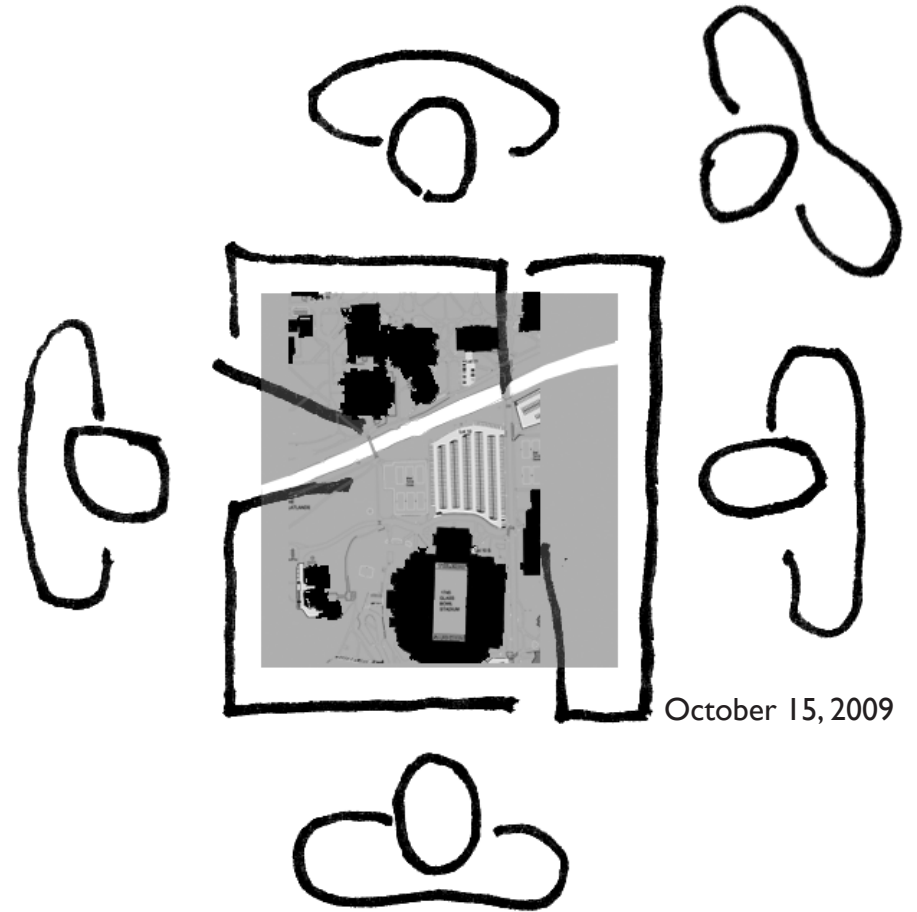


River Plaza Design Charrette



October 15, 2009

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Group 1: UT: Tammy Armstrong, Tyler Shepler & BGSU: James Crum, Augustine Meinzer and Nathan Gill

Group 2: BGSU: Jaime Sklenicka, Nathan Welch, Corey Black, Chad Ramsey

Group 3: UT: Preston Stallings, Raj Nagisetty & BGSU: Peter Ashamalla, Shomari Lambert and Scot McGee

Group 4: UT: Karen Gallagher, Ren Jie & BGSU: Hannah Lambert, Tony Nguyen and Jay Eckelberry

Group 5: UT: Roger Dindyal, Stephen Knittel & BGSU: Josh Lohr, Sarah Rex and Thomas Jacquemin

Group 6: UT: Terence Turner, Nick Ford, Kevin Thomson & BGSU: Ochuko Ewaraye, Josh Jagodzinski and Doug Stoots

Group 7: UT: Joe Kallio, Leah Mullen & BGSU: Tyler Mikolajczak, Nathan Brown and Matthew Buyer

Group 8: UT: Jesse Villalon, Neal Mahon, David Haskamp & BGSU: Brian Cook, Jason Mould and Juliana Barton

Group 9: BGSU: Jian Li, Courtney Wittman, Anthony Santora and Matt Kisabeth

Contents

Preface	5
Campus Map	7
Figure-Ground of Campus and Neighborhood	8
Student Corridor	9
Curving Movement	13
Organic Connections	17
Pulling Knowledge	21
Inter-Relating Elements	25
Community through Green Space	29
Conducted Courses	33
Unobstructed Connections	37
Connecting Across River	41

The University of Toledo, founded in 1872, is well known for its Collegiate Gothic design and beautifully landscaped campus, especially the 1908 redesigned Centennial Mall, a picturesque lawn area in the heart of campus.

The first building on this campus, University Hall, with its 206-foot bell tower, is one of the most recognizable images of the city. South of here, across Centennial Mall, are the Student Union and the library, which sit on the banks of the hidden Ottawa River with the River Plaza area between them. The river, known on campus as Ottawa Creek, runs through parts of the city and then empties directly into Lake Erie. South of the river are the busy Dorr Street, which forms the southern boundary of the campus, and city neighbor

Despite its wonderful location, the river plaza has failed to develop an identity. It has weak connections to Centennial Mall and the bell tower to the north and the Ottawa River and the urban fabric to the south. There have been many proposals for the space. In 1981, The Collaborative, Inc., a local firm, prepared a planning report for the Ottawa River at the University of Toledo that included a recommendation for a student plaza adjacent to the Student Union. When the university completed a facility master plan for main campus in the late 1990s, additional design work was done, including the creation of conceptual plans for the plaza. In its 2005 report to President Jacobs, the President's Commission on the River made continued support for the plaza a key priority, with additional illustrations prepared by the Collaborative Inc.

A precedent for this design charrette can be seen in the University/Parks Trail, a six mile trail that runs from the university to Sylvania, one of the city's affluent suburbs. The trail links the campus to its surroundings and invites members of the larger Toledo community into campus.

On October 15th, 2009, sixteen urban planning students from the University of Toledo and thirty architecture students from Bowling Green State University joined forces in a design charrette format to generate design concepts for a student river plaza to be located along the Ottawa River. In an intense four hour collaborative planning and design session, nine groups of students their broad vision of campus transformation - a vision which was articulated in their composition of the plaza and then exported to all physical elements of the UT campus.

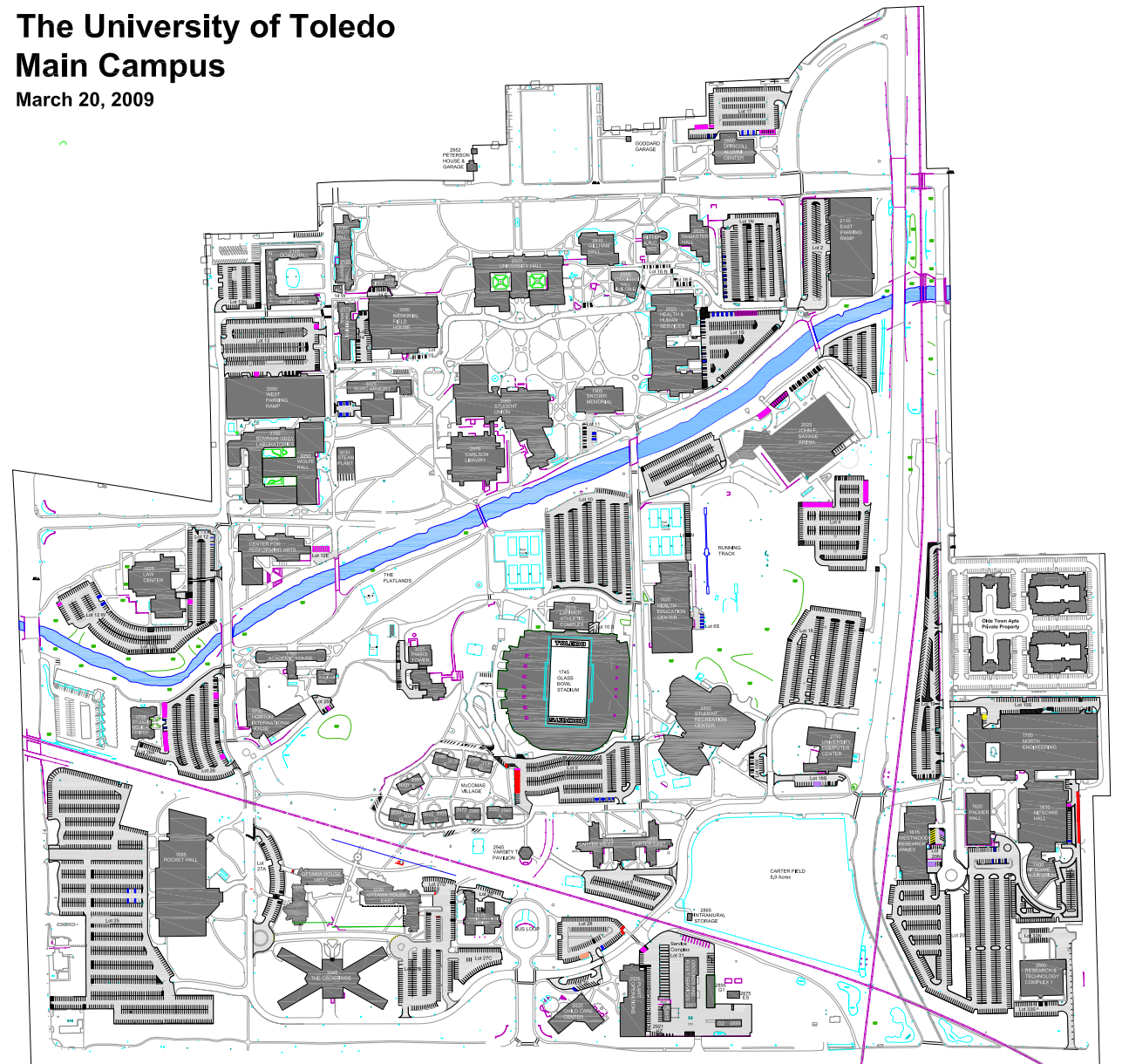
Each proposal includes a design concept or parti, an analysis, a design proposal and a schema with a statement. They are organized as follows:

1. Student Corridor
2. Curving Movement
3. Organic Connections
4. Pulling Knowledge
5. Inter-Relating Elements
6. Community through Green Space
7. Conducted Courses
8. Unobstructed Connections
9. Connecting Across River

Collectively, they offer a wide range of ideas, including bridging the Ottawa River, integrating the University Bike Trail, creating viewing platforms, expanding the green and plaza beyond its seen boundaries to connect to the city, repositioning existing paths, and improving the existing hardscape. These concepts can be viewed as exchangeable templates and offer ideas that future campus planning efforts may consider.

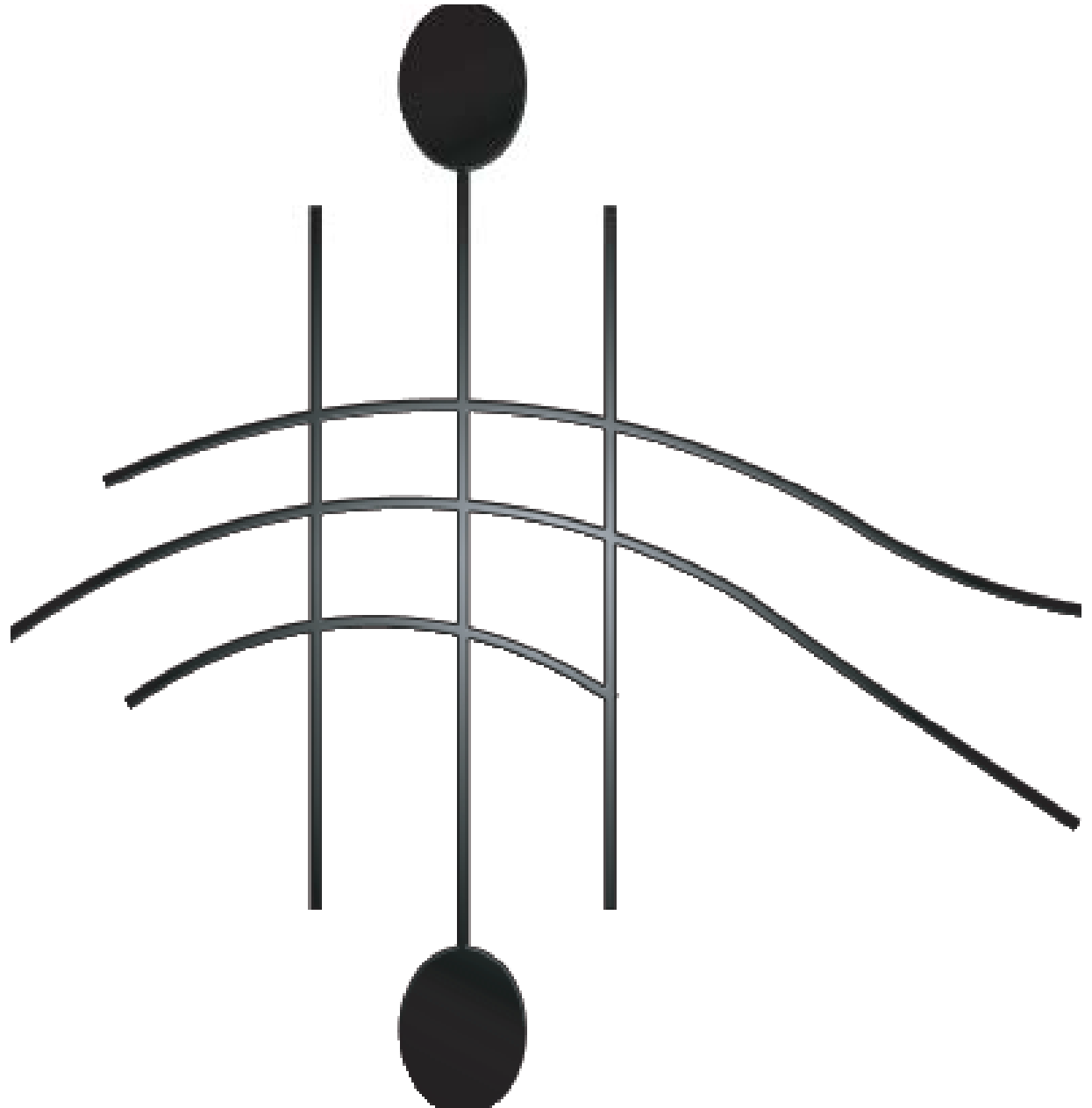
The University of Toledo Main Campus

March 20, 2009



1

James Crum (BGSU)
Nathan Gill (BGSU)
Augie Meinzer (BGSU)
Tyler Shepler (UT)
Tammy Armstrong (UT)



STUDENT CORRIDOR

1

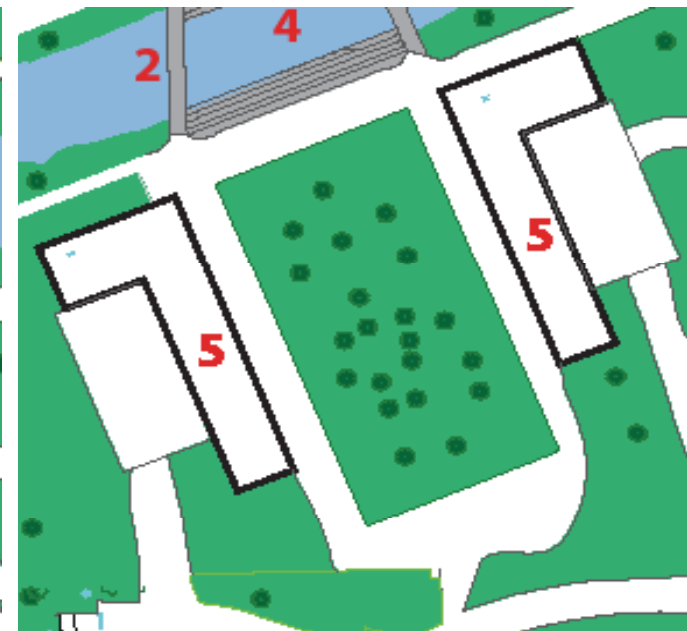
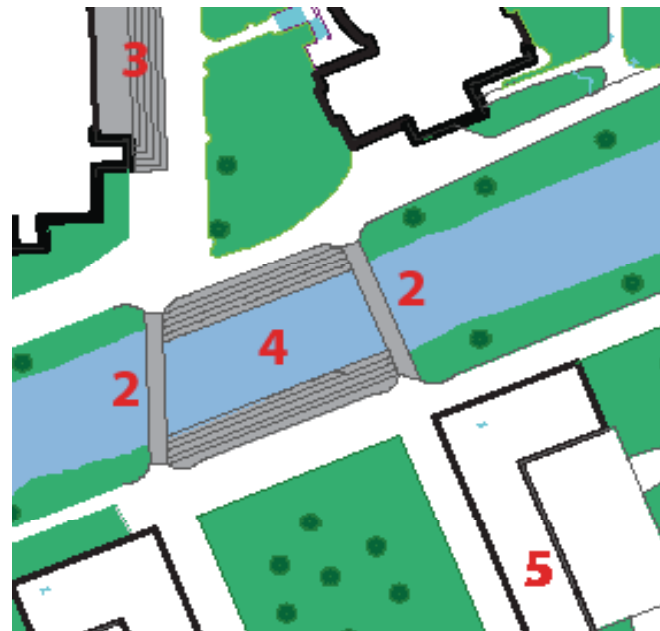
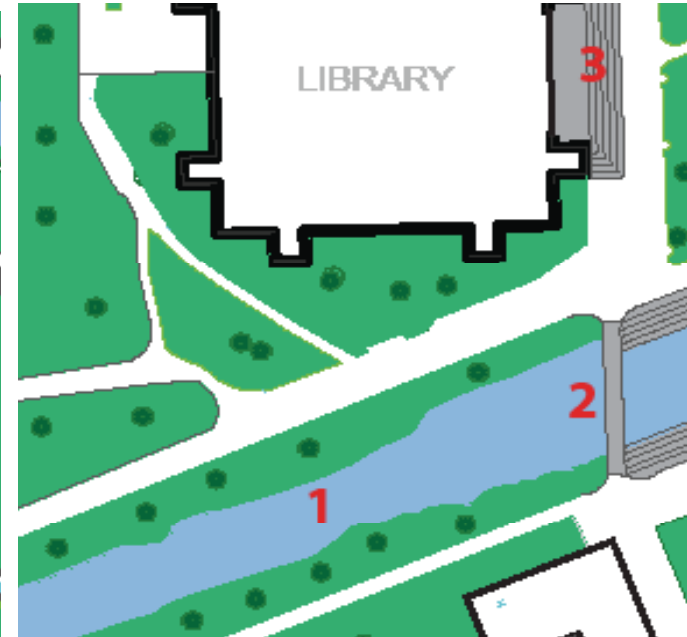
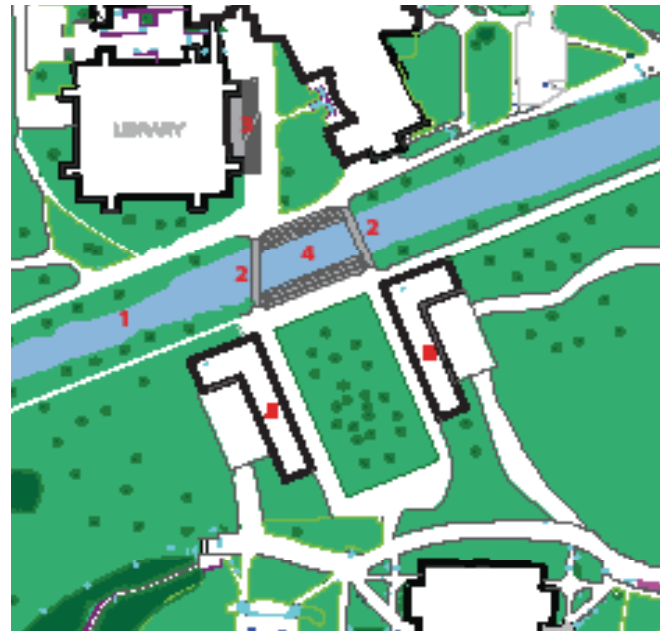
- .CONNECTIVITY
- .CIRCULATION
- .ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGAGEMENT
- .STUDENT INTERACTION
- .BUILDING UTILIZATION



Analysis

1

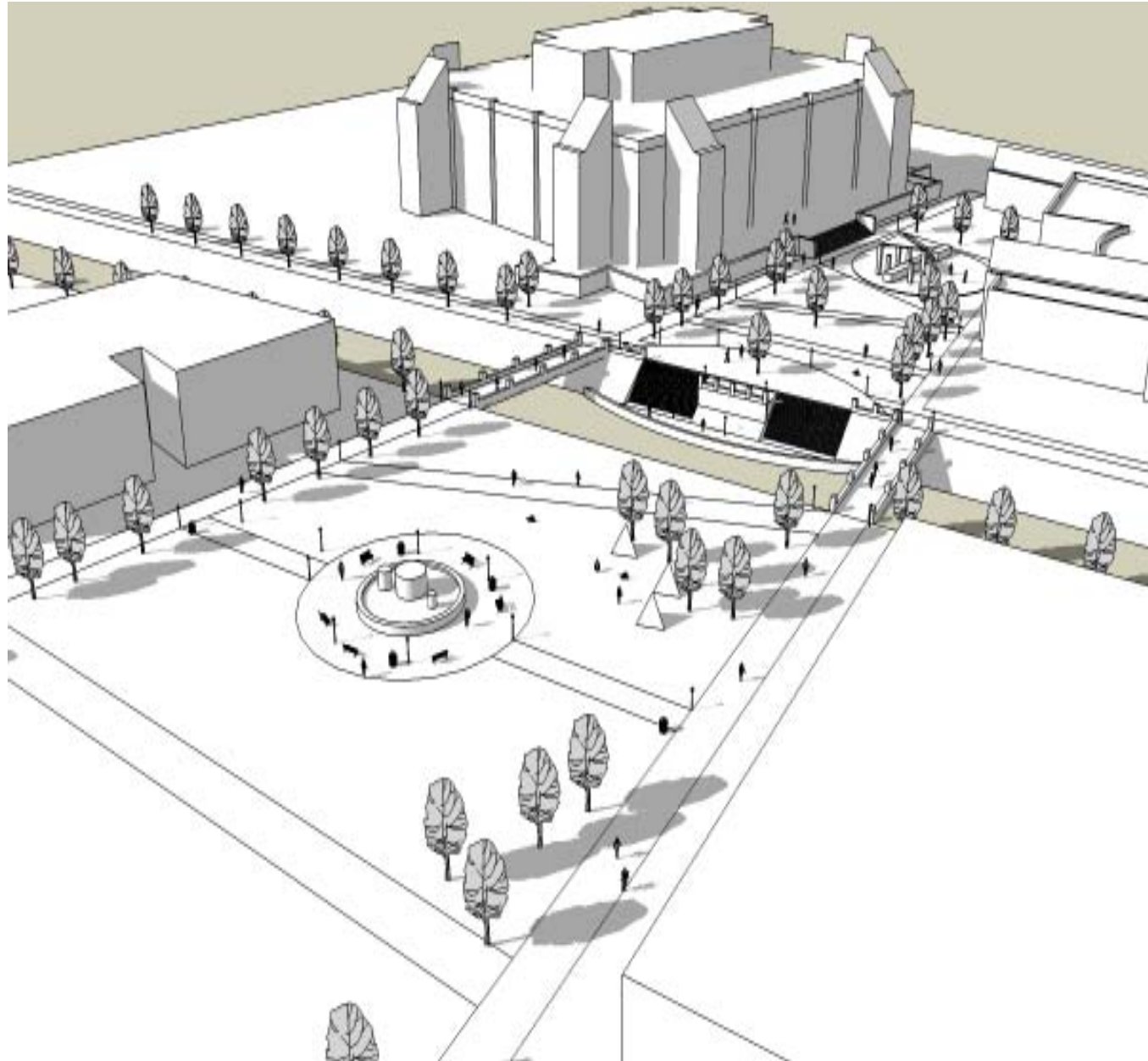
- 1 CLEAR BRUSH AND DEBRIS ALONG RIVER TO PROMOTE CASUAL ENGAGEMENT
- 2 REDEVELOP PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES TO STRENGTHEN CIRCULATION OF THE STUDENT CORRIDOR
- 3 REDEVELOP THE LIBRARY ENTRANCE TO A MORE FORMAL SCHEMA
- 4 CREATE A HARDSCAPE TERRACED AREA BETWEEN THE BRIDGES
- 5 REPLACE THE PARKING LOT AND TENNIS COURTS WITH STUDENT HOUSING TO CREATE A NEW DENSITY



Design Proposal

1

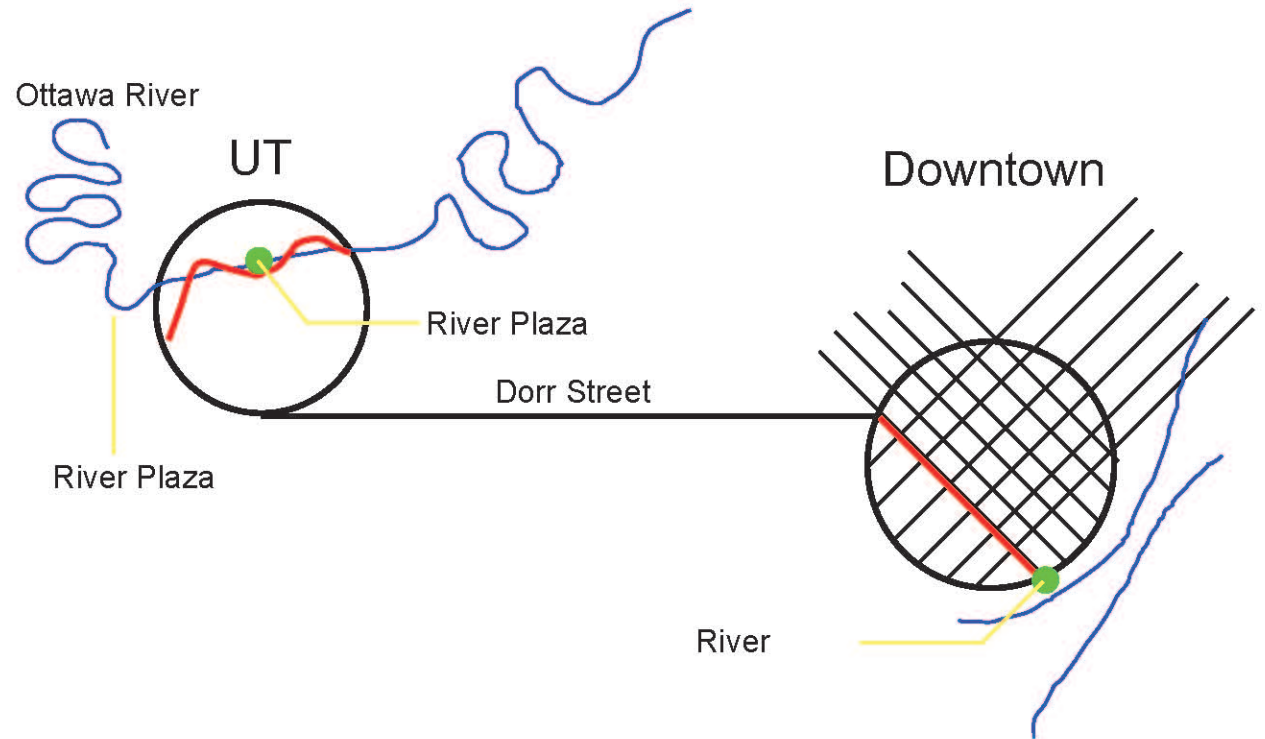
THE CREATION OF A STUDENT CORRIDOR TO CONNECT THE EDUCATIONAL AND ATHELETHIC ELEMENTS BY BRIDGING, AND ENGAGING, THE PROMINENT CHASM AFFORDED BY THE OTTAWA RIVER. INSTIILING A NEW DENSITY WITH THE INCLUSION OF STUDENT HOUSING ADJACENT TO THE RIVER.



Design Schema

2

Chad Ramsey
Corey Black
Jaimie Sklenicka
Nathan Welch

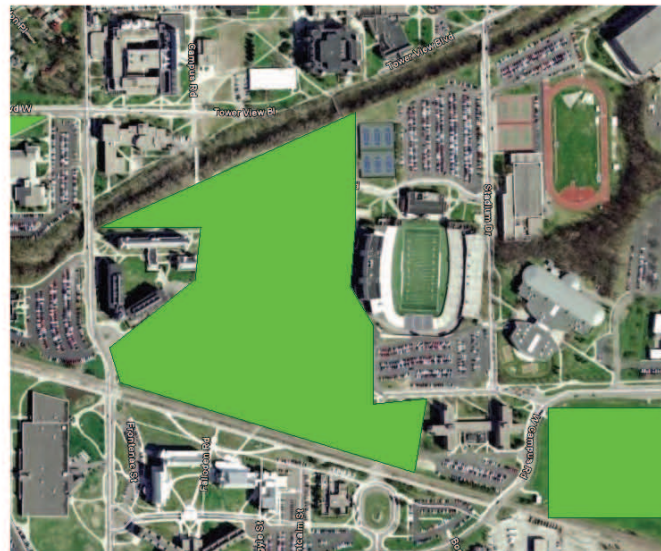
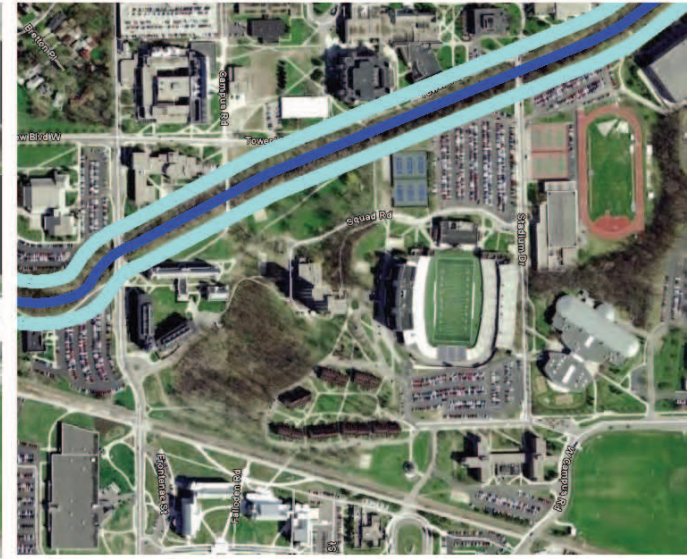


Curving Movement: connection from Ottawa River to Maumee River, through the bike trail

2

List five keywords about your analysis

- .Organic - Free flowing
- .Imposed - Made to suit.
- .Flood Levels - Ottawa River
- .Green Space
- .Figure Ground

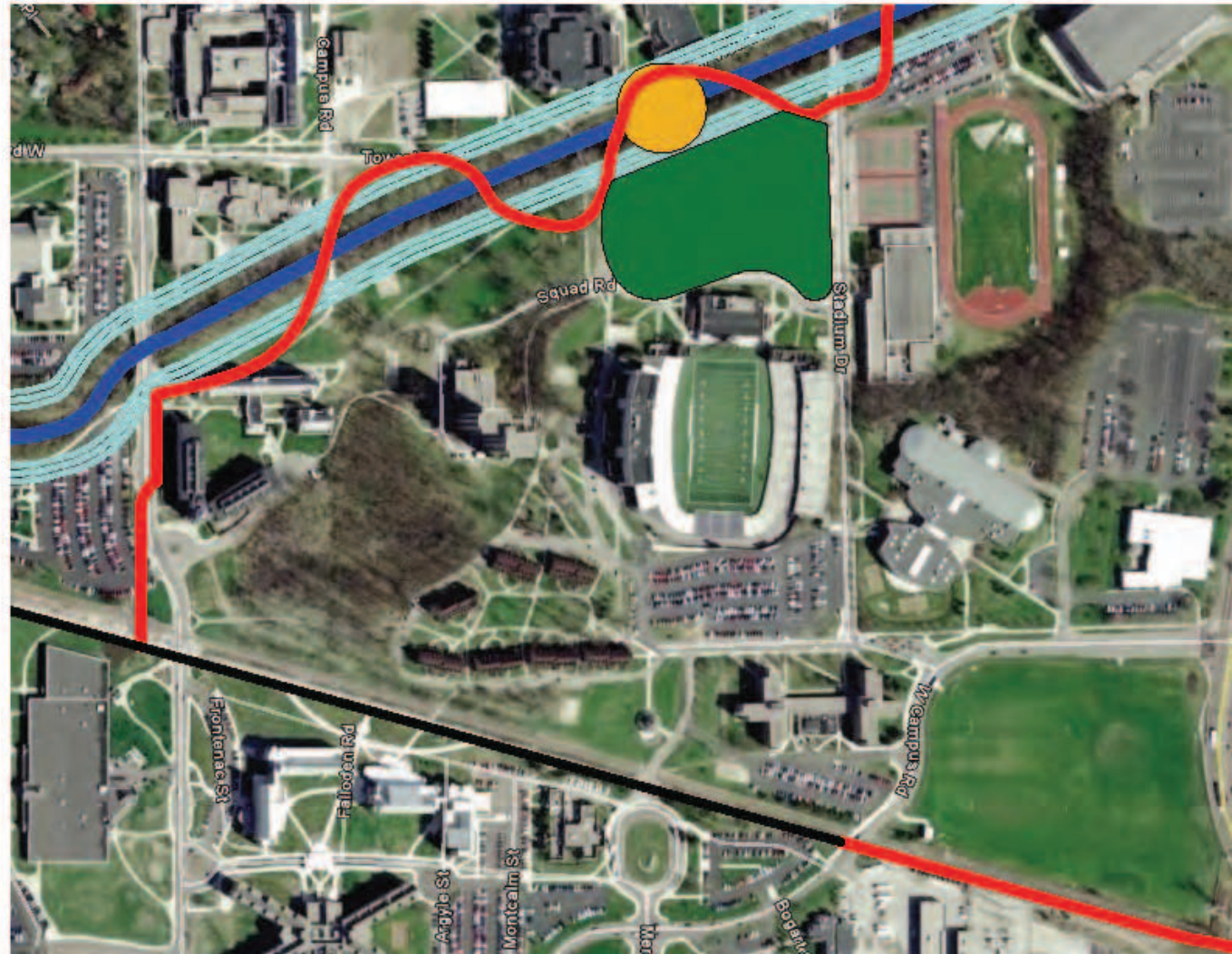


Analysis

2

List five design elements about your proposal

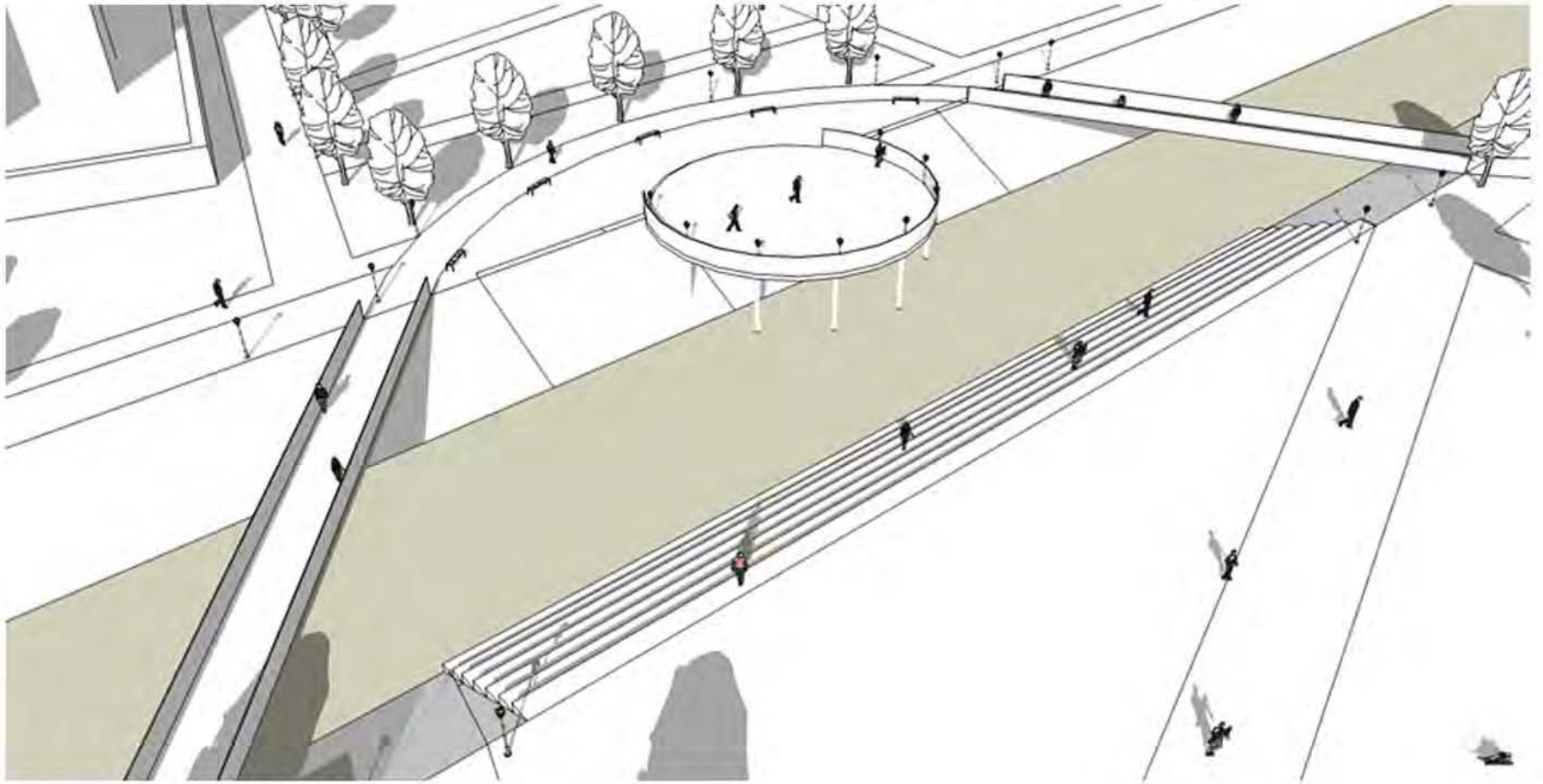
- .Extend Bike Trail
- .Implement River Plaza
- .Add Green Space: Wave Field
- .Bike Trail to Include Walkway
- .Designed For Flooding Conditions



Design Proposal

Design Statement

The design brings the community of the university and the city together through the connection of the bike trail extended through campus along the Ottawa River. The addition of the river plaza will bring people into an area of campus that would relate to the bike trail running along Dorr street and terminating at Promenade Park on the Maumee River where a proposed river plaza will then sit. The bike trail will connect people on both sides of the Ottawa river and also connect people to the University and city on both sides of Dorr St.

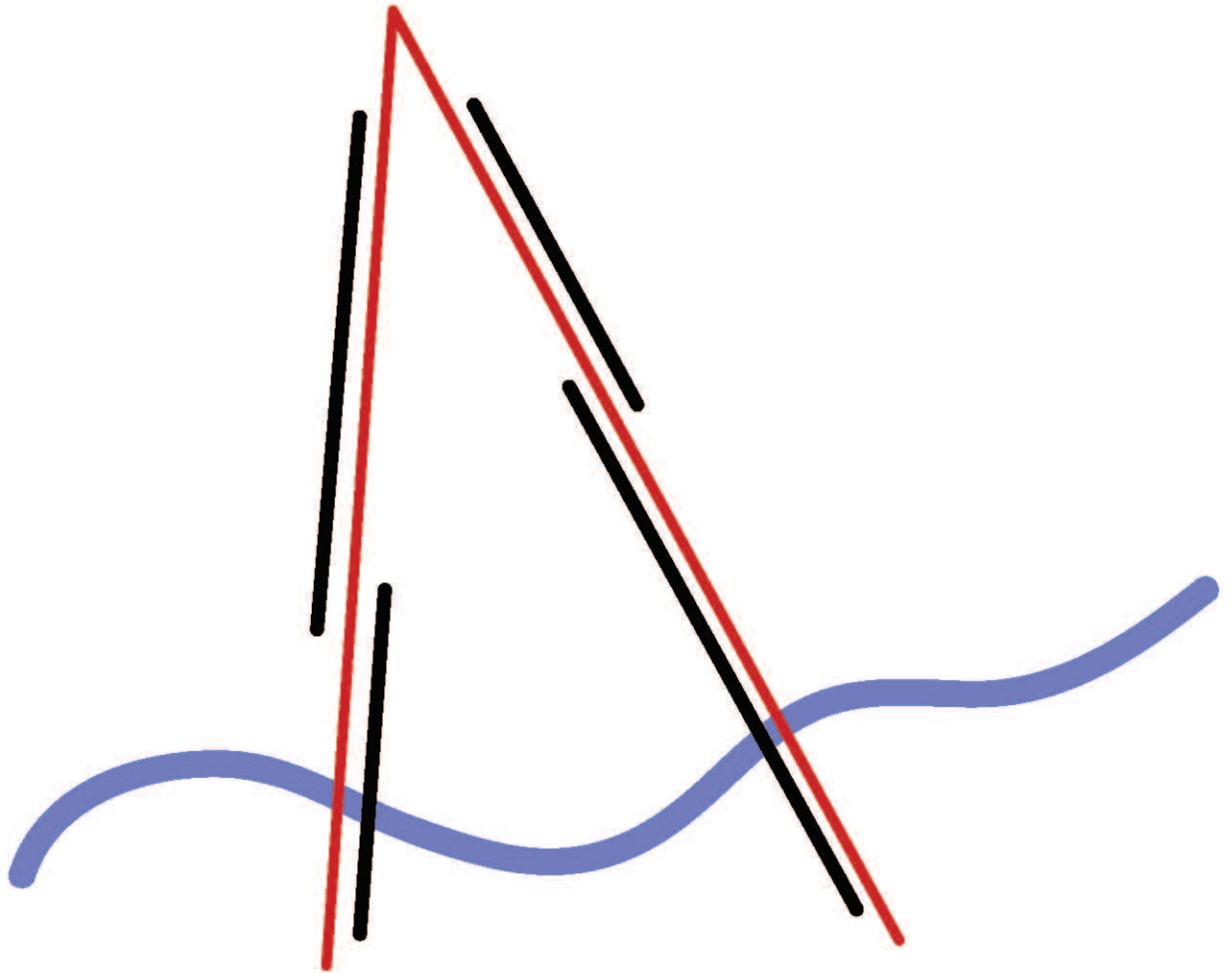


Design Schema

3

BGSU:
Peter Ashamalla
Shomari Lambert
Scott Mcgee

UT:
Rajesh Nagisetty
Preston Stallings

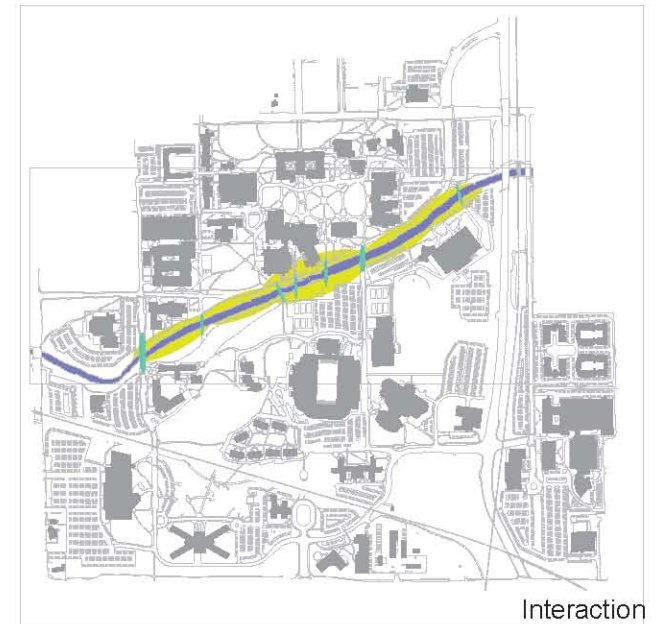
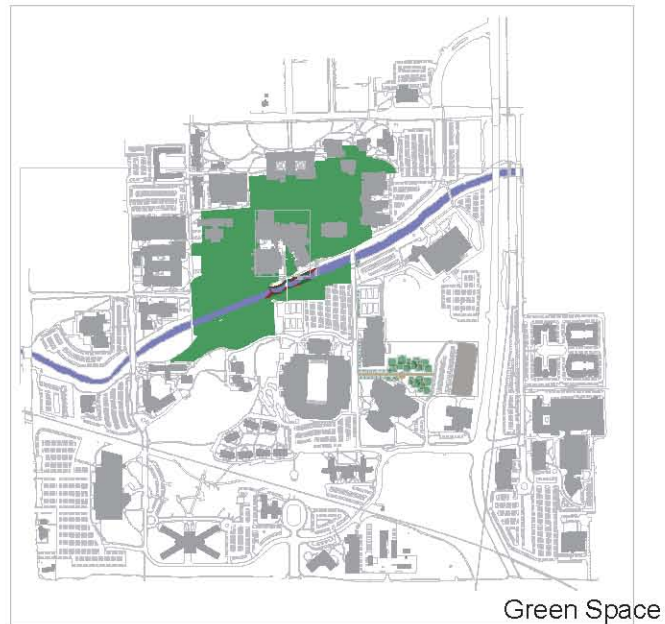
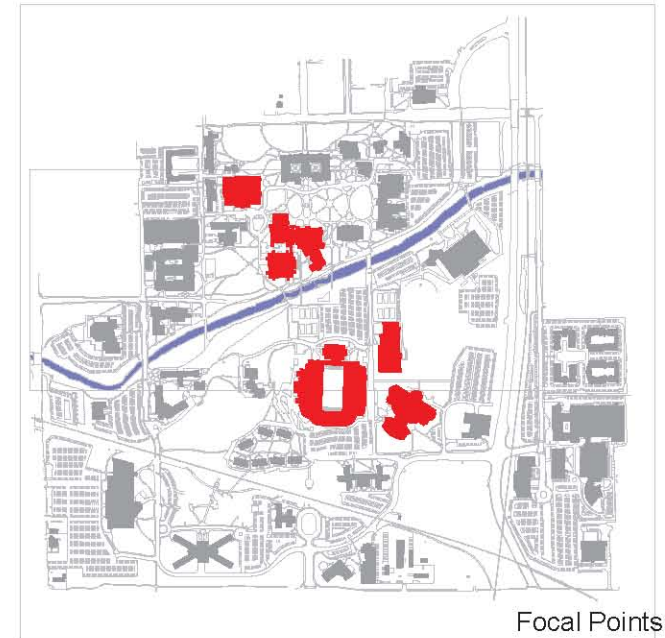
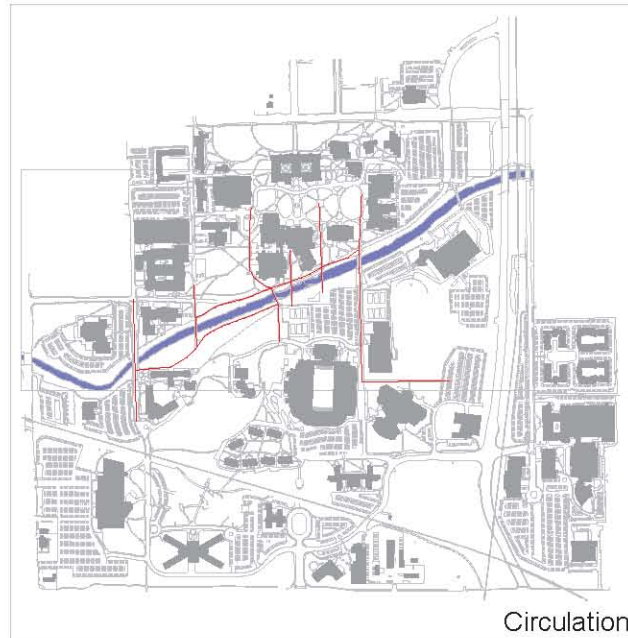


Organic Connections

3

List five keywords about your analysis

- . Organic
- . Natural
- . Focus
- . Along
- . Connecting

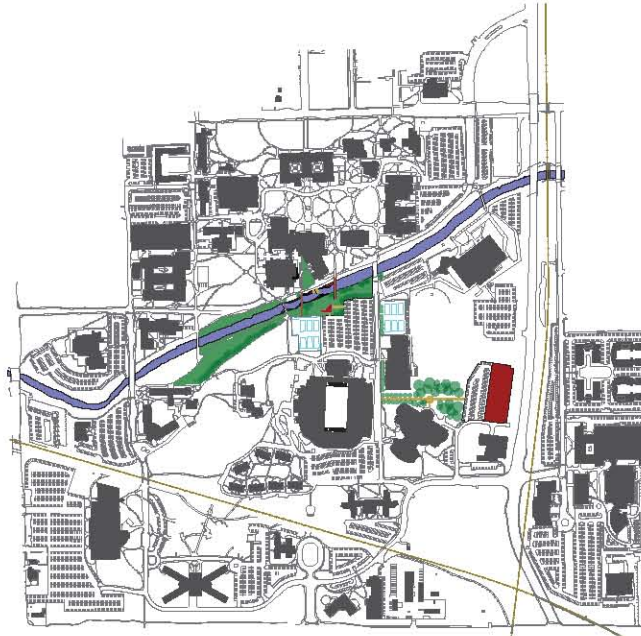


Analysis

3

List five design elements about your proposal

- . Art Scape
- . Interacting Water
- . Green Space
- . People
- . Journey



Design Proposal

3

Design Statement

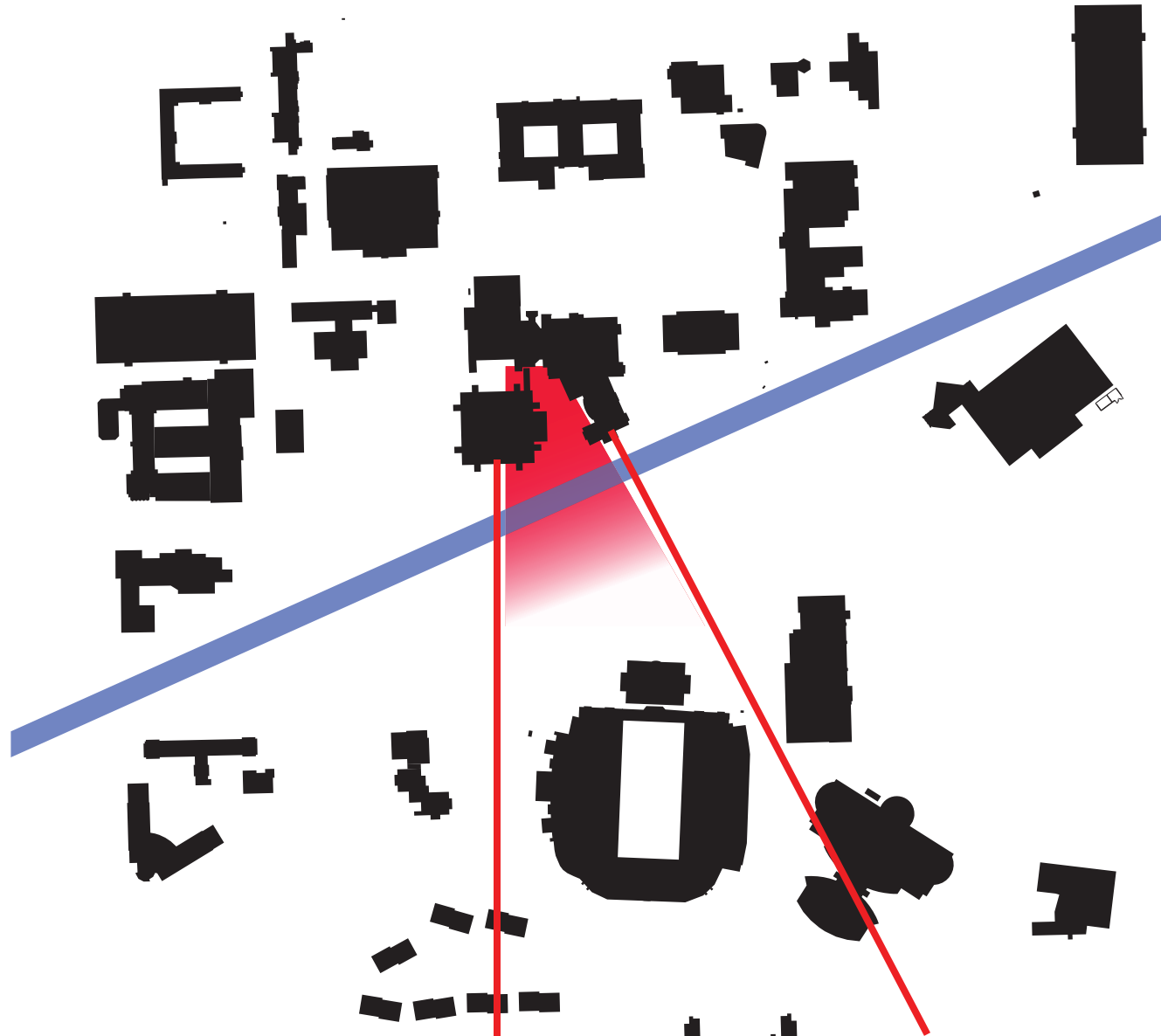
The two axis lines that run along the Library and the Union are extended across the river and above the river through a bridge and deck.



Design Schema

4

Jay Eckelberry
Hannah Lambert
Tony Nguyen



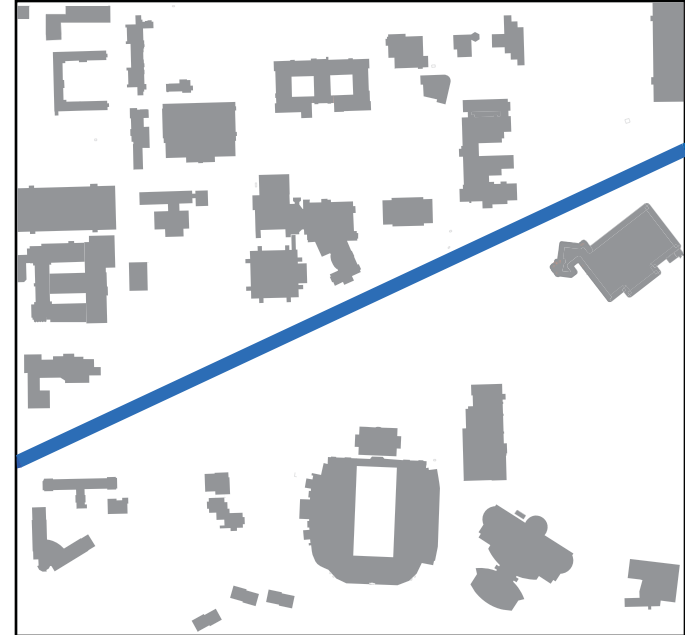
Pulling Knowledge

4

Five keywords about our analysis

- .Crossing
- .Connecting
- .Efficient
- .Landscape
- .Visual

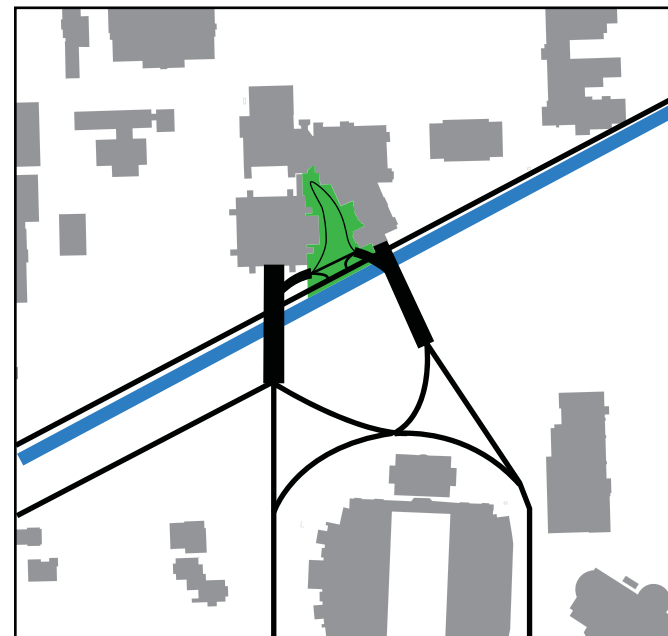
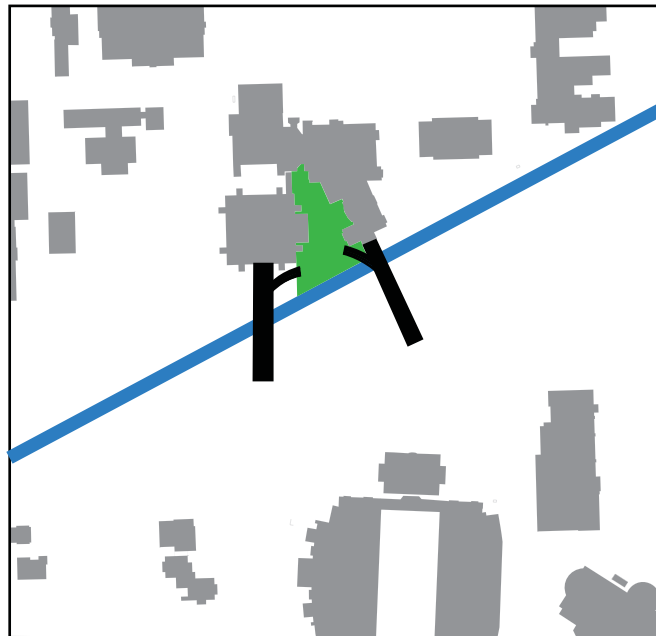
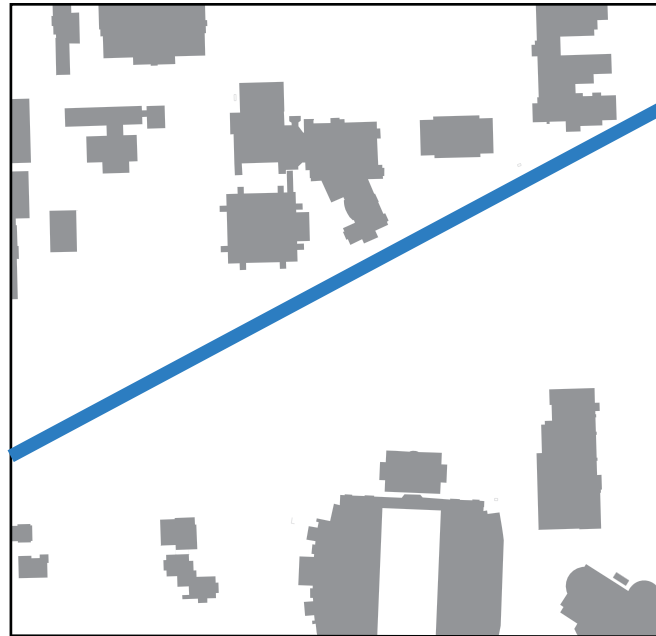
Analysis



4

Five design elements about
our proposal

- .River Boundary
- .Building Entrance
- .Green Focus
- .Bridging
- .Circulation Routes

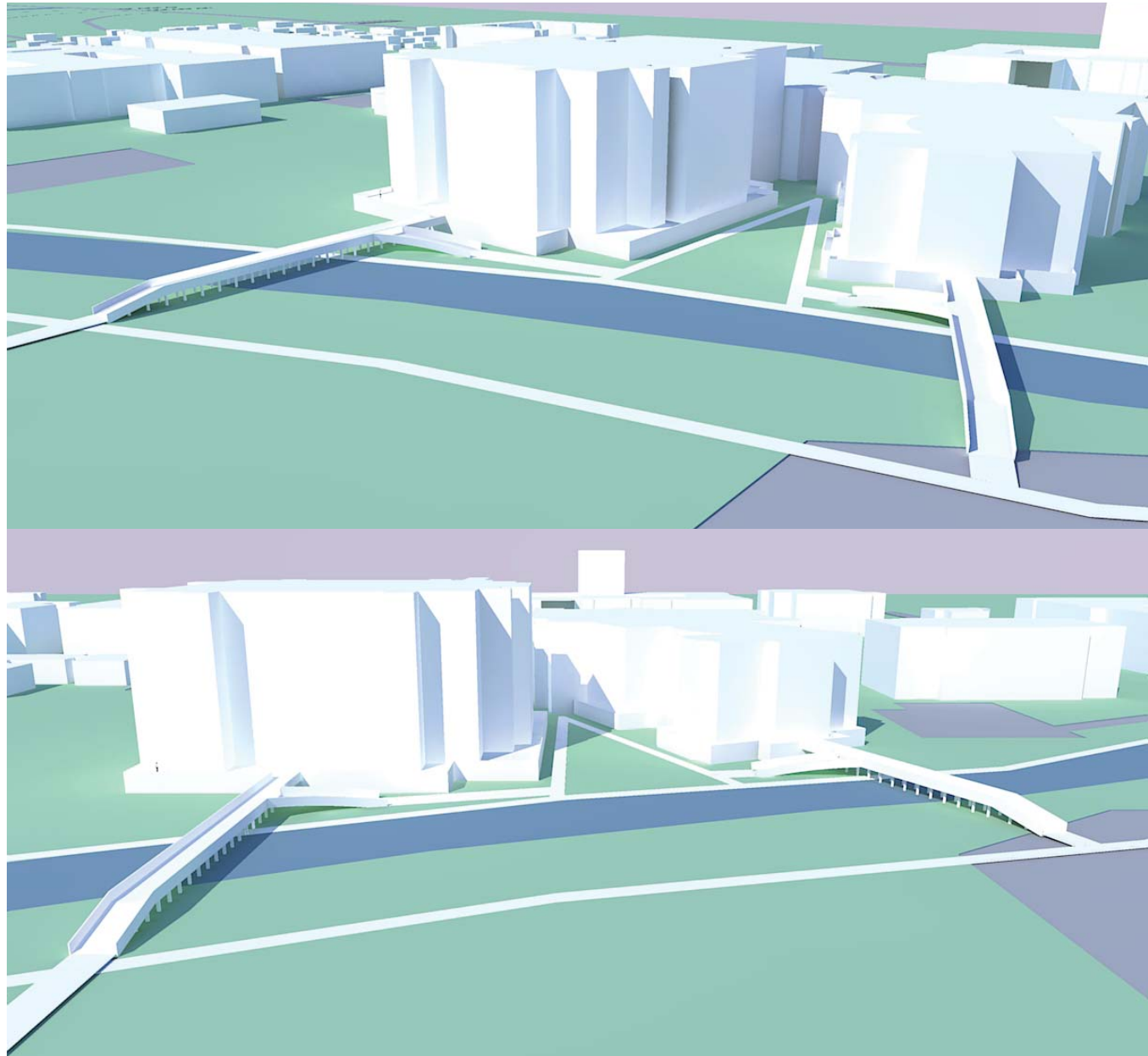


Design Proposal

4

Design Statement

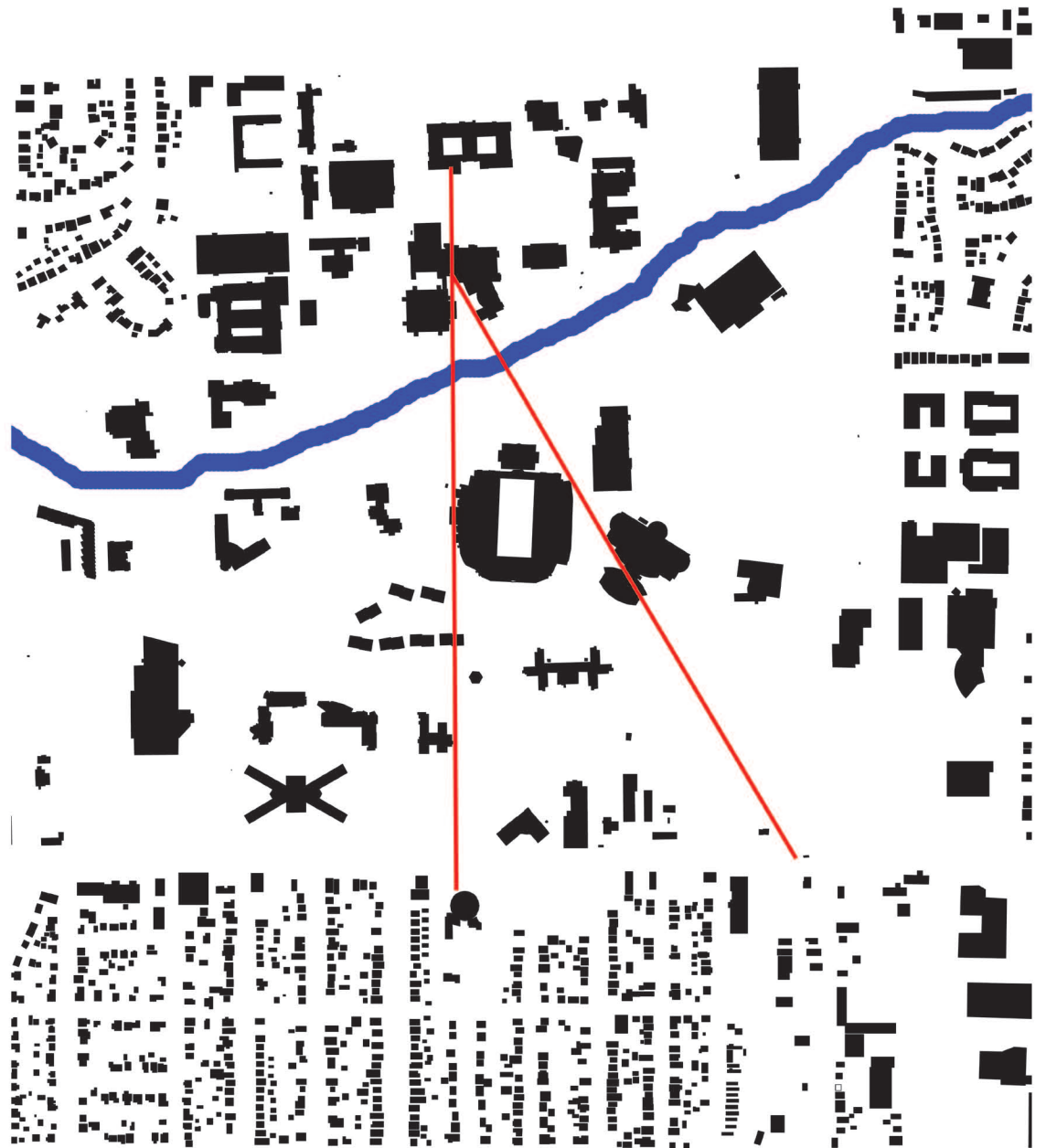
Designing a bridge that would tunnel people's view into the green plaza between the buildings. The bridges would create convenient entrances to the South side of the two buildings. The bridge would curve down inwards to lead people into the green plaza.



Design Scheme

5

Dindyal, Raja (Roger)-UT
Jacquemin, Thomas-BGSU
Knittel, Stephen-UT
Lohr, Josh-BGSU
Rex, Sarah-BGSU



Inter-Relating Elements

5

Five Key words for analysis

1. connection
2. relativity
3. accessibility
4. axis points/lines
5. traffic of pedestrians

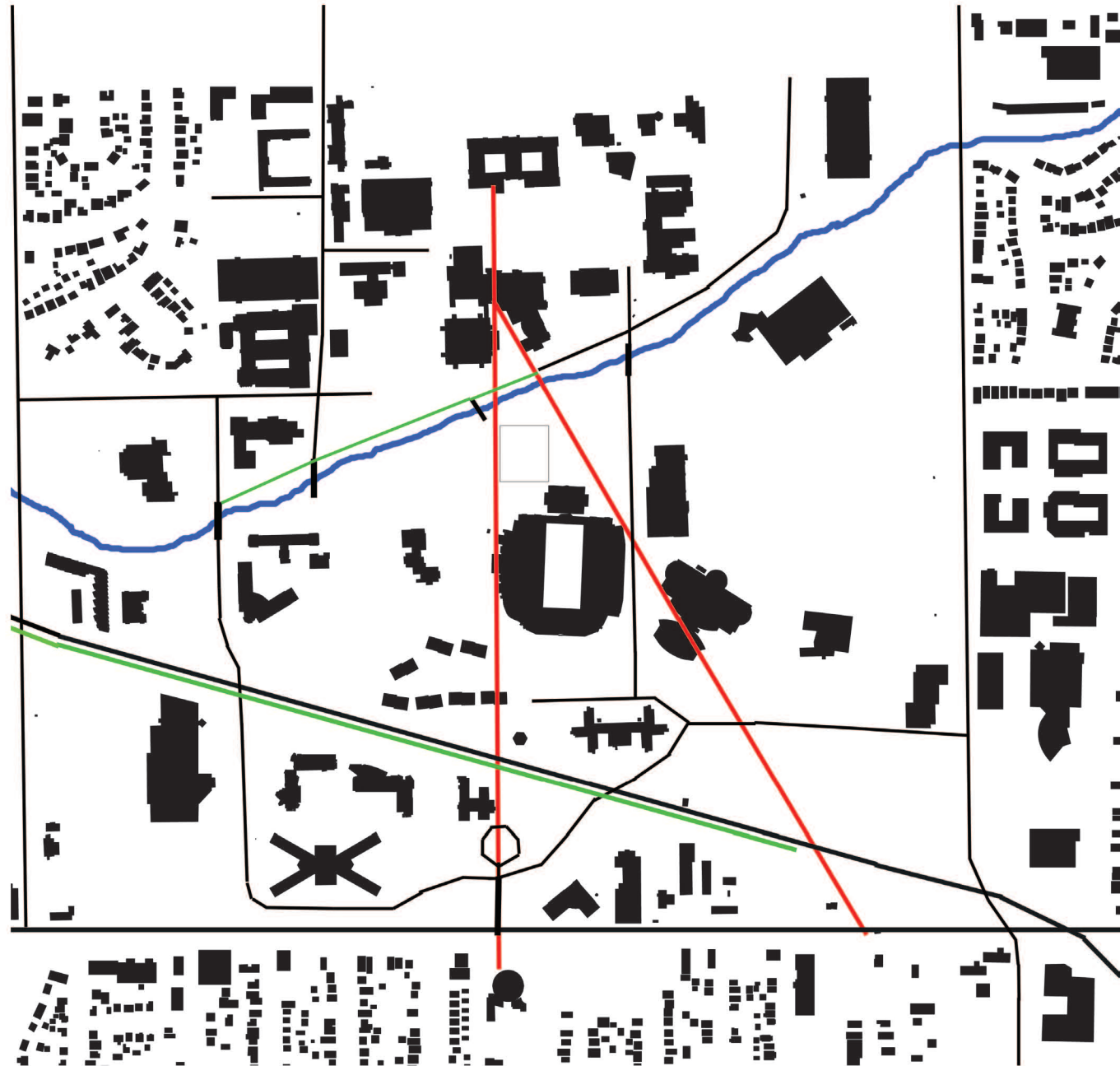


Analysis

5

Five Design Elements

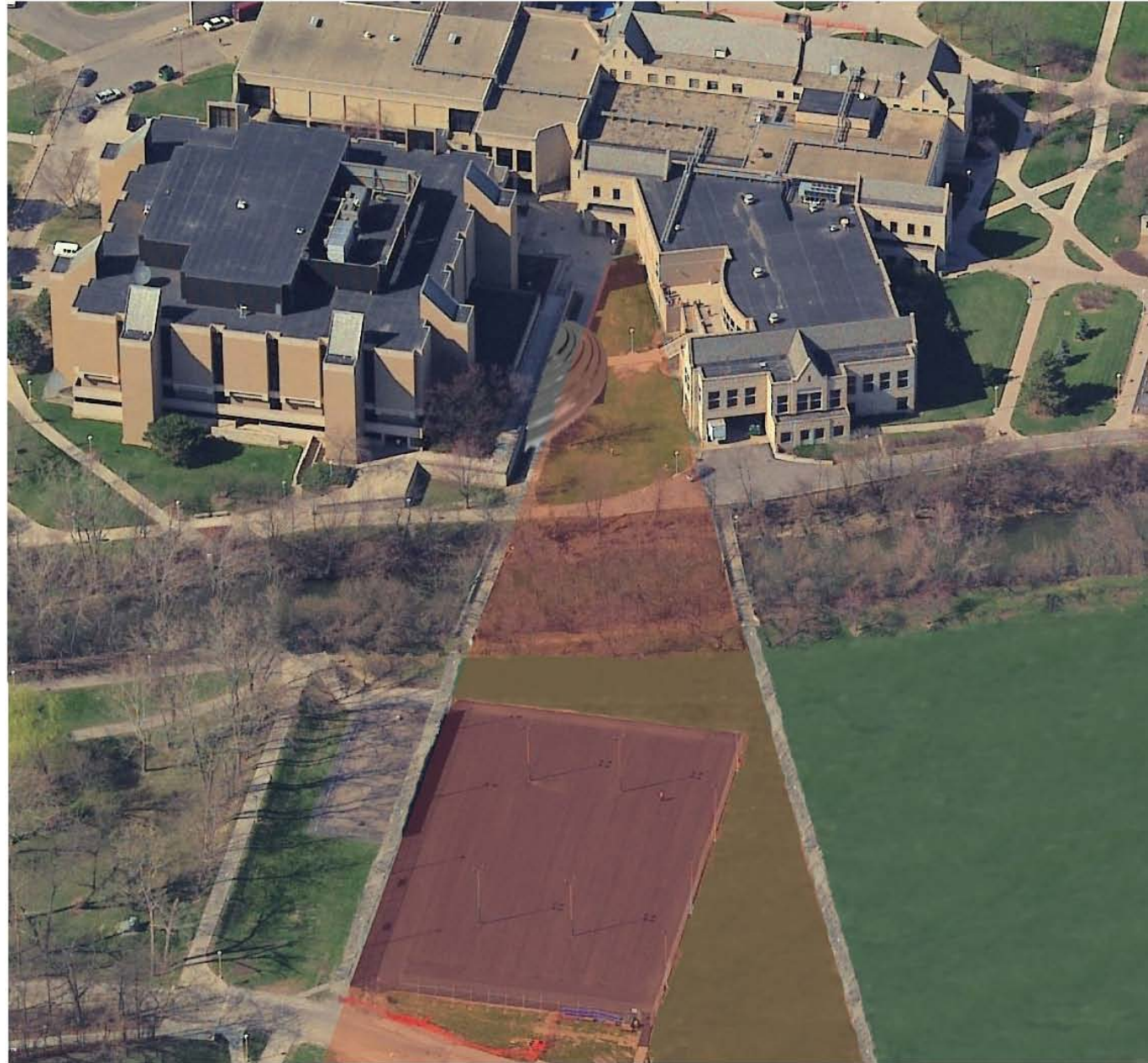
1. better quality of space and resources
2. easier travel for students
3. connection to macro and micro levels of campus including potential and actual axis lines and focal points
4. creation of a place where people want to be
5. opening up the Ottawa River so people can experience it



Design Proposal

5

Allowing the river to be more accessible students coming from the south side of campus, required us to design a linear connection relative to the direct context of the site.



Design Schema

6

Ewwaraye

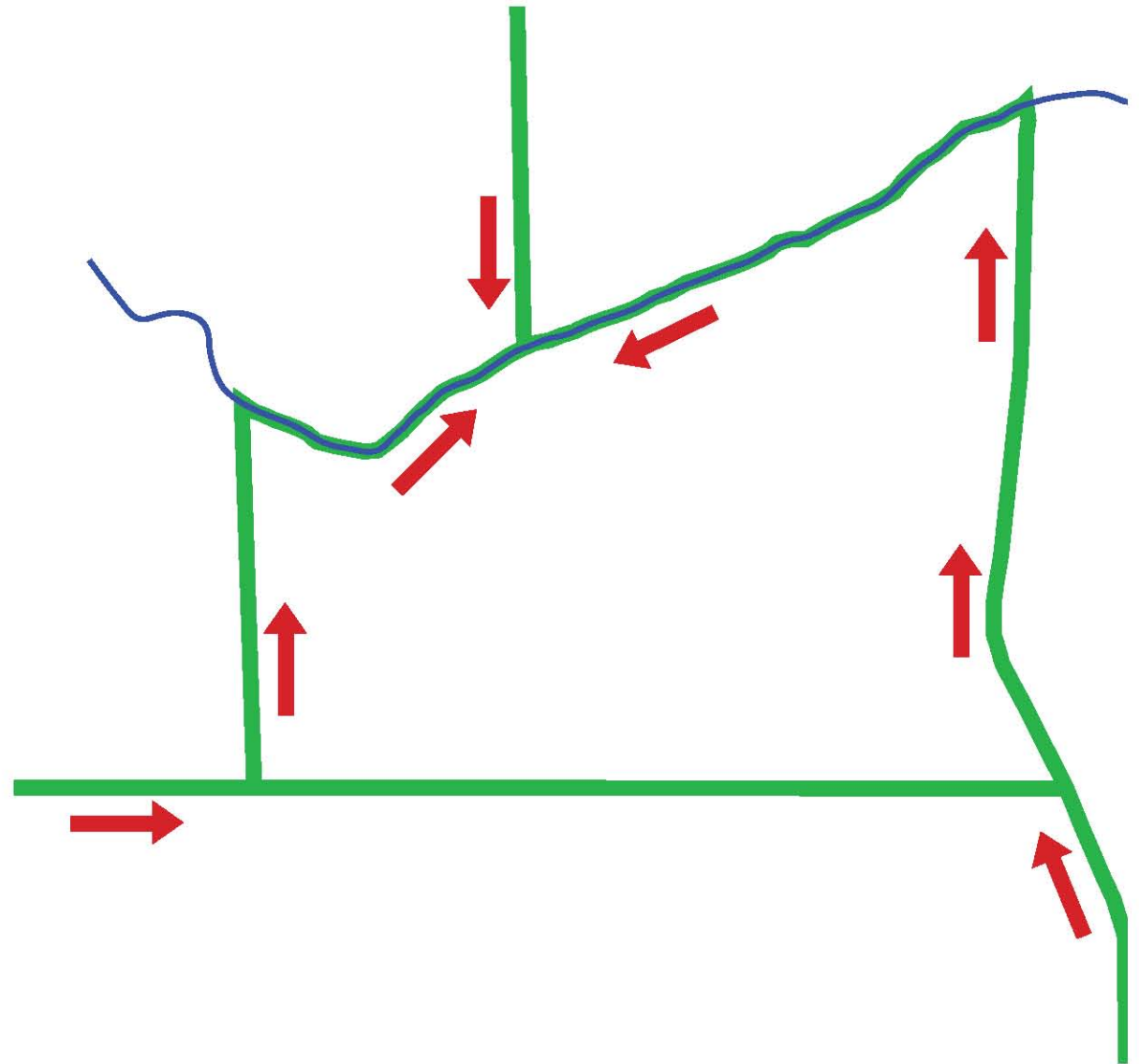
Ford

Jagodzinski

Stoots

Thomas

Turner

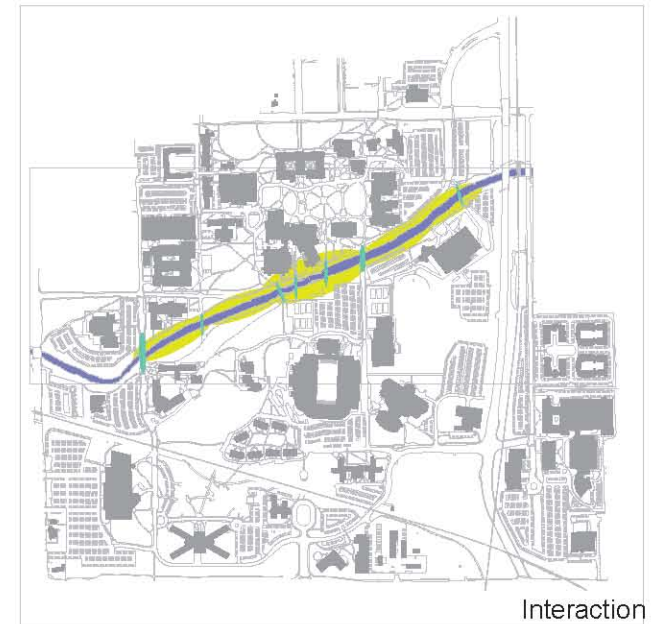
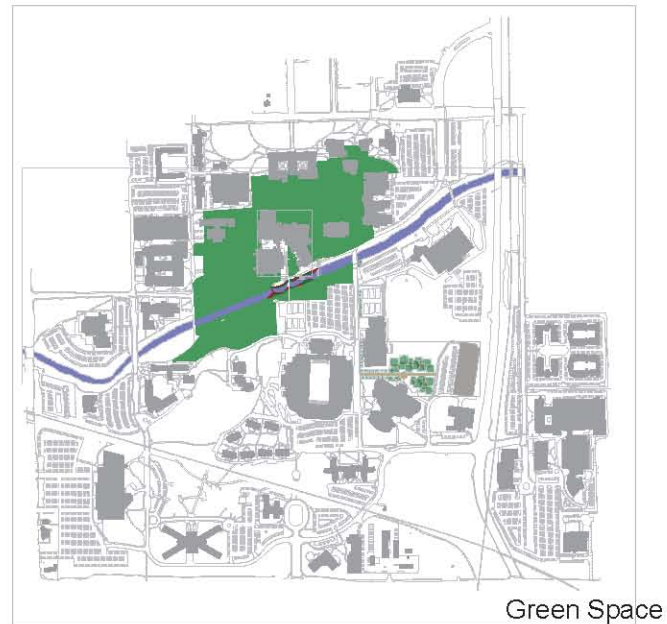
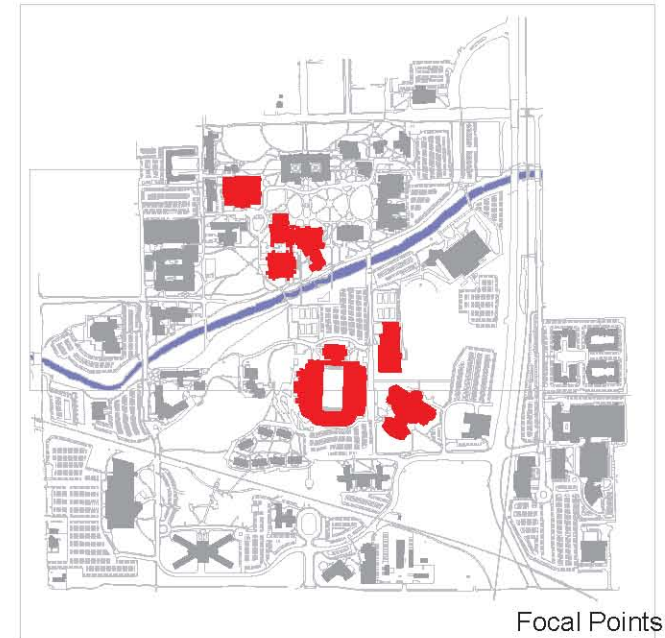
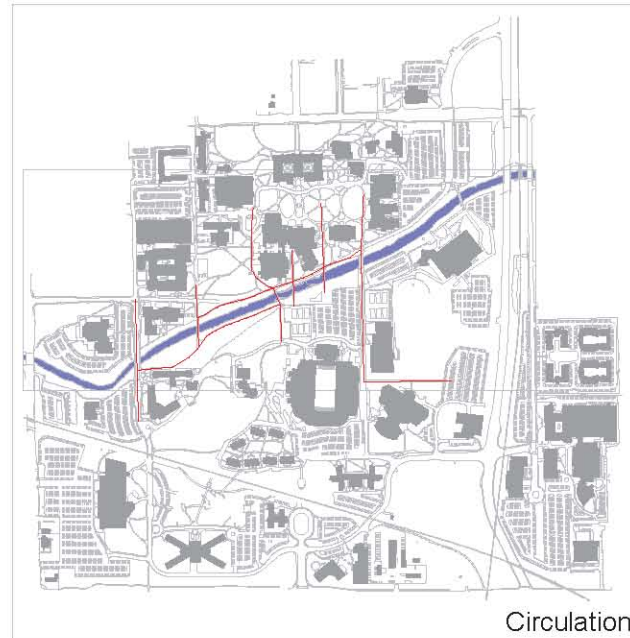


Community through Green Space

3

List five keywords about your analysis

- . Organic
- . Natural
- . Focus
- . Along
- . Connecting



Analysis

6

Greenbelt Design Proposal

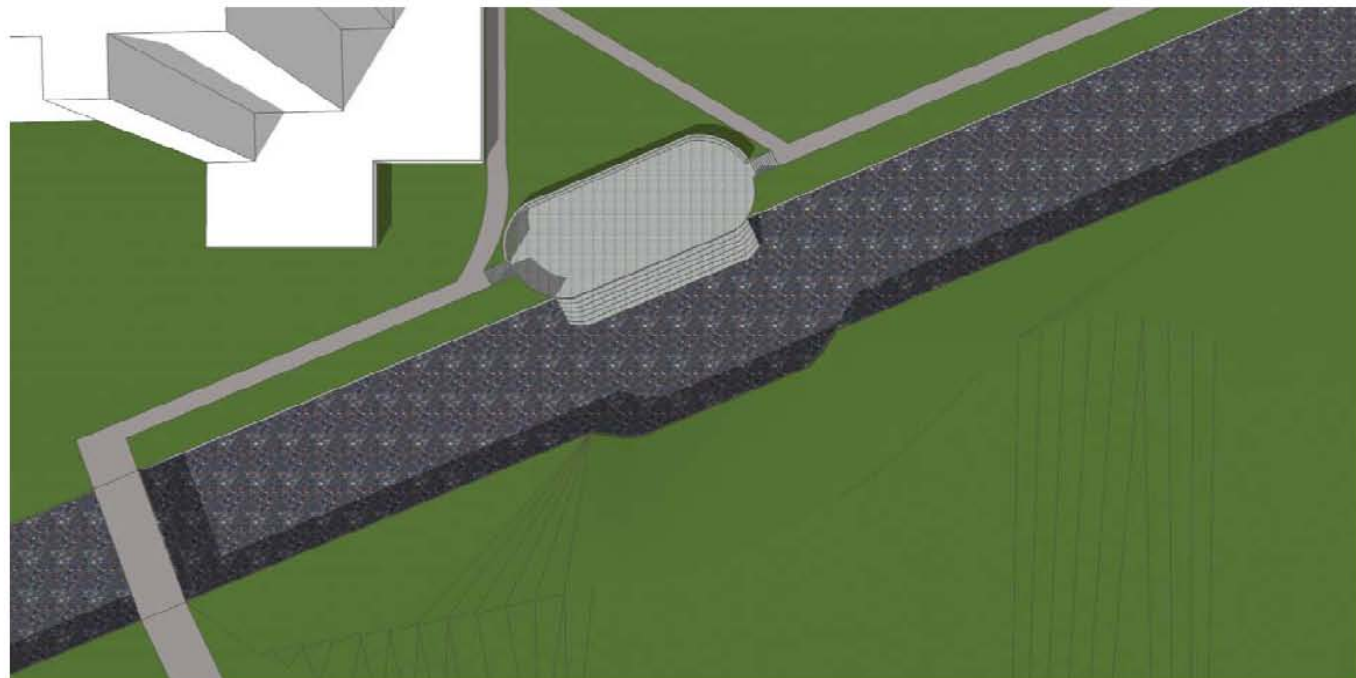
- . Connectivity across Dorr St.
- . Community Gardens
- . Reconstructed Paths
- . Public Amphitheater
- . Renewed focus on the River



Greenbelt Plan



Amphitheater Plan

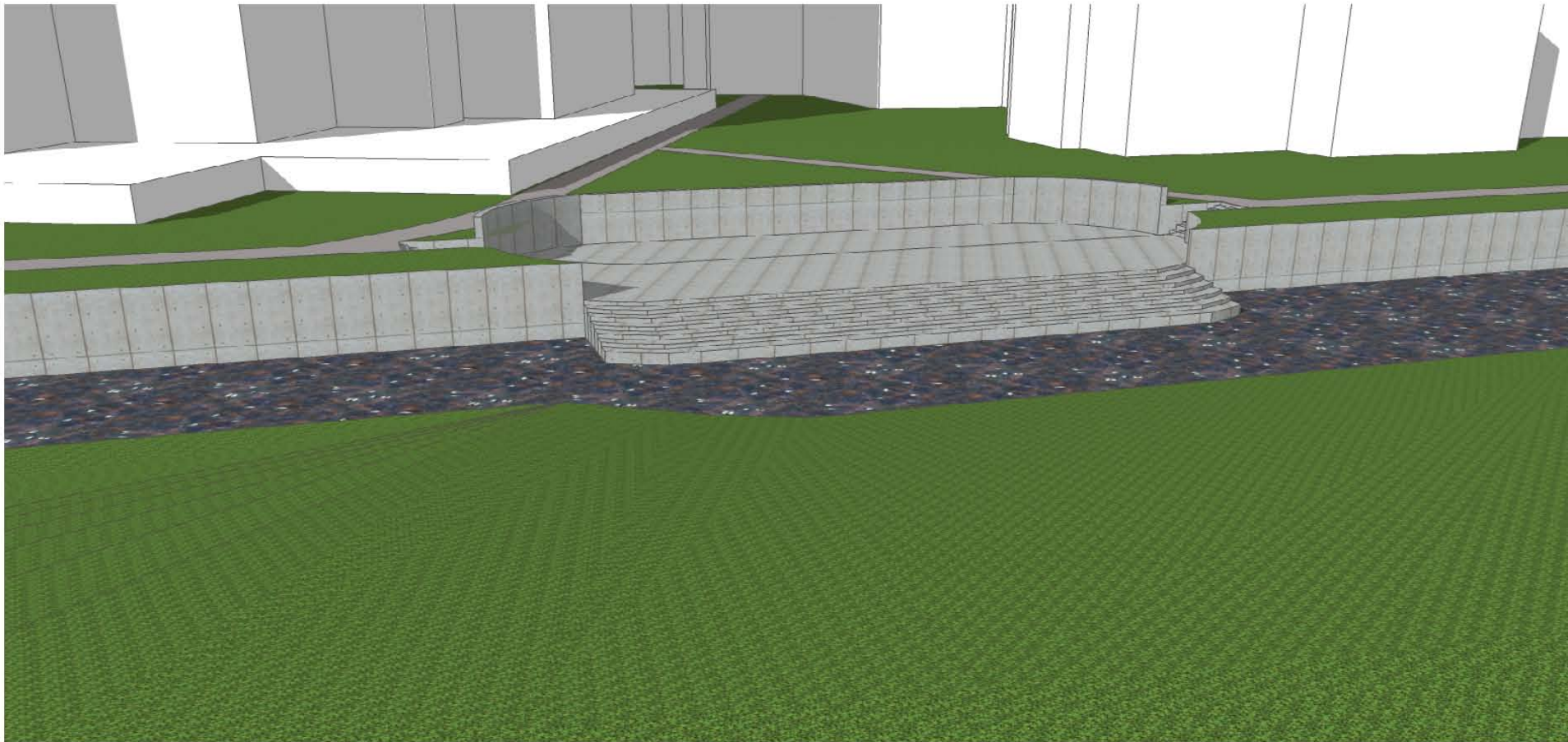


Design Proposal

6

Design Statement

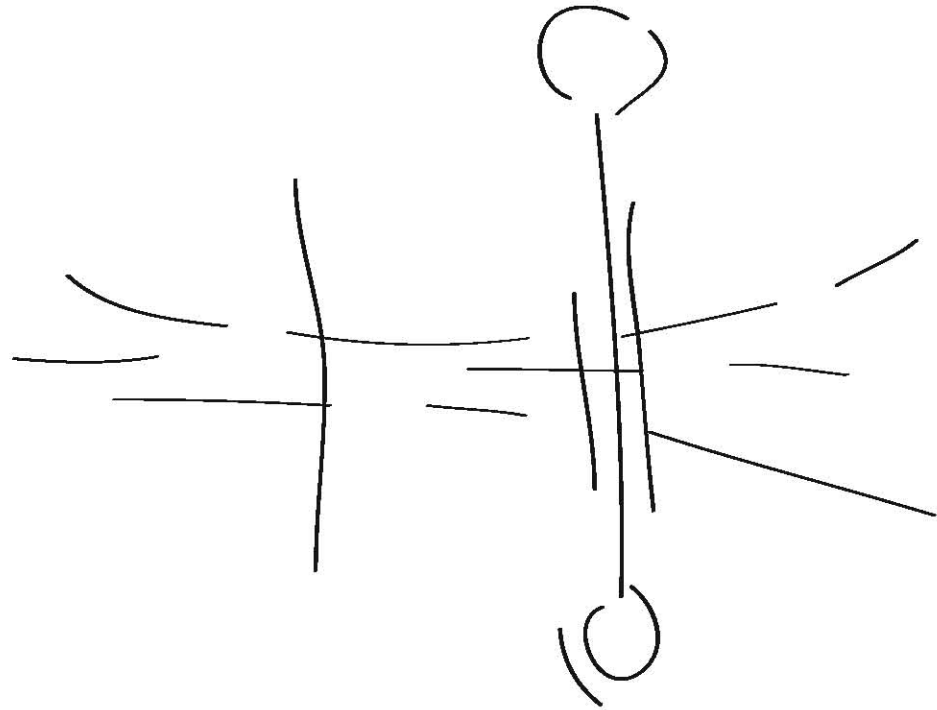
The community will be better connected through the use of a circulatory greenbelt. Public garden spaces and reconstructed pathways will bring people through campus and to the river.



Design Schema

7

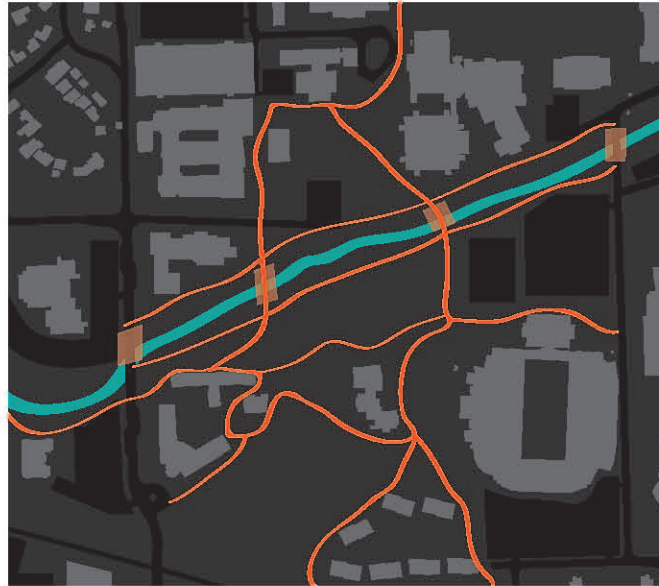
Nathan Brown - BGSU
Matthew Buyer - BGSU
Joe Kallio - UT
Tyler Mikolajczak - BGSU
Leah Mullen - UT



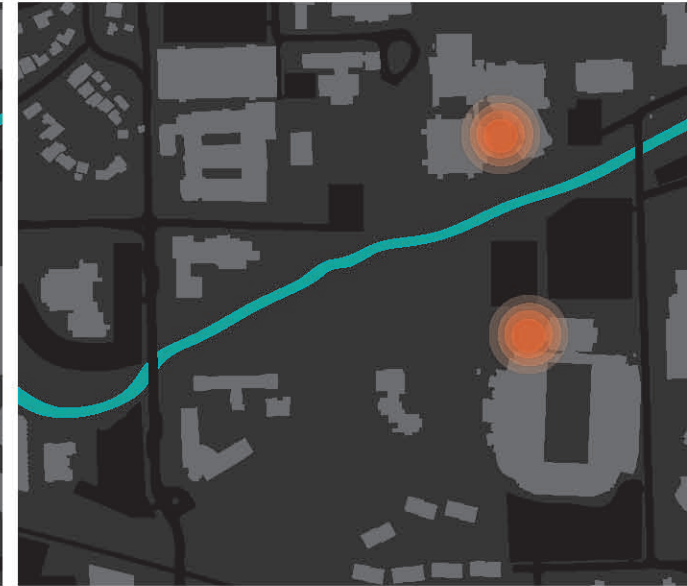
Conducted Courses

7

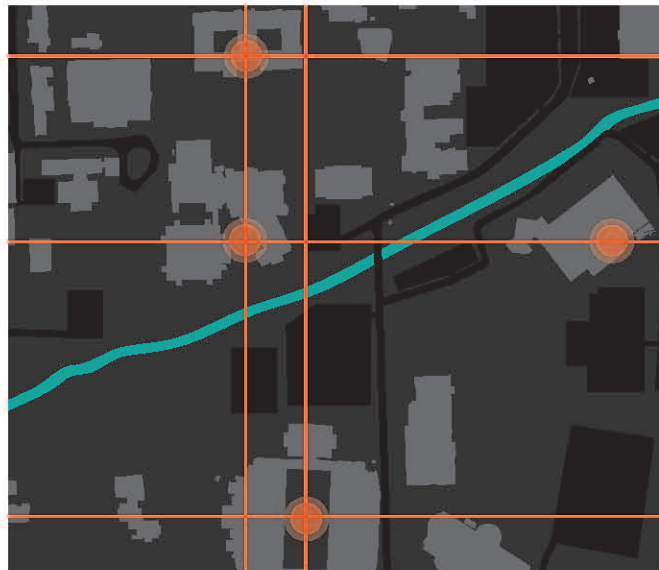
- . Research Old Connections
- . Locate Connection Points
- . Follow Focal Points
- . Highlight Open Space
- . Conclude Analysis



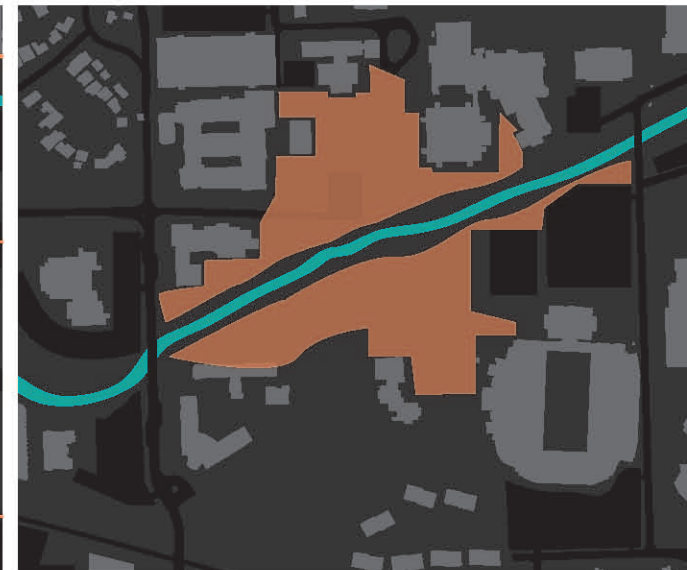
Old Connections



Important Nodes



Focal Points

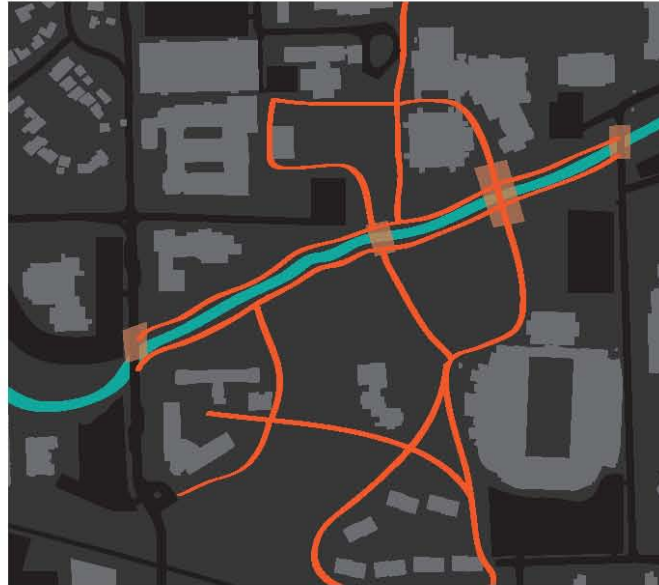


Open Green Space

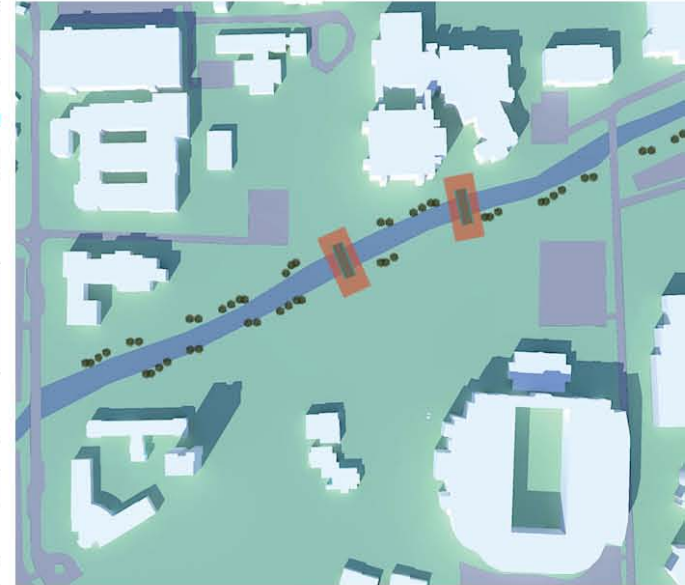
Analysis

7

- . Developed Sidewalks
- . Friendlier Bridges
- . Improved River Connections
- . Create Node Plaza
- . Repositioned River Crossings



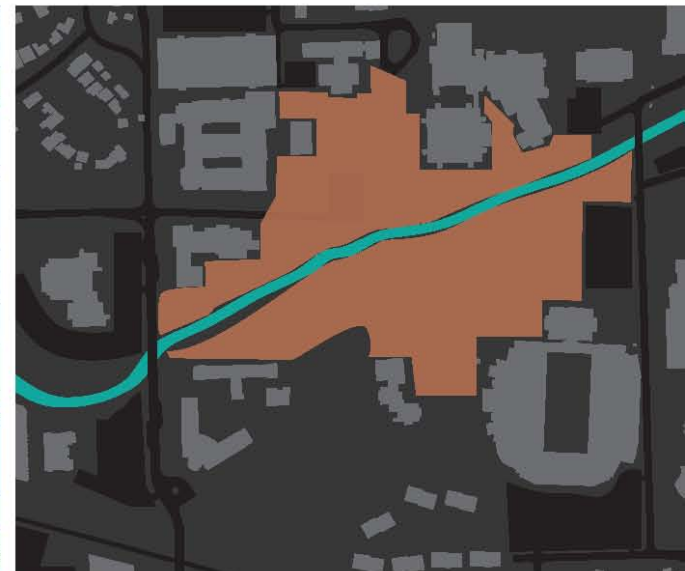
New Connections



New Bridges



Node Plaza



Open Green Space

Design Proposal

7

Design Statement

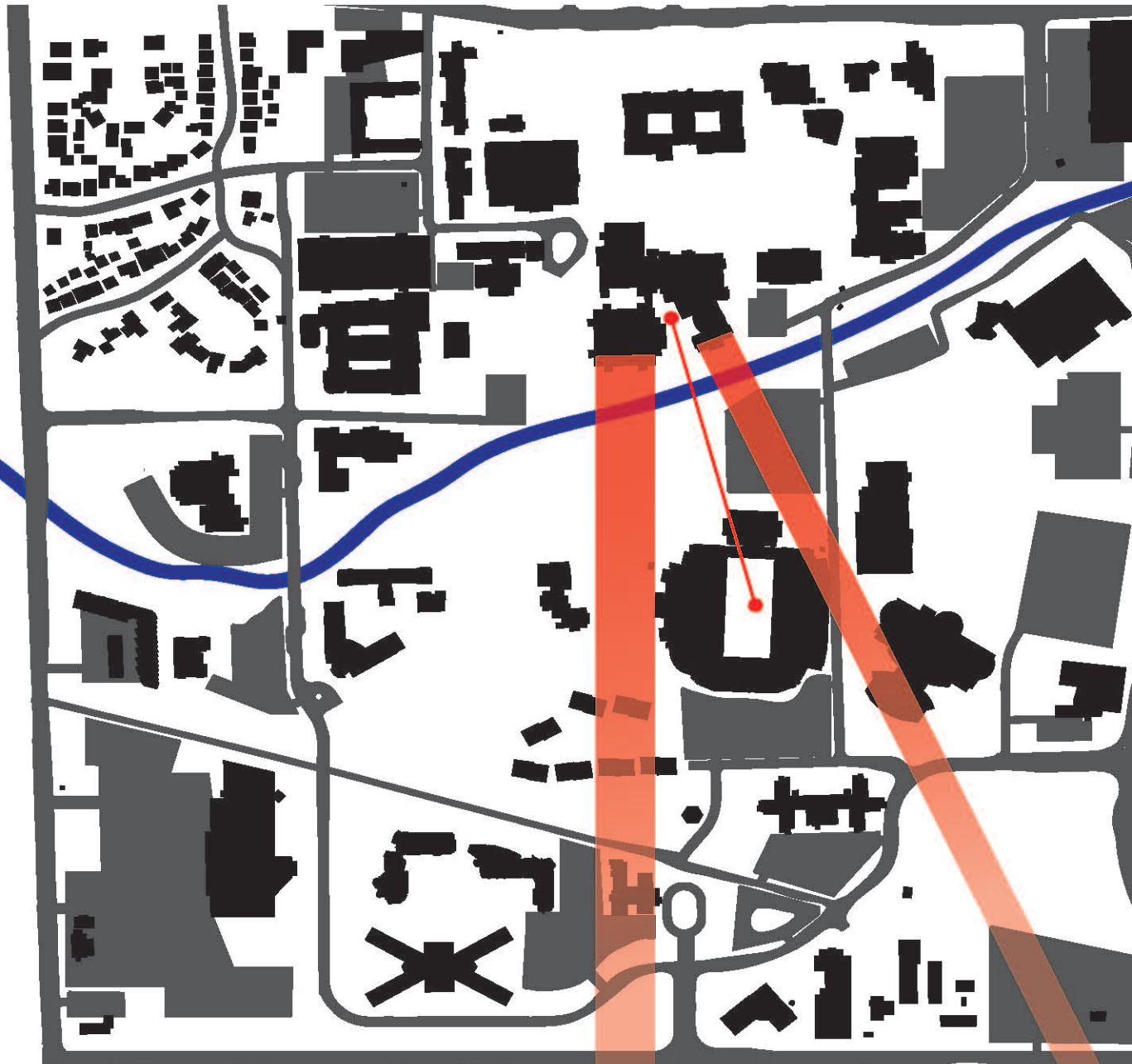
Rerouting the existing pedestrian walkways and planning for widening the repositioned river crossings, running parallel, the design implements a strategic union situated on both sides of the river. Intentionally linking two important existing nodes across the river, a more distinct and exploitable crossing is created allowing for a direct relationship to be fashioned between the two analogous river banks.



Design Scheme

8

Juliana Barton, BGSU
Brian Cook, BGSU
David Haskamp, UT
Neale Mahon, UT
Jason Mould, BGSU
Jesse Villalon, UT

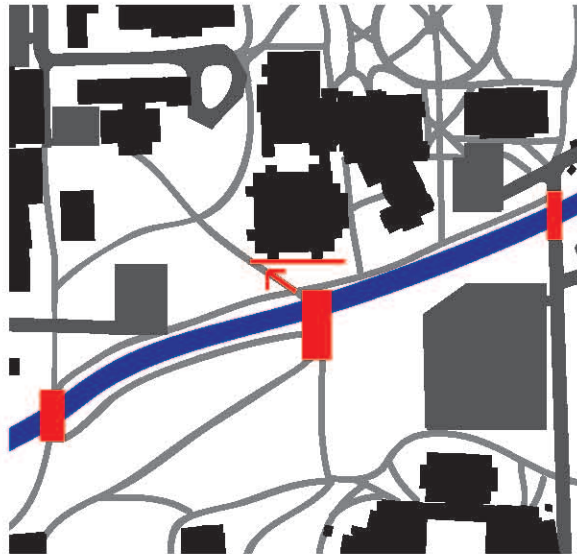
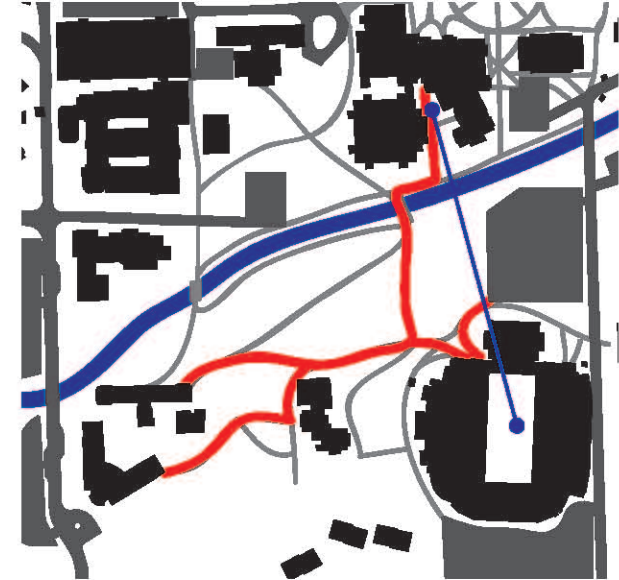


Unobstructed Connections

8

List five keywords about your analysis

- .Obstructed views
- .Union to Stadium Connection
- .Across River Connections
- .Used Parking In area
- .Pedestrian Malls

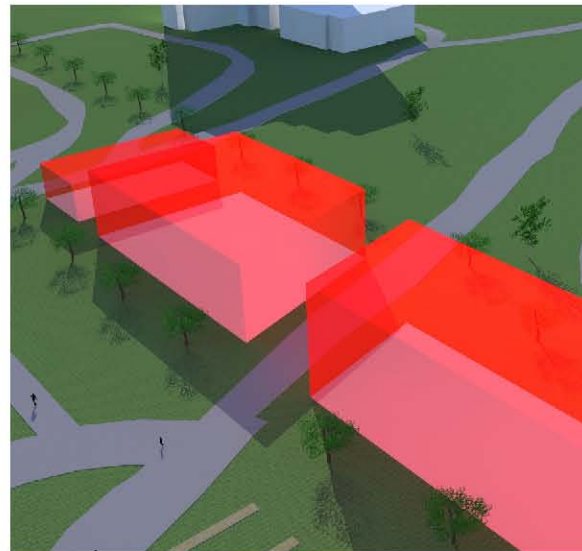


Analysis

8

List five design elements about your proposal

- .Visual Connection to stadium
- .New Student Mall
- .Catching students into Stadium and the Student Union
- .Wider multi-use bridge
- .Extend direction Union and Library makes

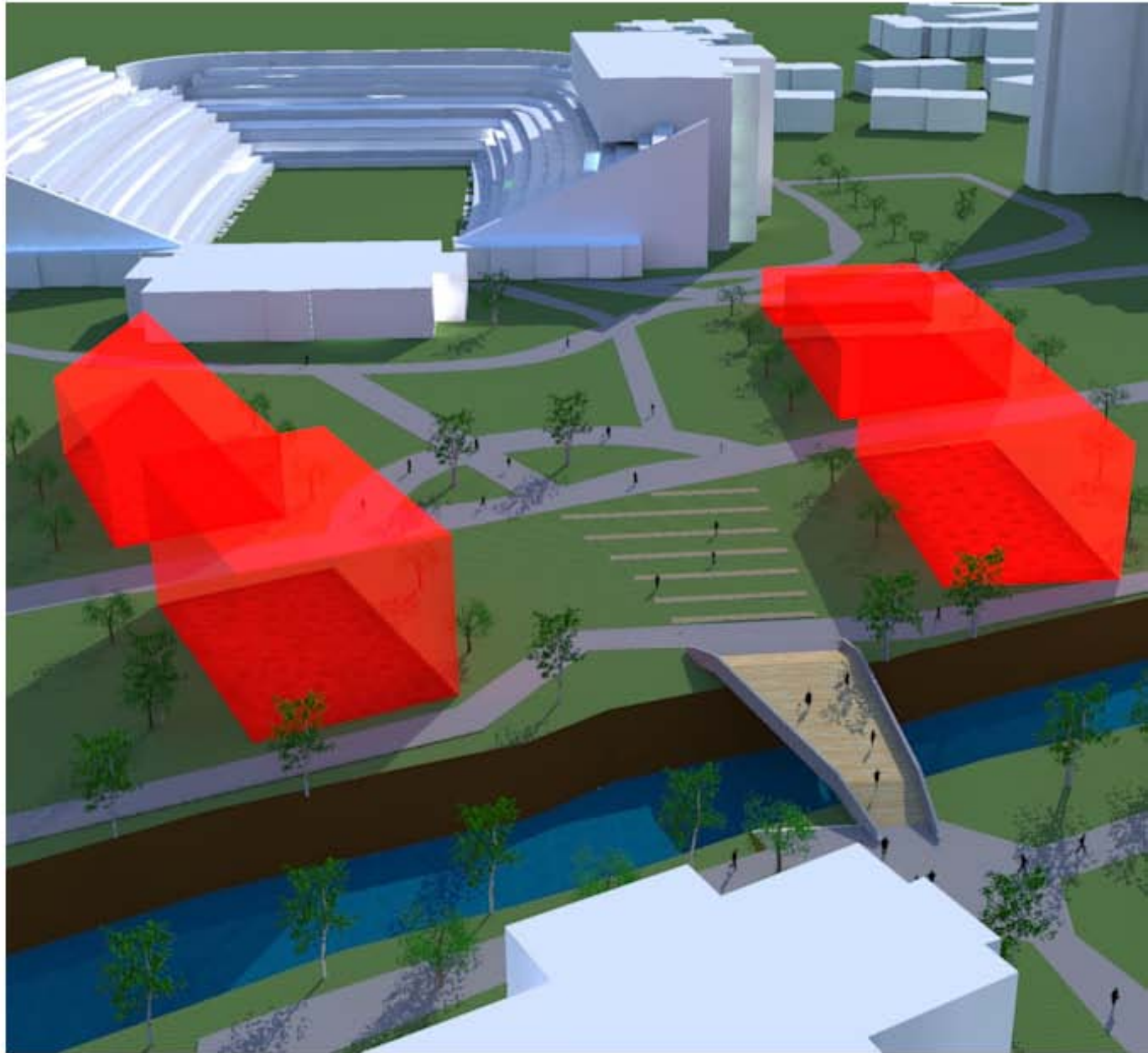


Design Proposal

8

Design Statement

By eliminating the parking lot across the river, a new student area was created. This area is visually and physically a direct connection point between the Student Union and the Stadium that was never there. A wider crossing bridge with seating, not only makes a pathway, but a gathering point as well from students getting ready for a football game or eating at the union.



Design Scheme

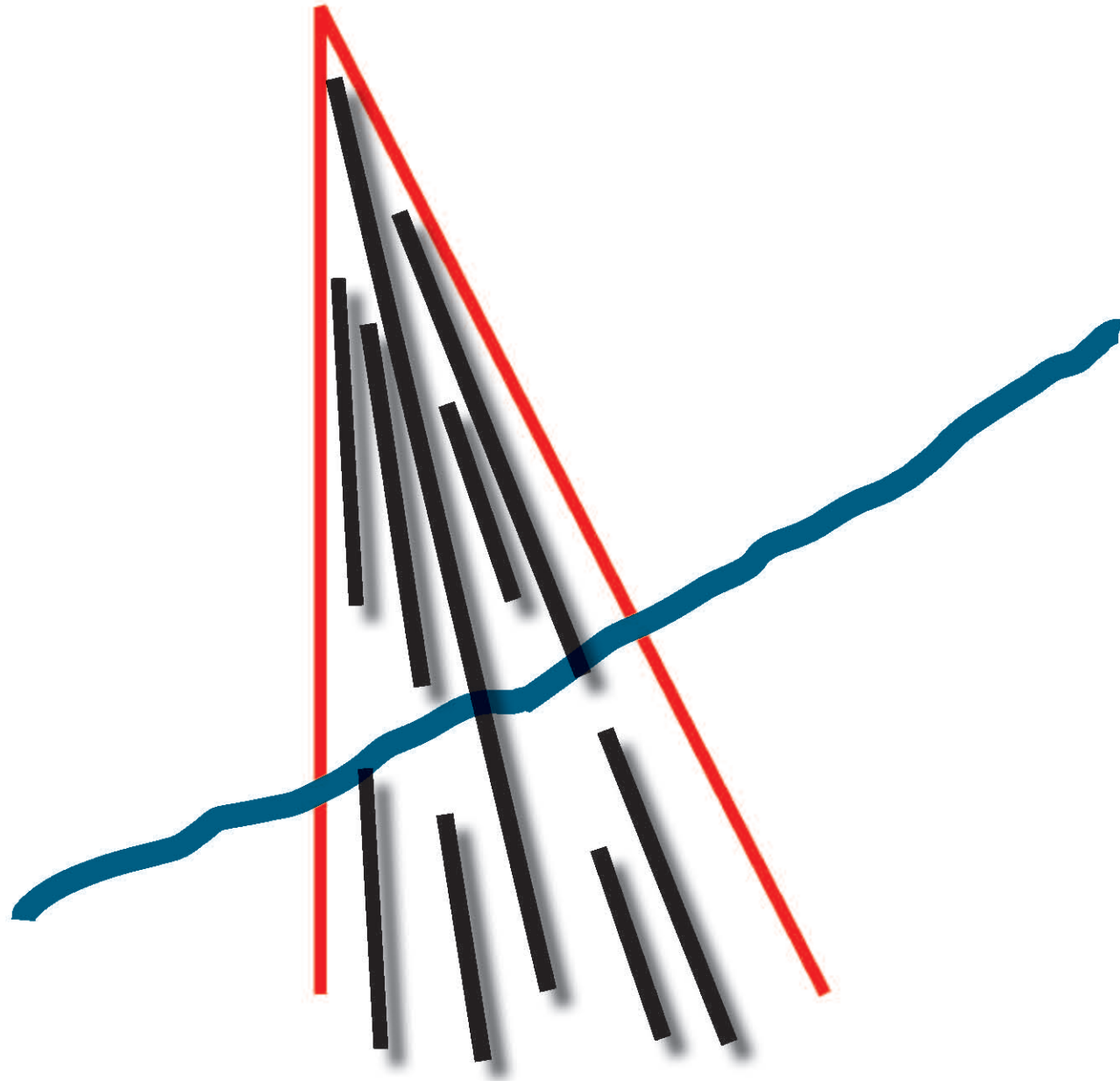
9

Matt Kisabeth :: BGSU

Jian Li :: BGSU

Anthony Santora :: BGSU

Courtney Wittman :: BGSU

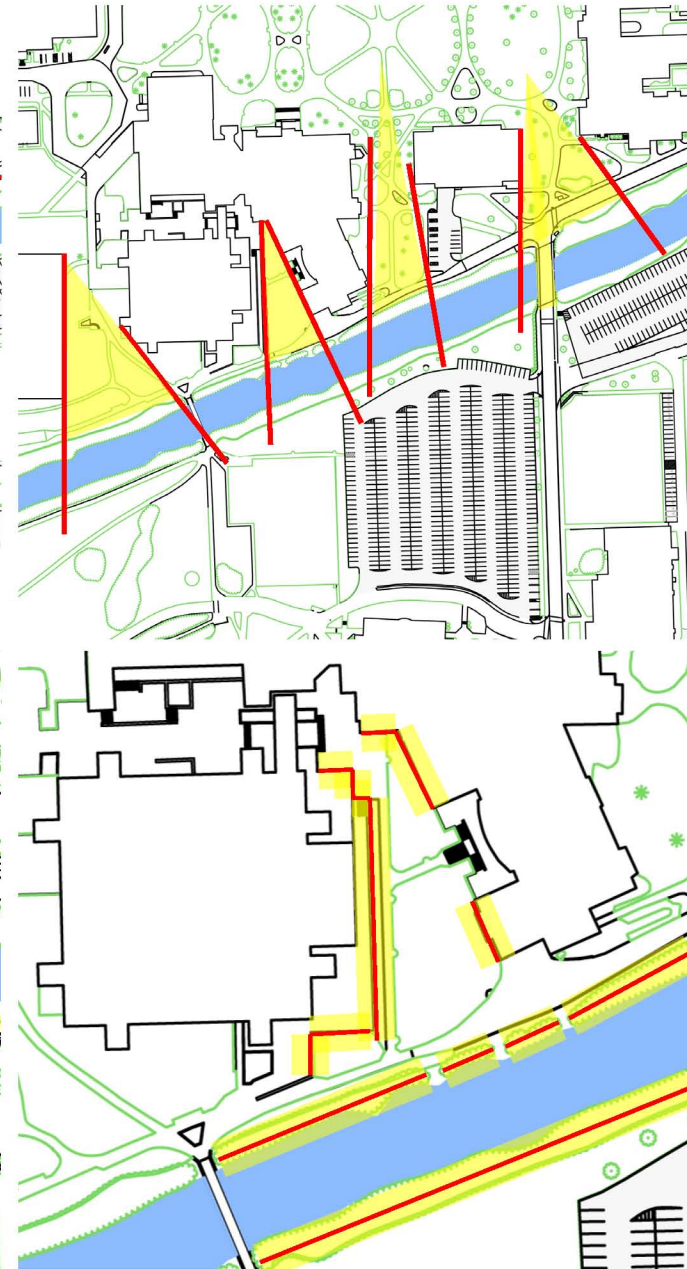
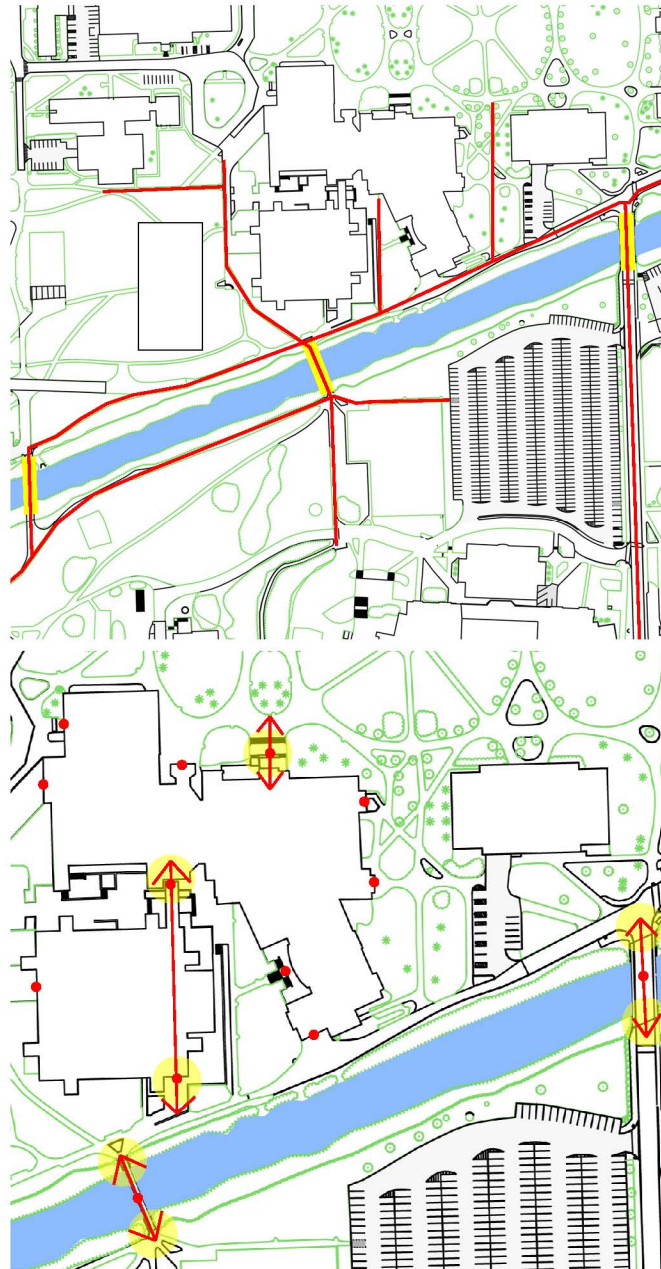


- connecting *ACROSS* the river -

9

Our Analysis found:

- . Limited River Access
- . No engaging views
- . Ineffectinve entry points
- . Unappealing boundries
- . Lack of purpose

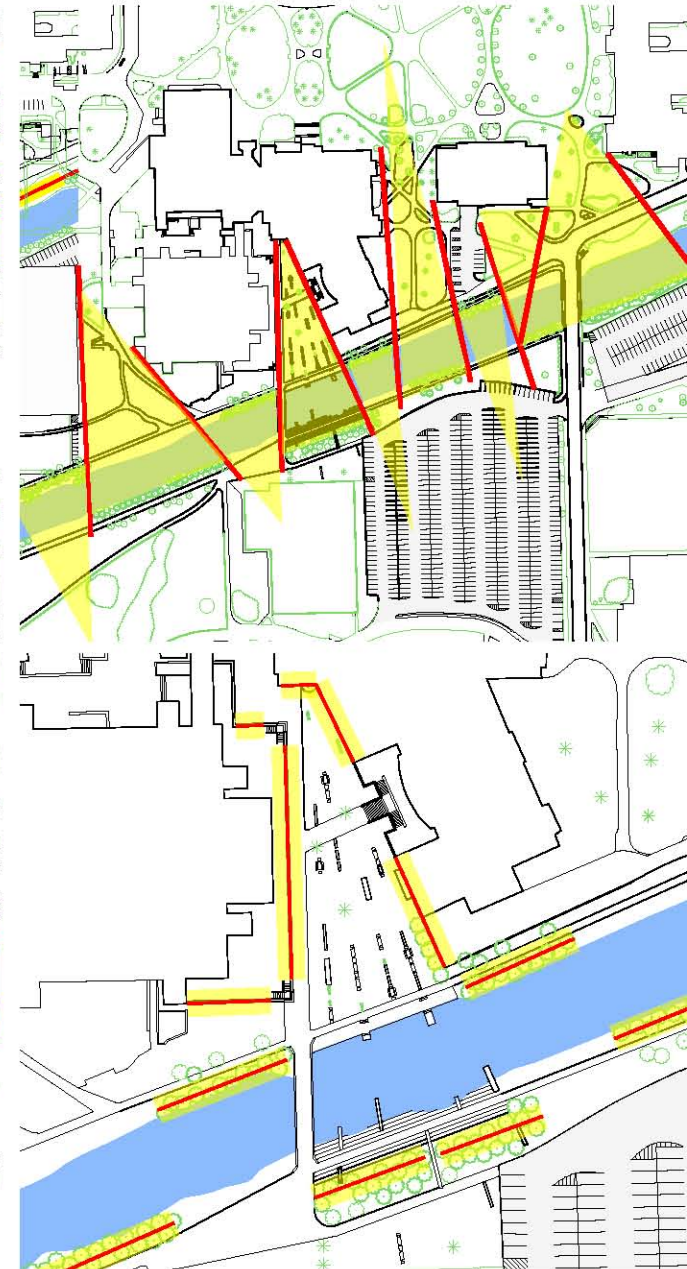
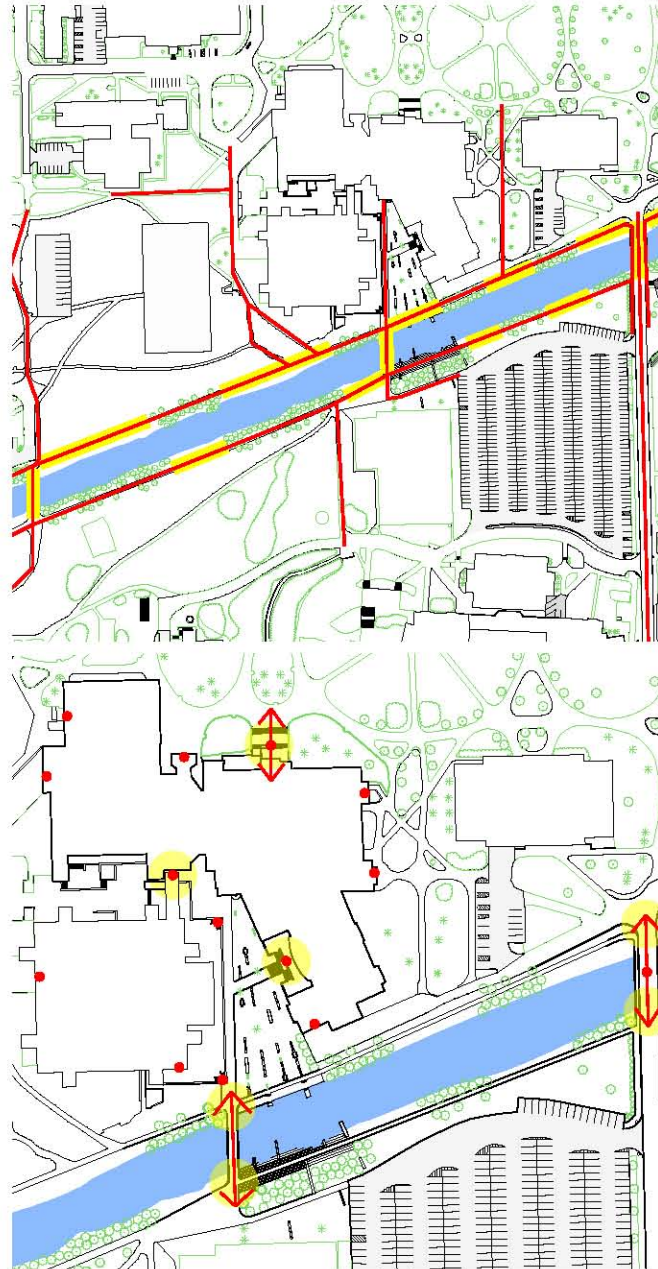


Analysis

9

Our Proposal Offers:

- . Extended River Access paths closer to river
- . Engaging atmosphere
oped views *ACROSS* river
- . Effective entry points
bring people into the area
- . Extended & soft boundaries
library porch access
alternating tree boundaries
boundries *ACROSS* river
- . Varying ways to be utilized
soft scape design
table & seating options

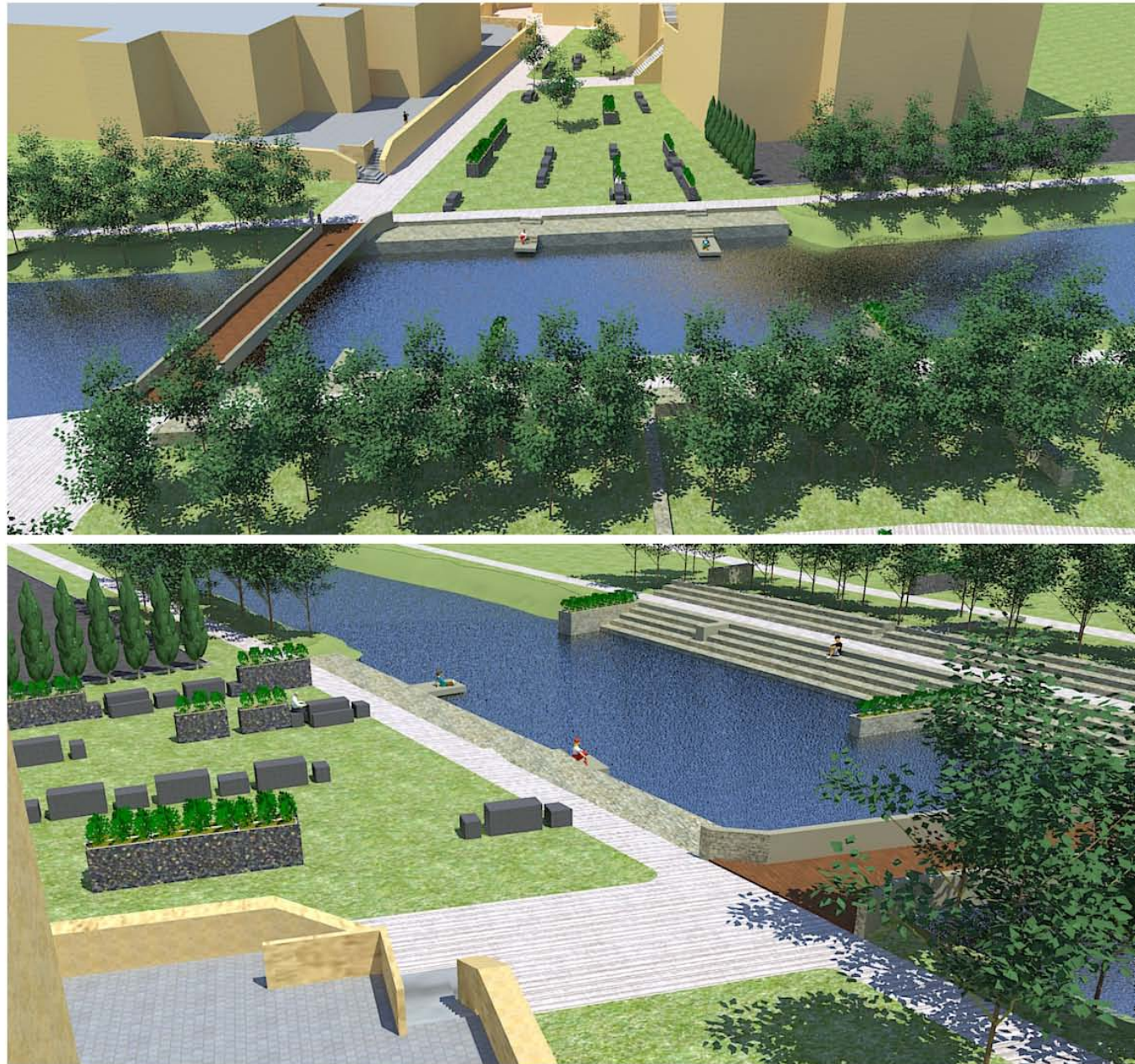


Design Proposal

9

Design Statement

To fully engage the river, we pull pedestrians into and across the river. Now the gathering center acts as an anchor to which the river flows through as a focal point rather than as a boundary.



Design Schema