

State Street / Library Mall Redevelopment
UW Public Comment Received
September 2013

The following is a compilation of e-mails received from the general UW campus community related to the redesign of Library Mall and State Street Mall (700-800 blocks).

Hi -- I saw two plans for Library Mall in today's Wisconsin Week. They both look pretty good except that you should put in the sidewalk that runs directly between Memorial Library and the Historical Society. Right now the sidewalks form an X on the Oval Lawn plan and no sidewalk at all on the Great Lawn plan. There's too much traffic between Memorial and Historical -- the students will walk over the grass and destroy it. Better to put in that sidewalk now. It would also be nicer in the winter when you cannot cross the lawn because of snow or mud. And they will walk through the mud and track it into the buildings. I do miss the fountain in the Great Lawn plan, though. The fountain is iconic. I remember goldfish in it when I was a student in the late '70s.

Thanks for your hard work on this. I'm sure it wasn't easy.

Regards,
Kerry L. Kresse
Physics & Astronomy Librarian University of Wisconsin -- Madison
4220 Chamberlin Hall
1150 University Avenue, Madison, WI USA 53706

By far, I prefer the OVAL DESIGN. Not only does it preserve the fountain, but the oval design offers a visual and emotional reprieve from the boxy buildings that surround the mall. The oval design would, in a sense, offer a relaxation of the mind and body and a diversion from the stress of study and/or work.

Karen Schwarz
Sr. Administrative Program Specialist
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After looking at the two plans for Library Mall and State St. Mall, I believe that the Oval makes the most sense. Having the diagonal paths through the green space is wise as pedestrians are going to take the most direct route, typically, to get to either the Red Gym or the Union. It wouldn't make sense to do a "Great Lawn" (when we already have Bascom Hill) that may end up with a eroded pedestrian path through it as people cut across it over time (something I've seen on every other campus I've ever been on).

If possible, I think a great idea would be to put the (or an additional) stage area at the eastern end of Bascom Hill, so you can have outdoor events with a huge expanse of lawn seating for outdoor concerts in the late spring, summer, & early fall.

Finally, I think State St. should have a dedicated bike lane and pedestrian lanes next to it, right down the middle, so that bike's can continue on from State St, with obvious speed limits posted (no more than 10 mph). This would avoid the need for bike commuters to detour around the mall (on University or

Langdon), and with dedicated lanes could keep pedestrians safe.

The Auraria campus in Downtown Denver has a system set up just south of their Science building, newly installed, that is a huge asset for their campus as it connects major bikeways without using roads.

Thanks for your consideration,

Will Chapman
Alcohol Conduct/BASICS Coordinator
Dean of Students Office
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I prefer the oval layout with the fountain. It seems to preserve more existing trees and is closer to what was there before. Also, the large pedestrian promenade cuts the great lawn into two pieces and looks more like an express lane. The oval design puts sidewalks in all directions of foot travel and will reduce the likelihood of a trail developing across a green space.

Thanks for soliciting input.

Betsy Wood
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Student Services
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Good morning,

As I feel so strongly about this project, I am sorry I am unable to attend the meeting tonight at the Memorial Union.

I actually like the great lawn design the best of the two designs, but I have trouble with not seeing the fountain included in that design. I grew up in Madison, my father was on the staff at the Memorial Library, so I grew up with that fountain. Yes, I understand I am very nostalgic, especially after watching my own grandchildren splash around in it. I actually printed out both designs and laid them on top of each other to understand why the fountain was not included. I still don't understand. It looks like the fountain could easily be included.

Please do not lose the fountain in this new project. I do understand that the University wants to update the look, but the fountain has been around for so many years, it would be a shame to lose a something that has helped give the campus its wonderful character. I don't know of anyone that can think of the Library Mall without thinking of that fountain.

Thank you for listening.

Sarah Westby
Receptionist
Laboratory Animal Resources

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Phone - 608-263-6466
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I hope all is well in Madison. This is Bryon Eagon, former 8th District Alder and UW grad. I am out in Brooklyn teaching 6th graders but I saw the article about Library Mall redesign and wanted to drop a quick line that both versions look great - and that my preference is for the oval quad with the interactive fountain. I also like the seat walls and stage area this design contains.

Keep up the good work,

Bryon Eagon

Hello - I did take a long look at the historic restoration option and I agree that the mall does need a "face lift", which is why I thought the great lawn design was a better choice. I especially like the idea of event stages and terraced seating as well as the relocation of the clock. But I also wanted to see some of the historic features, mainly the fountain, included.

Thanks again.
Sarah

Sarah Westby
Receptionist
UW - Madison
Laboratory Animal Resources

Hello,

My name is Rebecca Cooks, and I am a student here at UW. I read an article on the UW website about submitting a preference for the new potential lawn space if we could not make the various meetings. I would just like to submit my vote for the oval option. It still provides great lawn space, it looks intriguing, and it keeps the fountain in a central spot (my favorite part). Good luck with the project and deciding what to do with library mall!
--Rebecca Cooks

I used to be in the landscape architecture program at the UW but was generally uninspired by the status quo designs that constantly appeared in studies and student work.

Yeah your plans work if you want to plant grass and five linden trees with a sidewalk going through it, but what about something inspiring or unique or functional beyond filling space with typical lawn and pruned trees? The English manor aesthetic gets a bit edgier with an offset oval, but can't we aspire to a higher degree of abstraction, or include native and sustainable gardens, or edible landscape or something other than more grass and concrete? This is a center piece of the University, and I think it does define the progression of the campus into cookie-cutter, inefficient, blandness - no soul. Here's to pushing the envelope, here's to trying something creative.

A Umentum
umeuwe@gmail.com

RE: Reaction to the Oval design

Yes, you are on the right track. Green space is becoming so rare. Thank you!

Mary Treleven
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By far, I prefer the OVAL DESIGN. Not only does it preserve the fountain, but the oval design offers a visual and emotional reprieve from the boxy buildings that surround the mall. The oval design would, in a sense, offer a relaxation of the mind and body and a diversion from the stress of study and/or work.

Karen Schwarz
Sr. Administrative Program Specialist
McArdle Lab for Cancer Research
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1400 University Ave.
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I think the oval design option makes the most sense, with the sidewalks included, as most people will be crossing the great lawn to get to Memorial Union from State St. as they previously could and are used to doing. To me, it is also the more aesthetic looking of the two options provided, and might as well have the sidewalks there, instead of dirt paths worn across the great lawn.

Thanks,
J. Cannon
cannon@engr.wisc.edu

The fountain must be kept! The oval design allows for this. Also the oval design, in my opinion offers a more practical pedestrian traffic pattern given how foot traffic moves in that area.

John Staley
jpstaley@wisc.edu

Feedback (RE: "Or, if you can't attend.... <http://www.news.wisc.edu/22125>):

- 1) It is impossible to compare the 'Oval Design' or 'Great Lawn Design' to 'Something More Historic' when the latter has not yet been formulated.
- 2) Between the 'Oval Design' and the 'Great Lawn Design' the former (i.e., 'Oval Design') wins hands-down because it includes the central fountain in that plan for Library Mall renovation, while the 'Great Lawn Design' does not appear to do so.

- 3) It will be interesting to compare the 'Oval Design' to 'Something More Historic' when the latter becomes available for comparison.

Sincerely,

Ron Checkai

UW-Madison B.S. '72, M.S. '79, Ph.D. '83

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Dear Planning Team,

I am writing to provide feedback about the design of the 700-800 blocks of the State Street Mall and the Library Mall. In addition to providing green space and public gathering space, I would like to encourage you to please think seriously about incorporating adequate **bike navigation and racks/storage**. Whether the design officially incorporates bikes or not, bikes will use these spaces often - traveling through them and needing places to park. Incorporating bike traffic into the design from the start will make a huge difference in the appearance and utility of this space. In addition, I'd encourage the planning team to view bike routes and racks an obvious showpiece for the UW-Madison campus and the city of Madison - demonstrating green, sustainable transportation and living.

For what is worth, I travel to campus every day with my toddler daughter in tow (who goes to daycare on campus) and I am often shocked at how hard it is to find a **safe route or parking** for our bikes (and trailer). As one example, there is a low car traffic route next to Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery and Union South that is perfect for bikes. However, one portion forces bikes to go against traffic and the other portion forces bikes over a large curb unless they cut through a seating/sidewalk area next to Union South. These would be very easy problems to fix with proper planning, so I am thankful you are soliciting feedback at an early stage. I would suggest that if you haven't already, that you contact **Chuck Strawser** in UW Transportation Services (cstrawser@fpm.wisc.edu) to help with these issues in the planning stages.

While Madison is known for its bikability, there is still substantial room for improvement. Other campuses and cities have taken extraordinary efforts to truly prioritize bike traffic (e.g., Davis, CA) and I would like to see Madison move in that direction and be remembered for these efforts.

Thank you very much for your time and all your efforts.

All the best,
Ellen Damschen

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To Whom It May Concern,

As a current Madisonian and '13 UW grad, I want to thank you and the city of Madison for allowing us to be so involved in city planning. The Great Lawn design is superior to the Oval because it has more lawn space and it looks like a good study/hang out/family location. After 4 years as a student, the fountain area was never 'picturesque.' Even before the construction. The Great Lawn, on the other hand feels right. I do, however, think it would be better if, in the Great Hall design, the clock and flagpole were switched. A large minimalist clock's constant motion could become a fixture of Madison's. Think about it, it would become "The Big Ten's Big Ben" (sorry, couldn't resist). The suggestion may mean nothing to you, or perhaps there's no way to change it even if we agree, but anyways, just think about it.
Great Lawn, Clock/Flag switch. Beauty.

Cheers,

Brennan McCleary
bmcclary@me.com

Here are a few questions/comments:

**I like the layout of the "Great Lawn" option, but I really wish there was a central focal point like a fountain or sculpture. Perhaps, it could be an ongoing "temporary public" art exhibition as seen in these cities:

-<http://www.nycgovparks.org/art-and-antiquities/art-in-the-parks>

-<http://www.nycgovparks.org/art>

-<http://www.publicartinchicago.com/category/temporary-exhibition/>

1. What will be included as far as safety? I feel that the campus has become more expansive and accessible, which is wonderful. I will admit, however, I find myself feeling less safe at night. Will there be ample lighting? Emergency phones? etc...
2. At Boston University they have an expansive lawn dubbed, "The BU Beach". When the weather is nice in the Autumn/Spring, students opt to do homework outdoors not only because it is beautiful, but because there is an extensive WIFI network available on "The BU Beach". Could something like this be implemented at the UW? (This is why I like the "Great Lawn" Option. This is what I envision for its use).

3. I think the Fountain is a great idea; however, I think it should be more of a historical monument that is cohesive with the style of the memorial union and the Wisconsin historical society. In addition, I think it would be nice to have the sound of the fountain act as a calming white noise for those walking by or spending extended time there. I think this would attract people the entirety of the space rather than just an interactive fountain.

Thank you so much for all your hard work and effort! I have confidence that the end result will be awesome.

Sincerely,

Zach

Zachary M. Pereles

University of Wisconsin-Madison 2014

Bachelor of Science Retailing

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Dear Planning Committee for the redevelopment project on Library and State Street Mall,

I am Corinne Thornton, a Junior attending UW-Madison, and although I was initially against any redevelopment project for library mall, because in my eyes the mall was iconic and historic. All I believed that was needed was a fresh coat of paint or for state street to be repaved, and absolutely no extensive construction. However, after viewing the oval design, I was actually quite impressed. The design still highlighted the classic design of the area, with the clock (which I'm assuming is going to be the same historic clock tower), performance area, and beautiful existing trees, but with improvements like increased seating, a new entry way to Bascom hill, and a new display area and awareness feature. Also, the view of walking down East Campus mall towards the fountain is very visually appealing. One thing about the fountain though, what does "interactive" mean? I do not think it would be appropriate to make a play feature in the middle of such a classic area. To keep with the preservation of history, the standing fountain should stay. There's a story behind the quote, it's the union, it's memorable, it's tradition.

As for the great lawn design, it's awkward and has no central point of attraction. With all due respect, it's really boring. However, one big issue is the lack of walkways. In the winter when there's snow on the ground, which is most of the school year, there are very few ways to cut across the lawn. This would be very annoying to students on Langdon going to campus or students from the east side of campus walking towards college library. The stage area in front of memorial library is also not the best place for a stage because of the student traffic cutting across the mall along that path between Langdon and State Street Mall. The Oval design on the other hand had many walkways in different directions. Secondly, there are too many water displays, especially along the wall in front of memorial library. During the winter, the entire east wall would look dead, whereas the oval design only has the central fountain.

Since I was unable to attend the meeting today, above are my thoughts and I hope you take them into consideration.

Thanks,
Corinne Thornton

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As a current undergrad graduating in Spring semester, one of the downfalls about my time on campus is that I have only rarely viewed Library Mall in full bloom - most notably with the beautiful fountain working at the center. In my almost 5 years, I have maybe only seen the fountain open only a handful of times, so I think part of the redesign of Library Mall should keep this beautiful centerpiece so that when I visit as an alum I won't be a bit disappointed!

Thanks,

Concerned Badger
Megan mmlandry@wisc.edu

I prefer the oval design, mainly because people are going to cut across the lawn anyway. Eventually, they will have to put in sidewalks.

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Sara K. Yaeger skyaeger@wisc.edu
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Great Lawn!!!!

Reason: more grass, more energy

--

I-JU (Elu) TU, PhD Candidate
Curriculum & Instruction
School of Education
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Good Morning,

I looked at the proposed plans and would like to voice my support for the oval design. Based on the proposed plans, it would look significantly more appealing to the eye, and provide a much more relaxing place to study or walk-through than the Great Lawn proposal.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion,

- Devlin Hernke, Freshman
hernke@wisc.edu

My vote is for the oval design as it's more similar to how the Library Mall design has been in the past – I love how the sidewalks converge as I never knew, back when I was a student, who I might bump into where the sidewalks crossed!

Thanks,

Emily

--

Emily Konkol
Associate Administrative Program Specialist
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Hi Gary, I'm a staff person and pass through library mall area a lot. I like the oval. I think it makes a better link to state street with the diagonal walks. I would expect people to want to cut through the rectangular lawn to get from the union to state street if there weren't a side walk there.

Also, I heard someone mention something about a bike path? Is that still being considered? What about bike racks in the area?

Finally, I'd like to propose we keep the library mall smoke free and keep pushing forward with this concept for the rest of campus!

Thanks for listening.

Janet Niewold
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Keeping the oval, the walkways, and the fountains honors our history and combines beautifully with the open area down to Johnson. I would only add more seating opportunities and some tables, but not in the current style around Pres House (metallic and concrete), but more like the areas in west campus mall. I have seen so many changes in downtown campus area. Most are very nice. The only drawback has been the economy. Consider the impossibility of having pie ala mode on State Street, unless you sit on a public bench outside with the pie bought from one store and ice cream from another. And whoever heard of crepes, blintzes, and tongue. All of the eating establishments without liquor licenses close early. Going to the movies and then out to dinner is a suburban event. Rather than offer these observations as a complaint, I wonder the extent to which our social and cultural values affect the ambience or vice versa. Finally as the photos inside the library first floor computer lab attest, these changes are all in themselves transitory, and yet unchanging.

Thanks for the hard work and commitment to making the downtown an attraction statewide as well as for the residents.

Patricia Ferrara
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Dear Mr. Brown and C. Petykowski,

I just read through the, "Feedback on Library Mall Design Proposals Sought" article and I would love to offer my input! University of Wisconsin - Madison has just one main green, Bascom Hill. And, although beautiful, Madison could use more areas of green and in front of the Library Mall is the PERFECT spot. Forgo whatever other ideas you are throwing around the table about historical preservation and pursue the oval design you have crafted! This will add more green to campus, brightening up the primarily man-

made surrounding area. Not only will this provide more seating for the carts that are erected there every day but the visceral appeal will be the strongest of all. I hope you take my words into consideration. My roommate and I both adore the Oval Design Option and hope you carry through with that plan.

Claire Pearson

P.S. I think it's wonderful that you're encouraging the student population to send in their thoughts!
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Hi,

I heard that suggestions for library mall are supposed to be sent to the two addresses above, so I thought I'd put in my two cents: I hope the new design for the mall can give pedestrians a degree of protection from cyclists. I don't know how many pedestrians have actually gotten hit or side-swiped by cyclists on library mall, but cyclists are often riding so fast that it would only be a matter of a pedestrian changing course suddenly (which would be a reasonable expectation on a mall, which is intended for pedestrian use, and where bicycle riding, even though pervasive, is prohibited by city ordinance). And even cyclists who never hit anyone can have a substantial negative effects on the pedestrians who have at least an equal right to the mall's space. Especially with construction sites limiting the total space available right now, some cyclists seem to feel entitled to ask pedestrians to move out of the way for them, leading to an unpleasant and stressful atmosphere.

I don't know what the best method is for accomplishing this goal of protecting pedestrians. Some cyclists want a separate bike lane, which may at least contain the danger to pedestrians while also offering a convenience to cyclists. Possibly enforcement of traffic rules would work as well. Or, perhaps the new mall could be architecturally designed so as to make it more comfortable or convenient for cyclists to take Landon Street or North Park Street instead of riding through the mall. There are probably multiple ways of addressing this issue, but I hope, whatever is decided, the mental and physical well-being of pedestrians is kept in mind.

Best,
Victor Lenthe

lenthe@wisc.edu

Hello,

I like the Oval design plan. I think it's nice that there's a lot of places to sit and things to do in it, and I also think that the larger number of pathways would make it more efficient to move through. Thanks for you consideration, I can't wait to see how it turns out no matter what design you go with.

Hollyanne Penzkover
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First off, thank you for accepting feedback from those of us student who cannot attend the public meetings and also for just taking students into account at all. I am a fifth year engineering student in construction management so I completely understand the logistics of what the university is trying to accomplish and the logistics of these projects. However the opinion of many of my friends through many thoughtful visits to the terrace through the current "library mall" that we all just miss having a mall. If there is any opinion that I could express it would be simply finish the project. The almost constant construction in that area has robbed almost two years of UW students of any mall at all and replaced it

with an inconvenient eye sore. Both designs look great but please just finish it so that maybe I could take a walk through it to the terrace one last time when I graduate.

Thank you,

Zach Sageser
sageser@wisc.edu

Hi,

My name is Benjamin Raiklin. I am a PhD candidate in Russian History at UW-Madison.

I have been a student at UW and a member of the downtown Madison community since 2004. I would like to give my input as to what the mall area between the Historical Society and Memorial Library should look like. I am in favor of the Great Lawn plan but I also think a fountain in the center should be kept as well. The way to do that would be to have the Great Lawn split in half with a sidewalk running through its center from the Memorial to the Historical Society with the fountain in the center and the sidewalk going around the fountain.

Make sure to add plenty of benches throughout this mall and all other pedestrian malls on campus and NOT concrete benches (like on library mall or east campus mall) as they are uncomfortable, cold and don't look appealing. Rather wooden benches are best or metal benches.

Also, please make sure to have the pedestrian crossing at Langdon between the pedestrian mall and the new mall on the lake be much wider and more obvious than what you have included in the plan. People need to feel that they can cross safely and that the crossing is large enough so that many can cross at once. So, narrowing the street is a good idea but make sure to have that narrow part cover the length of the two pedestrian malls along Langdon St. That way crowds and bicyclists can cross easily and will be very visible to cars. Finally, the crossing needs to be well marked for cars on the pavement as well as with big street signs.

Thanks!

Best,

Ben

Benjamin Raiklin beraiklin@wisc.edu

Hello,

A few changes that I would like to suggest is in regards to the perched terrace seating next to Memorial Library. The back entrance of the library as it is gets flooded by UW tours and non-UW students, and I think it having the seating would encourage more non-student visitors into the library. It would also increase the noise level in the west corridor of the library since seating would be right outside of the west corridor window. I think the wall seating is plenty enough. Thank you for your time.

Best,

Nicole Velez

University of Wisconsin- Madison

The Posse Foundation, Inc., Posse Scholar

PASS AmeriCorps member

BLW- Bridge Lakepoint Waunona Neighborhood Center

Madison, WI 53713

608-310-4888

Nicole Velez <nicolevelez09@gmail.com>

Hello,

I just wanted to share that I took a look at both designs, and I like the oval layout better. The fountain would look really nice and the oval shape allows for more of a community feel.

Mia Rahmanim

(First year student)

mamamiar@gmail.com

How about a Wisconsin equivalent of the Stravinsky Fountain in Paris, one of the most idiosyncratic and endearing public spaces in the world. Surround that with party shady, partly sunny open cafe-terrace seating in summer for people to study take their coffees or food from the State Street food stands (or just to eat their lunch). Stick in a hundred hammocks in summer, and perhaps an ice skating oval before Xmas. That would be an iconic public space worth visiting, not just a place to hurry through from State Street to the Union.

Dan J Pell

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Hello,

I'm writing in support of the "Great Lawn" option as laid out in in a [recent news article](#) on the UW homepage. This option appears to be the best of both worlds -- it's still easy to get to where you need to go via walking on sidewalks, while there is more space for sitting and relaxing. This could be especially useful during the noon hour, where people now oftentimes find themselves sitting on concrete steps. It also strikes me as being a good potential study space, and on a campus of 30,000+ students it's never a bad thing to have more of that.

All that being said, the "historic" design intrigues me, and I'll be watching out for more information on it.

Thanks,

-Jason

Jason Pickart pickart.jason@gmail.com

Please consider these changes:

1) Oval: Make the oval larger and center it with the East Campus Mall like you did with the fountain, then remove the grass areas from the north and south areas of the crisscross (see attached picture). This would maintain the flow of foot-traffic on the East Campus Mall as well as the crisscross traffic by the fountain, while recognizing the history of the oval design.

2) Great Lawn: I think that the narrowness of the pedestrian promenade would be a bottleneck. Make the Great Lawn smaller and move the displaced trees to the grass areas adjacent to the flag pole. This would maintain create easy-flowing foot-traffic from State St to Langdon St., it would reduce the offset of the East Campus Mall traffic pattern, and it would provide a larger shade area.

FYI:

I love the idea of a lawn-wide water-terrace. It would serve many more students than one central interactive fountain, and the water terrace could be much more beautiful than the existing fountain..

This email is in response to the Inside UW-Madison email link that goes out to UW and UW Health employees.

[<insideuw@uc.wisc.edu>](mailto:insideuw@uc.wisc.edu)

Kevin Snell

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To whom it may concern,

I have a few simple ideas for the ongoing Library Mall project. These ideas are based off of my experience as a student here at the UW, as a 17 year resident of Madison, Wisconsin, and my love for this city.

1. Make sure there is plenty of bike parking room. One of the more frustrating things on campus is when you get to where you need to be and all of a sudden there's no where to lock your bike. I bike...a lot.

2. Make sure the stage is easily visible from all areas of the park. On the current plan, it seems like there are plans to have plenty of trees near the stage area. Trees are great and all, but when you have famous musical acts and speakers onstage, you don't want half of the audience's view blocked by a weeping willow. (Also, I'm very hopeful that the stage WILL be used for musical acts, at late night concerts as well as day festivals. Having good acts there will really brighten up the end of East Campus Mall and attract more students to Library Mall. Lots of people walk through Library Mall, much less used to actually stop there when it was intact.)

3. Make sure that the center of the Mall has some significant meaning. Historical would be kind of neat, but I think some sort of artsy work or cool (low to the ground) sculptures would work even better. For example, Peace Park on State Street does a pretty good job of conveying meaning through low to the ground masonry, which would be perfect for a hybrid common area/concert venue like the new Library Mall. The Muir Knoll memorial is another great example of what I can imagine being at the center of Library Mall, with just as much if not more creativity and a good amount of ingenuity going into what will surely be the centerpiece of the park for a long time to come. Take some inspiration from many of the new Washington D.C. monuments for this point.

4. Make sure the space is student/citizen friendly AND aesthetically pleasing without being cheesy. Don't scatter historical boards about Madison around the new Mall. Instead, make the message you're trying to convey longer lasting. Carve a quote by the founders of UW-Madison into the stone sitting areas. Create some sort of imagery that represents Madison, such as our Isthmus, and have this imagery placed on low stone structures in the center of the park. Have fun with representing our city, but don't be showy or colorful. The Peace Park and other such areas have enough of that kind of stuff already. Make the new Library Mall just as memorable for a student who walks through Library Mall every day as it would be for a visitor of the University from another country that will see the campus once in their lifetime.

I trust the architects will make very intelligent and informed decisions about the new Library Mall and I look forward to spending time in the new creation. As I said, these are just a few ideas from a Madison

resident that may help you reach a final decision when finalizing the project. As someone who was raised in a UW-Madison family and who's roots are based off of this city and school, I feel that this construction means just as much to me personally as anyone else who loves this town and University.

Please feel free to e-mail me back and continue this conversation or let me know what my ideas will be used for, if they are used at all.

Thank You,

Paul Blazeovich
Sophomore Undergraduate Student
WSUM DJ
Daily Cardinal Arts Columnist
Lifelong Enthusiastic Badger Fan

Mr. Brown -

I love what you're doing with the on-going campus design. Please keep up the fine work.

Personally I prefer the Oval to the Great Lawn for Library Mall. But the most important element to the design that I trust won't be overlooked is that Memorial Library, one of the finest collections in the country, is also one of the ugliest buildings on campus!

A graduate library of it's stature should match the majesty of the State Historical Society and Memorial Union, which by their proximity to Memorial Library, ease the pain of looking at it! Please lobby for a new skin or modest renovation.

Many thanks for making our campus more magnificent and user friendly.

Regards,
Rob Grossman '74
(member, English Dept. Board of Visitors)

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Dear Mr. Brown:

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the recent campus meeting on the Library Mall proposals. I have just a couple of general comments. I plan to attend the next meeting if possible.

Both the plans included in the pdf sent out to campus are lovely and some great features. The consideration of better seating for lunch eaters is a big plus.

Here are a few general comments.

1. Fountains don't work well on campus except for the one over at Engineering. Much of the year, especially the school year, takes place in cold dreary months where fountains don't work well or are not attractive. They are maintenance headaches as exemplified by the old Library Mall fountain. Skip them.

2. I understand the logic of putting a jog in the East Campus Mall but my experience with promenades in Europe leads me to believe that a straight shot here is better.
3. Both plans as well seem to ignore the historical connection between Memorial Library and the Historical Society building. In other words, there is no path or sidewalk connecting the two grand staircases. Again, odd.
4. I oppose narrowing Langdon. Maybe a speed bump crossing like at the Nat would suffice. Just too many buses, bikes, and cars negotiating this street to constrict flow.
5. Neither plan seems to care much about getting large number of people to arrive at their destination. In other words, the foot traffic flow is constricted by either narrow walks (oval plan) or lack of routes (great lawn).

Interesting plans!

Good luck,

Greg

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Thank you for taking feedback about the Library Mall reconstruction. I have some suggestions. I've looked at the planning documents for the two options linked in this article:
http://www.news.wisc.edu/22125?utm_source=iUW&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=iUW2013-09-17

- 1) Make all stage areas have ramped access for wheelchairs. That was a major disappointment with the Library Mall reconstruction of a couple of years ago, when the "stage"/"pulpit" area and surrounding pavement were replaced, no barrier-free access to the stage area was made. (This was at the same time as the reconstruction that led to Subway restaurant under Pres House which is also not wheelchair-accessible, for practical purpose.)
- 2) Consider wheelchairs and mobility devices when planning seat walls/seating elements. Can a wheelchair user eat with friends sitting on the wall? Will their chair be sticking out into a major pedestrian thoroughfare? Will they have to "park" on the grass?
- 3) Keep the historic Library Mall fountain, or at least some of its components--the stone with the saying on it, for example. I'm not sure what the "Interactive Fountain" is, but if it's anything like the one in Peace Park, it's not appropriate for the middle of a major pedestrian (and bike?) thoroughfare.
- 4) Have a designated bike lane with distinct pavement coloring and texturing (rumble strips?). Allowing bikes all over the place may work on East Campus Mall, but the pedestrian density on Library Mall always seems higher (especially at lunch).

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