Wayne State University

FOUNTAIN COURT

Prepared for Wayne State University Facilities Planning and Management

SILVERI ARCHITECTS

01-9-13
Includes
  Fountain Court
  Governor’s Fountain

Bounded by
  Undergraduate Library
  Chatsworth
  Student Center Building
  Recreation
  Purdy
  Deroy Auditorium
  State Hall
  Linsell House

Intersection of Williams
  and Gullen Malls

Project Area

01-9-13
Fountain Court

Originally called University Memorial Plaza.

Replaced the War Memorial Plaza.

Gullen Mall dedicated and University Memorial Plaza rededicated 1978.

Beckett, Jackson and Raeder designed Gullen and thought to have designed the University Memorial Plaza as part of the project.

Cost of Gullen Mall and University Memorial Plaza was $3 million ($2 million private donations, $1 million Federal Jobs Program, US Department of Public Works).
Governor’s Court

Dedicated 1987 as part of Celebration Day which also dedicated Williams Mall and several other buildings.

Memorializes the autonomy of the University under the Constitution and recognizes the contributions of the Board of Governors members.

Project cost was $133,000.

Designer is not clear. May have been designed by Wayne State University’s landscape architect at the time, Fran Garavaglia.

Williams Mall was named after Governor G. Mennen “Soapy” Williams who signed the bill changing Wayne to a state university in 1956.
Mountain Land Grass

1976, Tom Paul Fitzgerald, steel

Mr. Fitzgerald is a retired professor from Wayne State University.

This sculpture is a companion piece to Slip Fault, located on the south side of Linsell Hall. Both pieces are on loan to the University from the artist.

Installed in the late 1980s.

Both pieces came out of one of the last trips the artist took out west with his father.

The artist is open to moving the work if funds and equipment are provided.
Key Qualities of Successful Open Space

ACCESSIBLE

ACTIVITIES

COMFORTABLE

SOCIABLE
Draft Vision Statement

To create a delightful place that is visible, clean, safe, and easy to access while providing for a variety of uses, including places to sit and places to socialize.
Functional
Daily use
Special events
Aesthetically pleasing
Universal access
Ease of maintenance
Respectful
  • History of place
  • Surrounding buildings
Maintain view to Fisher Building along Gullen
Safe

Goals
Gathering spaces
   Large group
   Intimate, small
Electrical service, lighting
Kiosks, maps
Sculpture
Water
Site furnishings
   Benches, ash urns, trash receptacles, bicycle racks, recycling bins, emergency phones

Possible Program Elements
Benchmarking
Benchmarking
Benchmarking
Benchmarking
Benchmarking
Current constraints

Outdated
Disrepair
Spaces feel separate, not unified for large groups, events
Lack of easy access to power source
Dead, missing trees
Lacking functionality
Not barrier free
Missing or sparse plantings
Central location on main campus

Easy to access from major malls

Close to Library, Student Center Building and Recreation-activity hub

Generous amount of existing space to work with

Opportunity for outdoor recreation on main campus

Naming opportunity for donor(s)
Next Steps