

Bridging the Gap: A Red Square Transformation

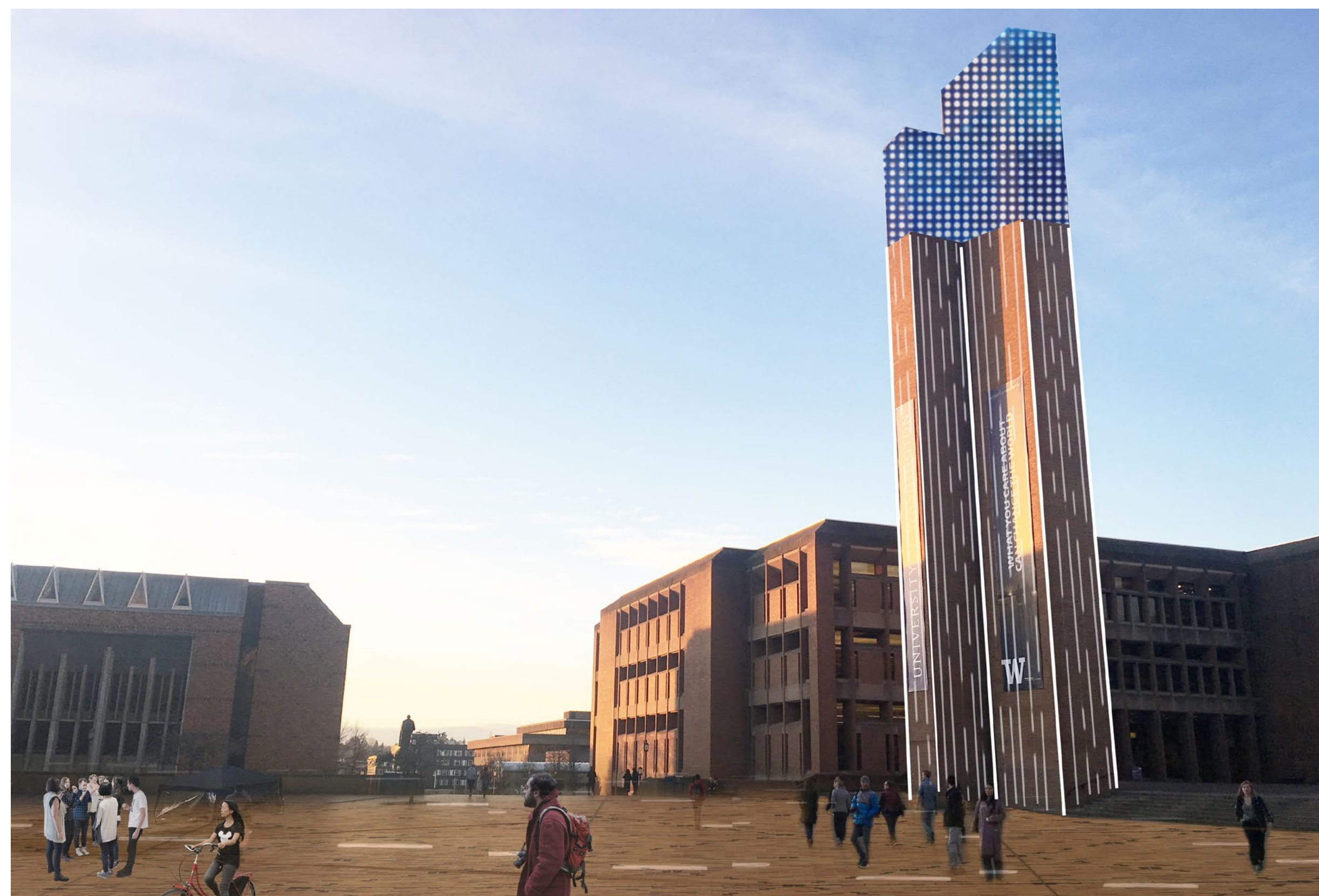
Design Statement

Our team's proposed design for Re-imagining Red Square focuses on access and connectivity. We realize that the biggest challenges of Red Square is that it has limited entry points with ADA accessibility, it's slippery and not visible at night, and that West Campus is disconnected from the square itself and the rest of UW. A historic re-design must come in order to make Red Square a fully functioning plaza for everyone. Our design suggests a full removal of the existing glazed bricks on the site and reusing them as a deck of a connecting bridge for West Campus and Red Square in order to retain the visual continuity of the enigmatic quality of the square. To improve access to the student plaza itself, this design strongly encourages an artistic approach to functionality. Floor lights are laid out like constellations on the expanse. They form part of an interactive light installation in which people can interact with lighting on the vent towers by stepping on the floor lights. Finally, projected art onto the three towering vents are an iconic wayfinding addition and a tightly hatched brick pattern on the ground plain that unravels into a looser pattern will act as aesthetic markers that point to main entry points.

Perspectives



To design a better campus, every movement of the space needs to be reconsidered, especially the west threshold of the Central Plaza (aka. Red Square). That exit plays an important role in connecting the West Campus and the residence halls. After school, most of the people either take the route from W Stevens Way NE or the route getting out from the west threshold of Central Plaza then crossing the bridge over 15th Ave NE. None of these routes fit the ADA accessibility. Some people have to go further north and cross the traffic light next to the entrance of the Central Plaza Garage. Our team proposes having an ADA ramp along the south edge of Odegaard Undergraduate Library. The ramp then stops next to the Visitors Center. The movements of people do not stop right there. They walk across the George Washington Lane NE and get on the bridge that is inspired by the hourglass shape of Rainier Vista.

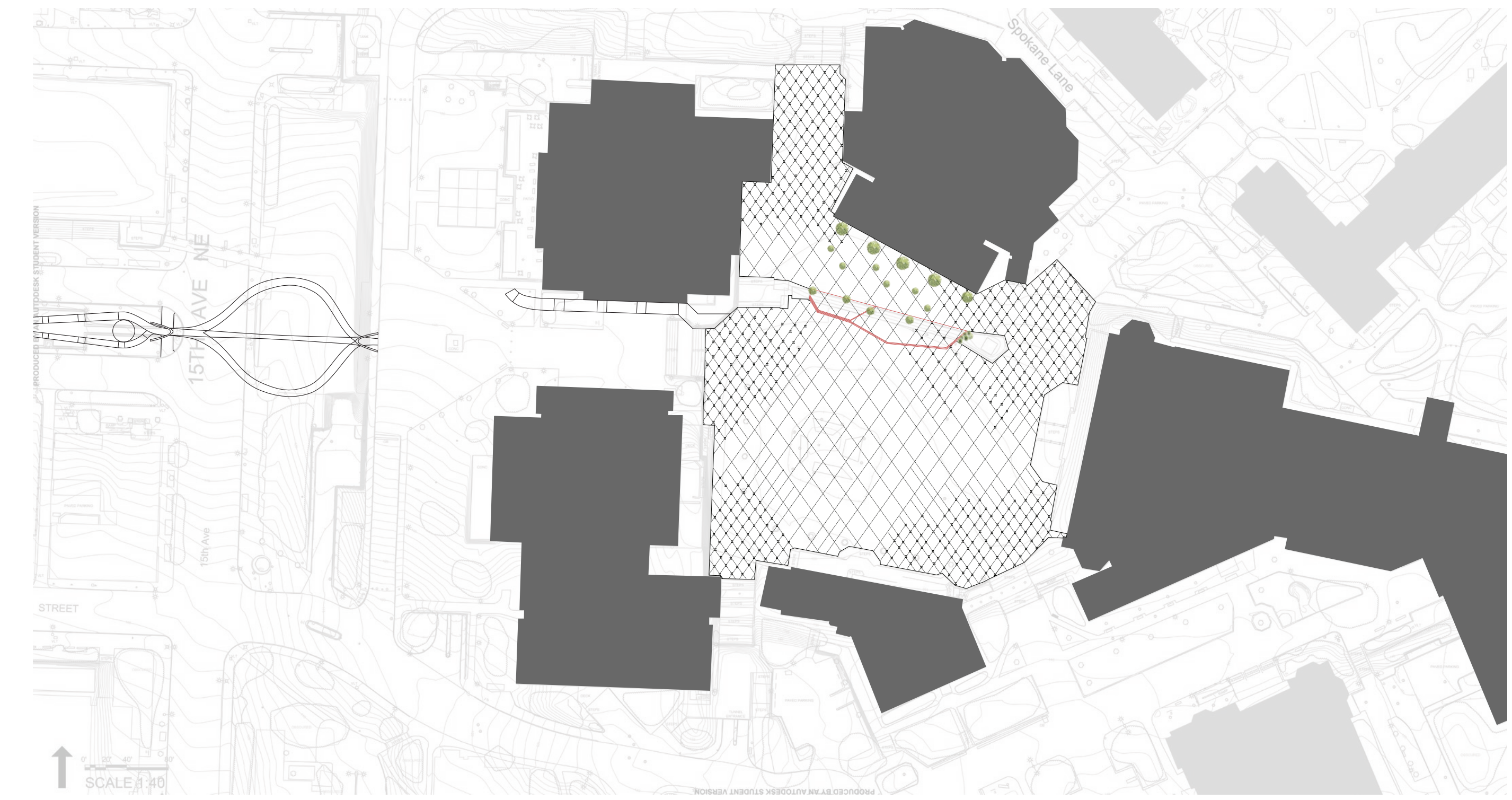


Artwork is projected on to the top of the vents towers to provide interest and wayfinding throughout the day.



The recessed ground lighting and vent tower lighting form an interactive lighting and wayfinding system. As people step on the ground lighting, they can interact with the lighting patterns on the vent towers.

Plan



Team 20's proposed site plan integrates elements of the Master Plan. The main purpose of this plan is to address the structural issues that students, staff, and visitors of Red Square have when using the site by highlighting and creating the enigmatic components of this heavily used area of UW.

Borrowing from the pattern of the multicolored brick of Meany Hall, the proposed design aims to use this pattern on the ground floor of Red Square as a means of wayfinding, whether its for students rushing to class or to urge visitors to notice the smaller scale details that make Red Square memorable. Modernizing and abstracting the pattern, small tight diamond shapes are laid on the main access points between Red Square's anchor buildings (Suzzallo, Odegaard, etc) and progressively loosen as one walks closer to the center

Precedents



The City Bridge De Oversteek provided inspiration for the form of our bridge which also utilizes brick.



The art installation "DayForNight" provided inspiration about using the vent towers as a canvas for light projections.



The bricks patterning on Meany Hall inspired our new ground patterning.



Views of Rainier Vista, Olympic range and Suzzallo library are enhanced and emphasized through an extended plaza from the existing steps.



Plantations with shallow roots plants soften the edge of Kane Hall and Red Square while protecting the building structure below.