Modernism on Campus

University of Utah Architecture
1945-1975

Utah Preservation Conference
March 13, 2105
What We’re Going To Talk About

- The Survey
- The Context: “Crisis On Campus”
- Planning A New Campus
- Designing A New Campus
- The New Buildings
- Assessment/Status
- The Campus That Never Was
The Survey

- Purposes
- Period
- Process
The Context: “Crisis On Campus”

The Post-War University
The Context: “Crisis On Campus”

Historical Enrollment
The Context: “Crisis On Campus”

Buildings
The Context: “Crisis On Campus”

Urgency
Planning A New Campus

Two Campuses
Planning A New Campus

A Unified Whole: The Big Picture
Planning A New Campus

A Unified Whole: The Minute Detail
Designing A New Campus

The Design Process

[Image: College of Pharmacy - University of Utah]
Designing A New Campus

The Architects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name</th>
<th>Architect(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Ray Olpin Union</td>
<td>Fred Markham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Architecture Complex</td>
<td>Edwards and Daniels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin Hall</td>
<td>Donald Panushka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailiff Hall</td>
<td>David (Slack) Winburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>Panushka and Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology Building</td>
<td>William F. Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Classroom Building</td>
<td>William Rowe Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Nursing</td>
<td>John Clawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Social Work</td>
<td>Panushka and Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Medicine</td>
<td>Lewis Redgate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccles Medical Sciences Library</td>
<td>Edwards and Daniels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Eyring Chemistry Build</td>
<td>Fetzer and Fetzer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Willard Marriott Library</td>
<td>Bob Fowler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James C. Fletcher Building</td>
<td>Carpenter and Stringham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph F. Merrill Engineering Bldg</td>
<td>Dean Gustavson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kennecott Building</td>
<td>Ashton Evans &amp; Brazier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Plaza (Fountain)</td>
<td>Boyd Blackner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Research and Education</td>
<td>Medical Towers and Townhouses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milton Bennion Hall</td>
<td>Orson Spencer Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Education and Special Events Complex</td>
<td>Pioneer Memorial Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. J. Quinney College of Law</td>
<td>School of Medicine - Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skaggs Pharmacy</td>
<td>Social Behavioral Science Lecture Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sterling Sill Center</td>
<td>University Campus Store</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Village East</td>
<td>University Village West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Village West</td>
<td>University Village West (Expansion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Cott Hall</td>
<td>William C. Browning Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashton Evans &amp; Brazier</td>
<td>Burich Beall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowell Parrish</td>
<td>Dean Gustavson</td>
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<td>Bob Fowler</td>
<td>Burton and Barker</td>
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<td>Bob Fowler</td>
<td>Ashton Evans &amp; Brazier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richardson and Richardson</td>
<td>Panushka and Peterson</td>
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<td>Ashton Evans &amp; Brazier</td>
<td>Woolley and Mohr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minson and Hallander</td>
<td>Scott and Beecher</td>
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<td>Minson and Hallander</td>
<td>William F. Thomas</td>
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</table>
Designing A New Campus

Constraints
Designing A New Campus

Constraints

DESERET NEWS
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
Tuesday, April 20, 1971

Protests Mount Over U. Student Housing Project

Protests mounted today against the construction of a cluster of married student housing units for University of Utah students near Sunnyside Avenue and Foothill Dr. Petitions have been presented to both city and state officials. Gov. Calvin L. Rampton has said that public hearings should be held on such matters before such projects affecting the citizenry get under way.
# The New Buildings

## Buildings Surveyed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sterling Sill Home Living Center</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>James C. Fletcher Physics Building</td>
<td>1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kennecott Research Center</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Biology Building</td>
<td>1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ballif Hall</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>J. Willard Marriott Library</td>
<td>1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Ray Olpin Union</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Library Plaza</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph F. Merrill Engineering Building</td>
<td>1959-1965</td>
<td>Austin Hall</td>
<td>1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milton Bennion Hall</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Physical Education and Special Events Complex</td>
<td>1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Campus Store</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Art and Architecture Complex</td>
<td>1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Village</td>
<td>1962-1971</td>
<td>William C. Browning Building</td>
<td>1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Cott Hall</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer Memorial Theater</td>
<td>1963</td>
<td>College of Social Work</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Law</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral Science Lecture Hall</td>
<td>1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Complex</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Medical Towers and Townhouses</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Center (Pharmacy, Nursing)</td>
<td>1965-1971</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The New Buildings

Building Program

New Buildings Readied on U of U Campus
The New Buildings

Modernism On Campus

- Geometric forms
- Horizontality
- Abstraction
- Lack of ornamentation
- New materials
The New Buildings

Modernism On Campus: Geometric Forms
The New Buildings

Modernism On Campus: Horizontality
The New Buildings

Modernism On Campus: Abstraction
The New Buildings

Modernism On Campus: Lack of Ornamentation
The New Buildings

Modernism On Campus: New Materials
The New Buildings

Modernism On Campus: (Not-So) New Materials
Assessment/Status

Challenges of Modern Design - Then

As I sit in this sweltering office with my door wide open to catch any breath of cool air from downstairs, I am forcibly reminded that the compressors down the hall are incredibly noisy and insufficiently soundproofed.

Roy Keir
September 27, 1968
Assessment/Status

Challenges of Modern Design - Now
Assessment/Status

Challenges of Modern Design - Now
Assessment/Status

Remodels
Assessment/Status

Remodels

• Bookstore (addition)
• Fountain (trees and “U”)
• HPER (addition)
• Kennecott (addition)
• Skaggs Pharmacy (addition)
• Sill Center (addition)
• Medical Research (addition)
• Medical Center (addition)
• Browning (walkway)
• Biology (walkway)
• College of Nursing (walkway)
• College of Law (addition)
• Eyring Chemistry (addition)
• College of Social Work (walkway)
Assessment/Status

Demolitions
Assessment/Status

Demolitions
Assessment/Status

Demolitions
Assessment/Status

Determining Significance

- Architect
- Function
- Material
- Style
Assessment/Status

Determining Significance

• Architect: Art and Architecture
• Function: Olpin Union
• Material: Behavioral Sciences
• Style: Merrill Engineering
The Campus That Never Was

The Fine Arts Center (That Never Was)
The Campus That Never Was

The Engineering Center (That Never Was)
The Campus That Never Was

The Medical Center Plaza (That Never Was)
The Campus That Never Was

All The Other Structures (That Never Was)

- 14-story Chemistry building
- 14-story Physics building
- Bookstore (various concepts)
- Circular library
- University Village at mouth of Red Butte Canyon
- Above-ground Special Events Center
- Alternate Medical Center configuration
- Alternate Pharmacy building designs
- Alternate Physics building design
- Carillon/Campanile near Union
Contact Information

Bim Oliver
Bim Oliver Consulting

801-419-4712
bimconsult@comcast.net
Planning A New Campus

Land Ownership
The New Buildings

Modernism On Campus: Regularity/Balance
Assessment/Status

Challenges of Modern Design – Then

Mr. Stanley Plummer
Married Student Housing Office
April 24, 1972

Dr Mr. Plummer,

I appreciate the efforts being made to correct the air exchange problem. I also appreciate the letter given to the residents informing us of the work schedule. I don’t object to workmen coming into my apartment. I don’t object to them coming one day ahead of schedule. I don’t object to them leaving bits of foam all over my floor. I don’t object to them putting the furnace filters in backwards so all the old dust blows thru the apartment. But I DO OBJECT to arriving home at 6:30 PM with my wife and finding the door UNLOCKED and wide OPEN!

Enough said?

Sincerely,
Scott Miller
Apt 817