

Concrete Mazes and Brutalist Trails: Wayfinding at Lane Community College

Comprehensive Project
Spring 2004
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The Problem:

The Site:



Built in a single architectural style: New Brutalism

--Rejection of grids and Beaux-Arts order
--Rejection of architectural detail
--Avoidance of elegance or comfort
--Mechanical systems displayed overtly

Colliding slabs of concrete
generate multiple floor levels





The Client:

College vision: "Transforming lives through learning"

Students--the real clients



An illegible environment has a profound effect on learning.

The Problem--Its Effects:



MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

Contributing Factors:

Too much unity--color, material, style, form

Too much diversity--
--no axes or organizing principles
--no direct routes, and multiplicity of routes
--multiple elevations
--no spatial hierarchy

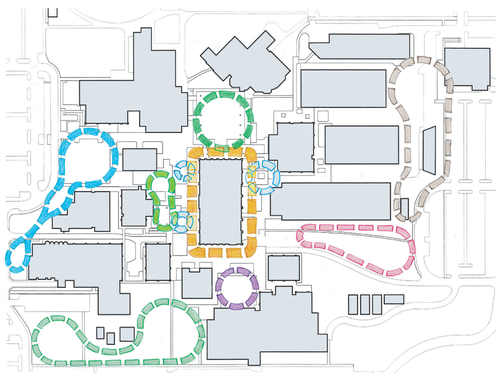
Lack of spatial definition
--no clear districts
--no consistent frame

The Strategy:

Spatial Definition:

1. Give buildings memorable names.

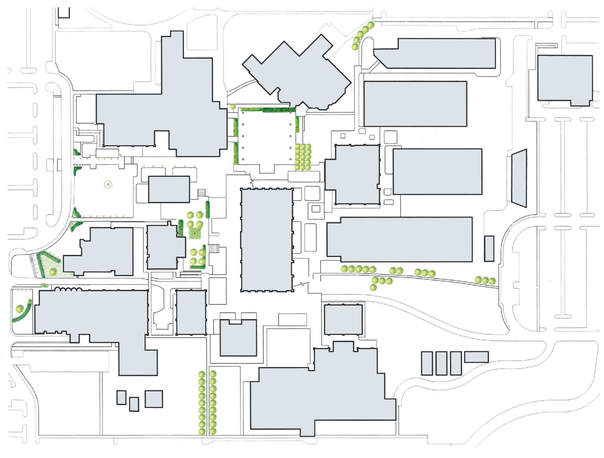
2. Define spatial nuclei--Districts are defined not by building masses but by spatial volumes.



5. Mark accessible routes.



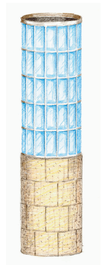
6. Delineate main entrance routes.



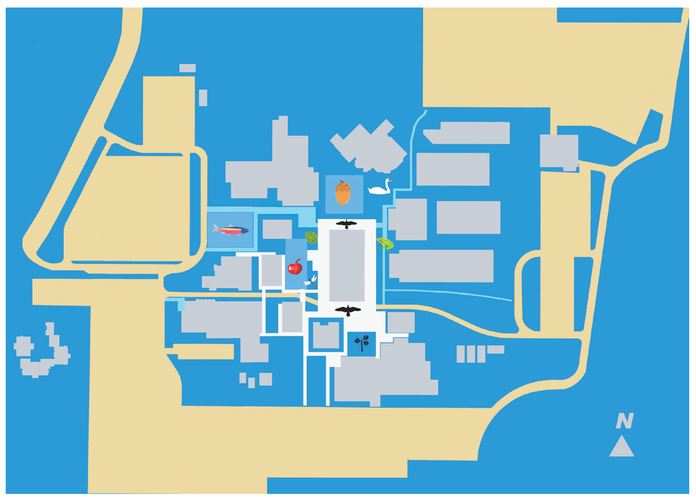
3. Give outdoor spaces memorable names.

4. Locate a landmark in each nucleus.





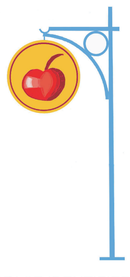
1. Develop user-friendly map.



2. Develop hierarchy of standard sign types.



TRAILBLAZER
at each decision point



SPACE IDENTIFIER
confirming arrival



BUILDING IDENTIFIER
over each main entrance

A Selection of Before-and-After Examples:











