The inner campus forms a pleasant and well-used network of open spaces but these are disconnected from their surroundings. The space at the center (site of the Old Main Hospital building) may offer opportunities to connect with Central Campus. Wall Street could be seen as an extension of the Medical Campus, taking it across the river and toward interdisciplinary connections with the North Campus.
- *An automobile-centered landscape.* Because most patients -- and many faculty, staff and visitors --- arrive by vehicle, large spaces are auto-dominated and public pedestrian spaces are tucked into smaller, more intimate areas between buildings. At the perimeter, vehicles move quickly along roads which are uninviting to pedestrians. Parking lots, building drop-offs, and the continuous facades of parking garages that edge the ring road project the image of the landscape.



fig. 32. View of the Medical Center from across Fuller Road

A series of open spaces contributes to the character of the Medical Campus:

- *The Old Main Hospital Site.* The steps off Couzens and Observatory Roads, which once led to the entrance of the old hospital, now give on to an open parking lot below, edged with buildings that turn their backs to the space. This vantage point and its position in the topography and urban grid imply a significant formal spatial connection between Ann Arbor and the Medical Campus. A reformulated and re-landscaped parking lot at the old hospital site is planned for the near term; in the long term, the site could provide a location for an important University building linking Medical and Central Campus uses.
- *Pedestrian Passages and Courtyards.* At the northern perimeter of the parking lot a public open space runs east-west between the Medical Center and the Taubman Center Hospital. Building entrances open onto this space, providing good connections, but some are poorly marked, and some doorways are invisible. The character of the space is intimate, well-defined and detailed. The courtyard at the Mott Hospital is a pleasant surprise, with seating areas for people, trees, turf, and a well-placed entrance. Other people-oriented spaces are included in a few small interior courtyards, many of which use a special palette of plantings and materials.

We have received extensive e-mail from the University medical community. From these and other comments and our own observation, it is apparent that many factors affect perceptions of the Medical Campus:

- *Complex circulation routes* between buildings block direct access from Central Campus and from the inner courts of the Medical Center to the exterior perimeter.

- *Uses of buildings and spaces.* The Medical Campus is a complex mixture of academic, clinical, research and administrative uses. Within and around the Campus, retail, dining and recreational amenities for its users, including students, faculty, staff, and patients and their families are insufficient. Connections to the city from either the perimeter or the inner campus are difficult.

- *Topography.* The Medical Center buildings form a strong, bastion-like edge along the bluffs above the Huron River Valley and adjacent to the ravine of School Girls' Glen. The northeast edge of the site is one of the most dramatic topographies of the campus, with views north to the river and east to the Arboretum. Changes in grade around almost all edges define the Medical Center plateau and separate Medical Campus from Central Campus and other adjacent areas, isolating activities more than is desirable. For example, the Medical School and hospitals are isolated from the School of Nursing and other related medical activities west of Glen Avenue.

- *Views.* Assistant University Architect Paul Couture notes, “*Though it is true that the perimeter of the Medical Center is bordered by a ring road, parking lots and parking structures, much of the perimeter of the new Hospital facilities (and the newest Medical School research buildings) take advantage of the magnificent views of the river valley and nature. Some 300 patient rooms in the University Hospital have spectacular views of the river valley, each room with low, broad windows specifically placed to maximize the sight lines from a patient bed. ...The value of this view of nature was also extended to numerous public and staff spaces...*”

- *Pedestrian access.* Although almost all patients arrive by vehicle, many students, staff and faculty walk to Medical Campus destinations daily. Access from Central Campus is problematic owing in part to difficult pedestrian crossings, particularly at the intersections of Huron and Zina Pitcher and Zina Pitcher and East Ann, and across the Medical Center Drives.

- *Special buildings and spaces.* A few architectural gems - the Simpson Memorial Institute, for example, or the Detroit Observatory across East Ann -- and spaces are memorable and loved by those who use them. The courtyard at the Mott Hospital, for example, is a well-made surprise at the heart of the Medical Center.

- *Connections.* This section is by Macdonald Dick II, M.D.:

Strengths. *The medical campus has been virtually rebuilt during the past decade; only the satellite activities, by design, are outside the central perimeter. This internal design is characterized by its connectedness -- the broad corridors and high ceilings, the glass covered bridges, the circular walk linking many of the clinical*

buildings and encompassing the treed central courtyard are all well designed, executed and people friendly. These features are invigorated by the people who gather for the myriad of activities that take place there: concerts, picnics, ice cream socials, jazz bands, magic shows, basking in the warm (out of the sun) weather, lunching, conversation, grieving, counseling, meeting, contemplating.

Weaknesses. *This connectedness in the hospitals and clinics is not fully linked to the medical school and basic research enterprise. Further, the medical campus is isolated from the other campuses; only the Big Blue Bus Service and the computer network provide some ties (albeit good ones).*

Adjacent to the Medical Campus are areas that do not clearly belong to one campus or another:

- *School of Nursing.* Located across Glen and “behind” the high-rise North Ingalls hospital administration building, the School of Nursing is at the periphery of the Medical Campus, isolated geographically from the Medical Center and Central Campus. Owing in part to its isolation, some in the community perceive that the area is not as safe as many others on campus.
- *School of Public Health.* At the southern edge of the Medical Campus (or is it the eastern edge of the Central Campus?), the School of Public Health -- although more visible from busy streets and more directly related to the Medical Center than Nursing - - is separated by dormitories, Palmer Field and other uses from Central Campus academic buildings.
- *The Arboretum.* Nichols Arboretum -- part of which is on City land -- is directly across East Medical Campus Drive from the hospital. Established in 1906, the Arboretum’s dramatic landform slopes 180 feet from Geddes Drive to the Huron River; it is dissected by School Girls’ Glen and the Main Valley. O.C. Simonds, founder of the University’s Department of Landscape design, was largely responsible for the overall character established in the original design and layout, incorporating a “long view” and a sense of mystery that still pervades the site. Several early directors added plants and design elements of both ornamental and teaching value -- Tealdi’s Peony Garden, for example -- that continue to delight.

The Arboretum, which offers a direct connection to the Huron River, is a short walk from Central Campus; from its entrance along Geddes Avenue, it offers a spectacular view of North Campus. The Arboretum’s beauty and its physical and visual linkages to the River, and North, Central, and Medical Campuses make it an important central landscape, and its educational and research mission make it a valuable resource for the entire community.



fig. 33. Yost Arena

3. South Campus

The largest, most memorable buildings on South or Athletic Campus were built for particular purposes, which are reflected in their form. The purposes of Michigan Stadium and Crisler Arena are instantly recognizable. These buildings are emblems of their sport and symbols of Michigan athletics. The stadium is probably the building on campus most widely known by the outside world, given its frequent appearance on television. It is the terminal of a crowded but informal processional of visitors who wend their way to the football game from parking places between Central and South Campus.

These special events buildings must accommodate by far the largest crowds on campus. They generate intense parking

needs. In tandem with the Campus’ outdoor athletic fields, their requirement for ample surrounding space has given the South Campus a coarse-grained fabric of buildings and spaces. This coarse grain contrasts with the residential scale of the neighborhoods to the east, west and northwest (p. 36).

Cutting a diagonal swath through South Campus is a railroad track. The industrial sheds along its west side and the large parking lots to their west form the vast interior of this Campus (fig. 34). The workaday buildings here serve primarily Facilities and related functions, but also Public Safety, the University of Michigan Press and other administrative functions. Staff in these locations are distant -- geographically and perhaps even more so perceptually -- from their colleagues on Central Campus and in Wolverine Tower and from “even a bad cup of coffee,” to quote one South Campus resident.

East of the railroad tracks are athletic buildings and fields. In this area, buildings along streets form a distinct campus edge following the urban grid; Yost Arena is particularly beautiful and loved by many in the University community (fig. 33). The Intramural Sports Building, which -- with Canham Natatorium and Keen Arena defines the Hoover Street edge of the Campus and one side of the Ferry field track -- is also a handsome structure. The large scale of its central arch is analogous to the scale of the Field to the south and stands in lovely and poignant contrast to the houses along Mary Street to the north. The metal shed Track and Tennis building along the railroad has more in common stylistically with the industrial buildings across the tracks than with its more distinguished neighbors. Some street trees and a few ornamental plantings comprise the plant vocabulary.

The University Golf Course is located south of Stadium Boulevard, and includes frontage on Stadium, State and Main; the Varsity Tennis Pavilion is south of the course.



fig. 34. View of the “Interior” of South Campus

4. North Campus

North Campus landscapes range from the School of Music's clearing in a metaphoric wilderness to the centrally organized Engineering precinct. Some infrastructure and building siting has been based on Saarinen's plan, but the campus has expanded beyond the limits of the plan and deviated from it in many ways:

- Instead of a series of interconnected courtyards and pedestrian spaces at the heart of the academic core as planned, there is a large centrally organized space -- the North Campus Diag -- with a bell tower.
- The scale and footprint of academic buildings and the central space is larger and the scale of the family housing units much smaller than assumed in Saarinen's plan.
- Some roadways and buildings -- for example, Bursley Hall and the Baits houses and the curvilinear realignment of Beal Avenue to accommodate a large parking lot at the "front door" of the Lurie Building -- are more romantically, less orthogonally organized.
- Bonisteel Boulevard was planned to connect with an interstate highway, but the highway was located farther east and Bonisteel was not a connector. Should Bonisteel's width and configuration be reconsidered to accommodate changed circumstances?

The fact that the plan has been abrogated does not imply criticism of the plan or of subsequent development, the character of which undoubtedly arose from circumstances and programmatic concerns that could not be anticipated in 1955. An understanding of the place as it is today can help us formulate strategies for the future.

Scale. On this campus, the vastness of nature vies with an overscaled built environment -- "Central Campus with glandular problems," (DVSB) "utilitarian blandness ... aggravated by size" (Joe Vining). Big roads and vast spaces co-exist with bulky, largely unrelated buildings.

Character. North Campus major streetscapes feel like areas of access ramps to an expressway. The Campus's main open space is not yet complete, but -- although roughly the same size -- seems much vaster than its forefather on Central Campus; crossing its Diag feels more like a long trudge than a campus ballet. Small spaces behind various buildings, including the famous Wave Field, are a private relief to public vastness, as are the romantic landscaping of the School of Music and some remaining forest tracts. The character of North Campus buildings varies with their organization and placement in the landscape, but they are mostly large with unbroken masonry surfaces and their materials are mostly similar. Saarinen suggested the campus be united by using a single brick color. That's not necessarily bad, but the (honorable) bulkiness of the buildings and their uniformity calls for some variety in their open spaces and their landscaping.

Symbolism. A mythic landscape that never really was? Originally forested with oak and other upland hardwoods, North Campus' remnant hardwood stands have been supplemented with massive implantations of evergreens. But conifer forests have never been typical of Ann Arbor.

The North Campus as Utopian Exurbia. The mid 20th-century Modernist planning ideal combined the Romantic English garden -- without picturesque ruins -- and Ville Radieuse -- without rational slabs -- with a dash of exurban exotica. This gave the aura of the post-war research park.

Perceived problems involve many C-words:

- *Connections.* Lack of proximity and ambiguity concerning distances can encourage isolation among the parts and make for weak connections among departments and buildings. Is this a pedestrian or a vehicular place?
- *Convenience and Commercial.* "There's no place to buy a Sudafed," students say, and dining options are limited unless you get in a car.
- *Communication and Community.* Proximity would permit informal communication and communication would stimulate community -- lack of incidental opportunities for intermingling is a problem.
- *Crowds and Critical Mass.* Are there too few people on the North Campus to engender a market for convenience retail or allow a perception of safety?
- *Coherence.* Is there too much of it? Have the planning ideals been too much respected? Can planning that seeks a picturesque relation to an imagined natural landscape, produce solutions to the North Campus need for building density and problems of connection?
- *Controversy.* Connecting to the aesthetic and planning needs of our time may require a less evolutionary and more revolutionary stance here, to make the North Campus a place that acknowledges both its natural setting and the complex and contradictory diversity of our time. As it stands now, it only incidentally exemplifies the historically evolved Central Campus, yet it has gone too far in its development to return to the forest clearing. But an act of desanctification of this sacred place will risk controversy.
- *North Campus Residential.* Housing on North Campus is *fuori le mura* -- "outside the walls" of the academic core. With the exception of Bursley Hall and Baits Houses, most of the North Campus residential is family housing. Should it be seen as part of the residential matrix developing north and east of it that includes land within the University's properties east of Highway 23, or as a University enclave seeking better connection to North Campus life? Or as both?



fig. 35. North Campus Diag

5. East Properties

University property east of Highway 23 -- which comprises almost half the Ann Arbor campus -- includes several distinct areas, ranging from suburban corporate parks to natural areas. The Matthaei gifts represent about half of the University's land in this area:

- *The Matthaei Botanical Gardens*, at its main location on Dixboro Road is a 350 acre preserve that includes display gardens, a visitor center and a public conservatory. The Gardens were given to the University by Frederick C. Matthaei, Sr. and his wife Mildred Hague Matthaei, and are dedicated to research, education and public outreach.
- *Radrick Farms*, another Matthaei gift to the University, includes former agricultural lands, a fen, and an old-growth upland forest. According to the minutes of Regents meeting in which the gift was accepted (November 1961), it was given to be used "for the establishment and use of faculty residences, classrooms, a golf course, any desired extension of the Botanical Gardens and for other scholastic and recreational uses." Current recreational uses include a faculty and alumni/ae eighteen-hole golf course and a challenge rope course. Cross-country ski trails traverse the forest and south agricultural fields. The fen and the south agricultural fields are managed by the Botanical Gardens and are used for teaching and research purposes. The Radrick Forest has been used for Botanical Gardens research and teaching and Recreational Sports cross-country skiing since 1987.

Other University properties east of Highway 23 include:

- *Horner-McLaughlin Woods*, 95 acres just south of M-14, which is part of the Botanical Gardens and is used for research and adult education.
- *A Michigan Health Care* primary care medical facility and associated surface parking, built in 1996 south of Plymouth Road, convenient to the US-23 interchange.
- *Arbor Lakes*, a former corporate facility north of Plymouth Road, purchased in 1997 and currently occupied by several University departments, including some offices of the Information Technologies Division.
- *Parcels in the Ann Arbor Technology Park* owned by the University are near facilities owned by Toyota, Mazda, and other corporations, and are subject to the easements and restrictive covenants described in the ownership documents, including restrictions on use.

Much of East Campus is undeveloped, and within its undulating topography there are several distinctive landscapes, including remnant rural and natural areas. Fleming Creek, a tributary of the Huron flows through these properties. At present, it is in relatively healthy condition from its headwaters to its mouth. Fleming Creek watershed has a large drainage area

extending well into Wayne and Oakland Counties. Both within and beyond University property the watershed is largely undeveloped. Although the percentage of the creek within University boundaries is small, University land planning and development choices will have an influence on its future.

On a site visit, Dr. David Michener and Dr. Brian Klatt of the Botanical Gardens described to several members of the project team the value of the natural areas adjacent to the Botanical Gardens. Andropogon summarizes:

"The Radrick Fen and Forest are important representatives of calcareous fen and old-growth oak forest in southeastern Michigan. Calcareous fens are some of the rarest wetland communities in North America. The Radrick Forest is believed to be one of the few examples of pre-settlement vegetation in all of Southeastern Michigan. At present, these natural areas are remarkably undisturbed and contain a high diversity of roughly 300 native species. Many of these native species are regionally rare or endangered, including several orchids, lilies, and northern species that are at the extreme southern end of their range."



fig. 36. Radrick Forest

"The hydrology of the fen is intimately interlinked with the adjacent upland forest as is much of the wildlife which moves between upland and lowland habitats for food and shelter. The existence of the fen is supported by the unusual alkaline groundwater that seeps to the surface in the uplands and flows down into the fen. Such a wetland is sensitive to alterations in groundwater and surface quantity and quality."

Andropogon adds that the forest and fen, in addition to their environmental and educational importance, also have symbolic significance:

"On a cultural level, the Radrick Forest and Fen are a remnant of the ancient wilderness which once spread across the entire continent. ... The wilderness was a major factor which drew European settlers to the New World to carve a civilization out of the chaos of what was for them an unsettled land. The wilderness provided the raw materials with which they forged the American civilization we now know. The wilderness is also a concept, one rooted in deep, ancient corners of our collective consciousness. For the American nation, the concept and the physical reality of wilderness have been driving forces in the meaning of our lives and identities, and the Radrick Forest and Fen are tangible remnants embodying this aspect of cultural history."

6. Briarwood and Nearby Facilities

The medical facilities in Briarwood Mall represent the changing face of health care and the growth of the Michigan Health System. Like other satellite care facilities, many much further away, these represent the University of Michigan to those who use them. Medical care regional dispersion, *quo vadis?*

Wolverine Tower, a high-rise office building in an automobile-oriented environment is closer to the Briarwood medical facilities than to South Campus, but its activities are more closely related to administrative functions on Central Campus. There is little physical or symbolic relationship with other parts of the University. University employees here are distant from their colleagues and students; some would like to have the sense of belonging to an academic community.

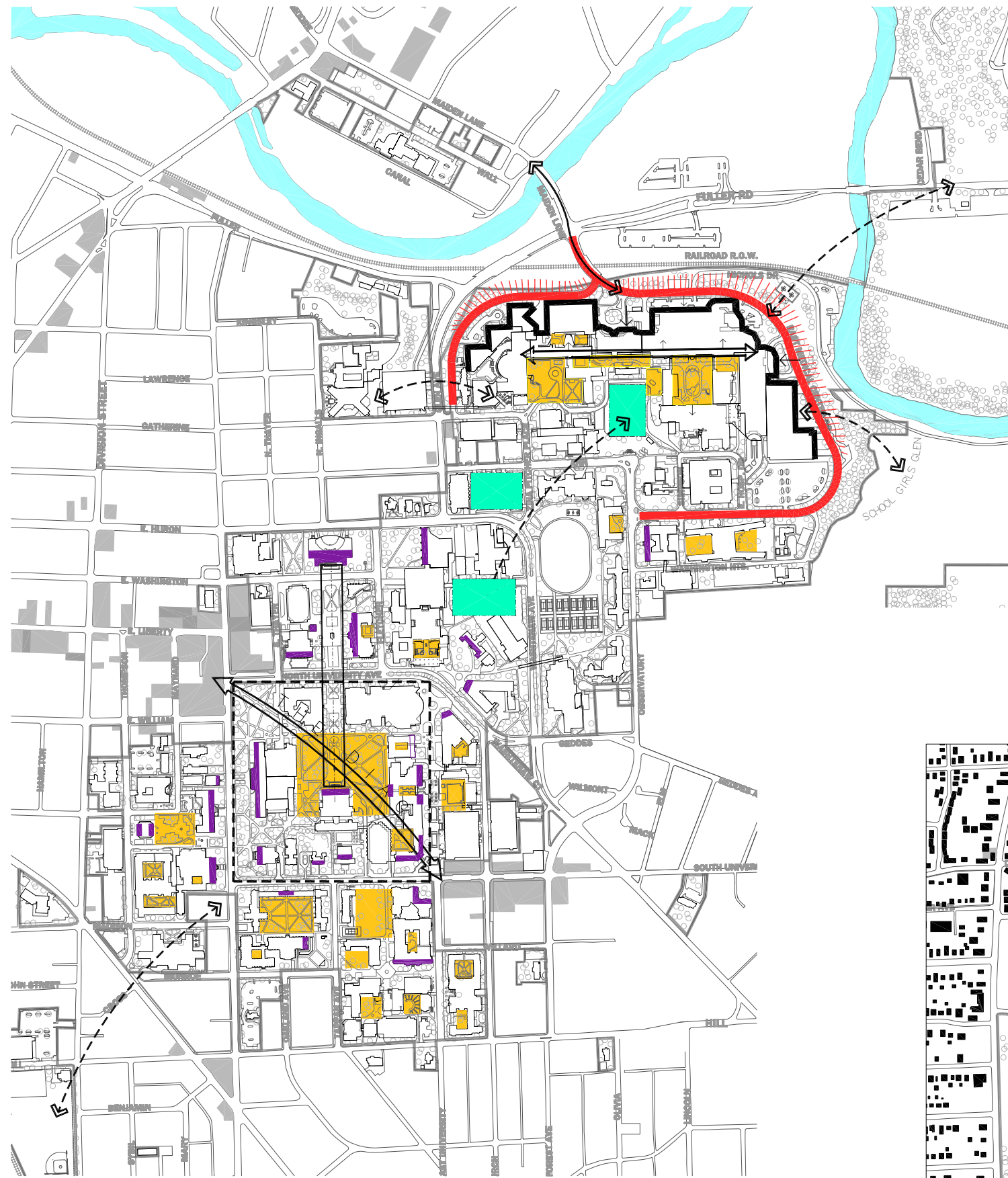
South of I-94 near the airport the University owns several storage facilities on Varsity Drive.

- KEY**
- 'Hard Rind'
 - Ring Road
 - Downward Slope
 - Major Pedestrian Circulation & Connection
 - Existing Linkage
 - Desired Linkage
 - Original 40 Acres
 - Symbolic Building Fronts
 - Mall (Symbolic Space)
 - Potential Building Site
 - UM Administration
 - UM Arts, Humanities, Business, & Law
 - UM Athletics
 - UM Facilities
 - Courtyards & Greens
 - Ann Arbor Retail
 - Ann Arbor Entertainment
 - UM Nodes: Michigan Union, Michigan League, & Pierpont Commons
 - UM Property

THE MANY LANDSCAPES OF MICHIGAN: MEDICAL, CENTRAL & SOUTH CAMPUSES

University of Michigan Campus Plan, Phase I

Base Map Source: UM Facilities Planning & Design
Information Source: Hatcher Graduate Library Map Room, UM Office of Space Analysis, Universal Map



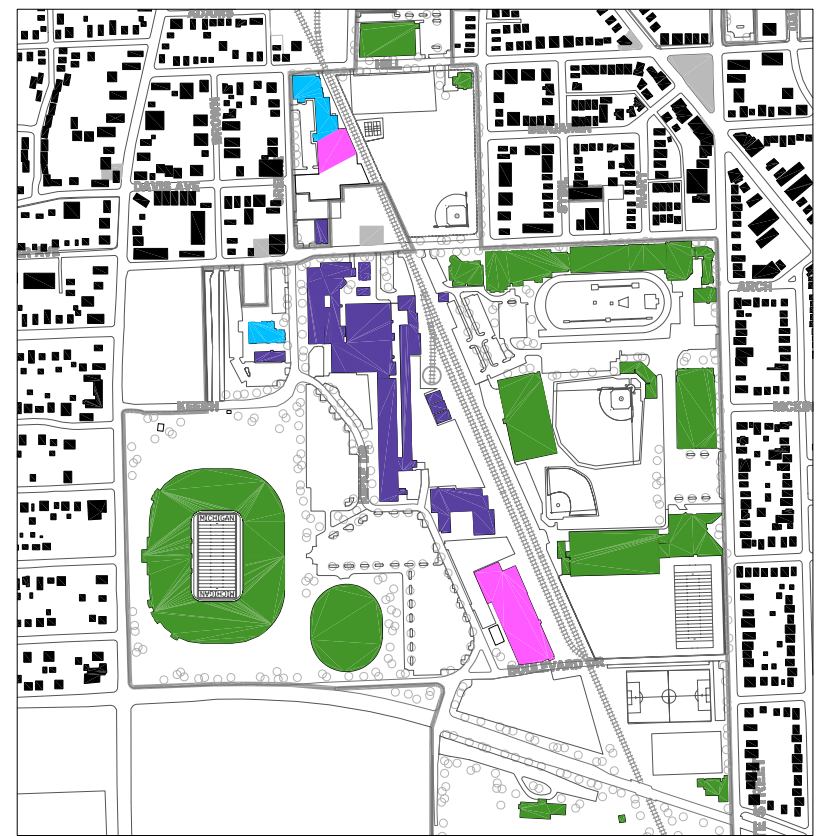
CENTRAL & MEDICAL CAMPUSES



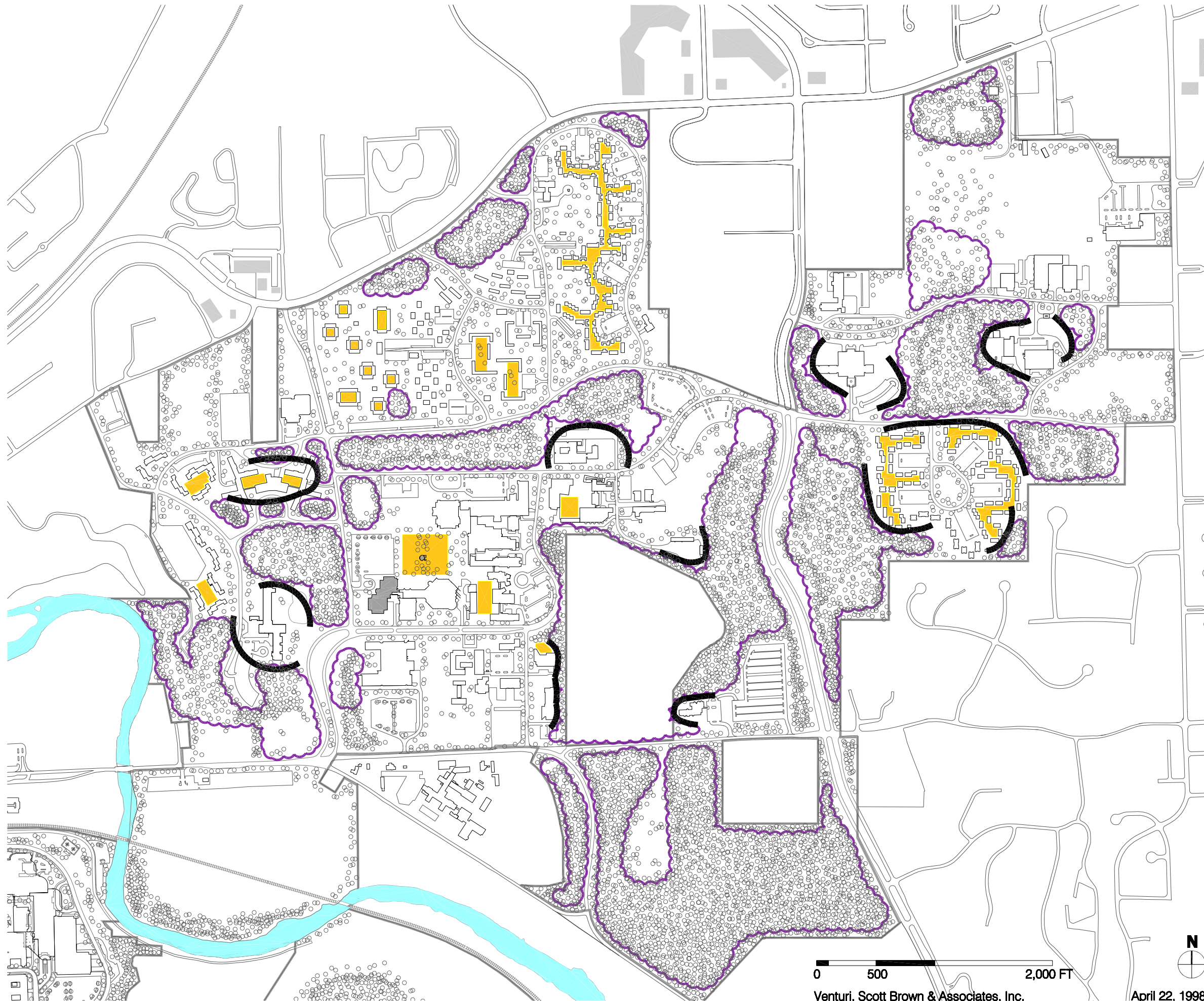
April 22, 1998

0 500 2,000 FT

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SOUTH CAMPUS



- KEY**
- Symbol-laden Tree Clusters
 - "Forest Clearings"
 - Courtyards & Greens
 - Ann Arbor Retail
 - Ann Arbor Entertainment
 - UM Nodes: Michigan Union, Michigan League, & Pierpont Commons
 - UM Property

THE MANY LANDSCAPES OF MICHIGAN: NORTH CAMPUS

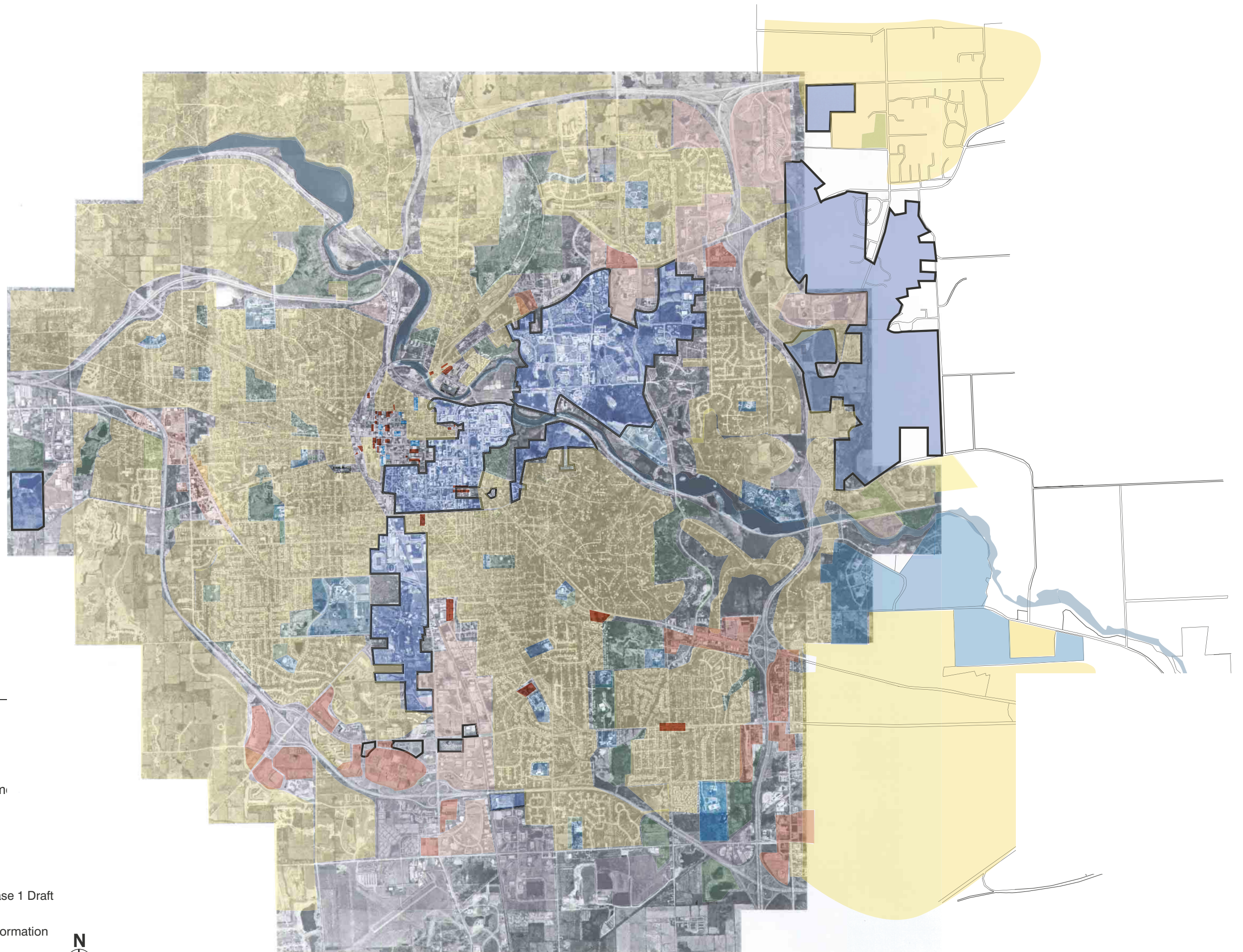
University of Michigan Campus Plan, Phase I

Base Map Source: UM Facilities Planning & Design
Information Source: Hatcher Graduate Library Map Room, UM Office of Space Analysis, Universal Map

0 500 2,000 FT

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April 22, 1998



KEY

- University of Michigan Property
- Other Institutions
- Housing
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Park, Recreational space, or Cem (Non-University)
- Corporate Research or Offices

ANN ARBOR: LAND USE

University of Michigan Master Plan, Phase 1 Draft

Base Map Source: City of Ann Arbor Information Services Division

Information Source: Discover the Ann Arbor & Ypsilanti Area Magazine



April 22, 1998

0 2,000 5,280 FT

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